

ASKING POINT

Network

*He is the Rock, His works are perfect, and all His ways are just.
A faithful God who does no wrong, upright and just is He. Deut. 32:4*

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Praying for Pastors

*“He will stand and shepherd His flock in the strength of the LORD...
and they will live securely.” Micah 5:4*

“The biblical fact is that there are no successful churches. There are instead, communities of sinners, gathered before God week after week in towns and villages all over the world. The Holy Spirit gathers them and does his work in them. In these communities of sinners, one of the sinners is called pastor and given a designated responsibility... to keep the community attentive to God.” (Eugene Petersen)

“We are Christians for our own sake. We are leaders for your sake. The fact that we are Christians should serve our own advantage. The fact that we are leaders should serve only yours.” (Saint Augustine)

“When this simple truth is forgotten, more attention is paid to pastor’s position in the church than to his position in Christ. The duties of ministry begin to outrun the devotion of the heart, and commitment to goals displaces communion with God. How easily a work for God can become a substitute for a walk with God. How unintentionally does the flock’s need for the pastor’s attention, displace the Father’s need for the pastor to be attentive to Him? How imperceptibly does the organic and corporate Body of Christ become an organized corporation? How unconsciously are ministering pastors expected to become mediating priests? How subtly does the call to ‘lead’ the flock become the temptation to ‘lord’ it over them?”

“There are many influences in the church and in the world that seek to shape pastors into their own image by insisting that they pour their lives into forms that suit the desires of man rather than satisfy the demands of God; that sentence them to human subservience rather than free them for divine service; that expect them to revere the structures formulated by men more than the Scriptures inspired by the Holy Spirit.” (Stuart McAlpine)

ASK For:

- **For the recovery of the preaching of Christ crucified and risen, for this will guard the heart of the pastor who speaks it, and the hearts of the sheep in the pastures who hear it.** John 1:11-14; 1 Corinthians 2:2; Galatians 2:20
- **Pastors to be daily filled with the resurrection power of the Holy Spirit; that peace will be a fruit of their reconciling ministry and that covenant faithfulness will characterize their relationship.** Hebrews 13:20-21; 2 Timothy 1:13-14
- **Pastors will identify with the sorrow of the lost and be involved restoratively in their recovery; that they will be used to minister healing to all who return; that pastoral oversight will have more to do with restoration of souls than the reorganization of structures...** 1 Peter 2:24-25
- **Pastors to be affirmed in Christ’s love, encouragement, and strength for every good word and work.** 2 Thessalonians 2:16-17
- **Give thanks to God for His faithful shepherds who are “being poured out as a drink offering on the sacrifice and service of the faith.”** 2 Timothy 1:12

...receive from Him
anything we ask, because we obey
His commands and do what pleases Him...

1 John 3:22

Hope of the nations:
ASKing for MiddleEast

"In His name the nations will put their hope." Matthew 12:21



FAST FACTS ABOUT MIDDLE EAST

Countries: 18-38 **Largest Cities:** Istanbul, Cairo, Tehran, & Baghdad
Main Religions: Judaism, Christianity and Islam
Official languages: Arabic, Aramaic, Azerbaijani, French, Greek, Hebrew, Kurdish, Persian and Turkish. **2nd Language:** English

*"Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision!
 For the day of the LORD is near in the valley of decision." Joel 3:14*

The Coming Messiah- "But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of you shall come forth to Me the One to be Ruler in Israel, whose goings forth are from of old, from everlasting." Micah 5:2

Announced by Wise Men from the East- "Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem...wise men from the East came to Jerusalem saying 'Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? ...we have come to worship Him.'" Matthew 2:1-2

Fled to Egypt- "...he (Joseph) took the young Child and His mother by night and departed for Egypt...that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord..." "Out of Egypt I called My Son" Matthew 2:14-15

Grew Up in Galilee- (Joseph) "took the young Child and His mother and came into the land of Israel... to the region of Galilee ...to a city called Nazareth, that it might be fulfilled (that) 'He shall be called a Nazarene.'" Matthew 2:19, 21-23

Crucified, Buried and Rose from the Dead in Jerusalem- "Now in the place where He was crucified there was a garden...there they laid Jesus." John 19:41-42. (The angel said to them) "...You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He is risen! He is not here." Mark 16:6

Ascended Into Heaven From Bethany (Mount of Olives) and will return there - "He lead them out as far as Bethany and lifted up His hands and blessed them ...and was carried up into heaven." Luke 24:50-51. "And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives which faces Jerusalem..." Zechariah 14:4

Jesus lived His whole life in the Middle East as told in these scriptures. No one knows the times or the seasons when He will return and take His place as King of kings, but Daniel says, "His dominion is an everlasting dominion which shall not pass away and His kingdom the one which shall not be destroyed." Daniel 7:14. We see all the turmoil now taking place in this region, and know that His return could be soon.

ASK:

- **For Jesus to reveal Himself to both Jews and Gentiles alike.**
- **That many in this region would decide to bow to Him, professing Him as LORD!**
- **For men's recognition that He is the Prince of Peace who can bring rest to souls.**
- **For believers to stand firm in the faith, fearless, and bold in their witness of HIM.**

This Christmas may we declare with the Angels:
**GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST AND ON EARTH PEACE,
 GOODWILL TOWARD ALL MEN.**

Even so, come, Lord Jesus!