

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*

IN THIS ISSUE ...

Prayer in the Church (pg 1)

Hope of the Nations: Vietnam (pg 2)

Ephesians gives pattern for prayer in the Church

When Paul wrote to the Ephesians he was expressing his desire for them to be so in sync with the Holy Spirit that they would continue to be “to the praise of the glory of His grace” (1:6) and “to the praise of His glory” (1:12). He expresses his desire in prayer, “Unto Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages” (3:21). The call to prayer comes in 6:18 “Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching there unto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints.” This is the church in prayer.

What should be prayed is expressed by the entire letter. It was written out of prayer. But it is most clearly expressed by the two prayers that burst forth from the apostle. Look at 1:15-23. As you meditate your way through this prayer and affirm it in prayer yourself you find these high points. Revelation of Jesus by the Holy Spirit (1:17) so enlightens them that they know God’s will for them and that God has provided everything they need to do it. (v.18) The God centered resurrection power given to them is the same as that which has set Jesus in authority over all opposition, temporal and spiritual (v.19-21). Everything is under his lordship... and He is Head of the church which He fills with His presence (v.22-23). If the church gets to praying that, believing God can do it; then watch the transformation in the church. But that’s not all. Again, look at 3:14-21. See Paul on his knees (v.14) asking God to give more Holy Spirit strength from His riches in glory (v.16). Also see Philippians 4:19. This would make Christ more real to them and absolutely overwhelm them with His love (v. 16-19) inspiring prayer beyond their normal expected limitations (v.20) that the congregation is filled with His glory. (v.21) He knows that you cannot keep such love and glory in the four walls of the church. It will touch the community. See 2 Corinthians 5:14 “For the love of Christ compels us.” Another great verse in Ephesians with a clear reference to prayer is 3:12 “In whom we have boldness and access with confidence by the faith of Him.” The same sentiment comes as an encouragement in Hebrews. 4:16. “Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”

Ask for:

- For the church to be a place where God's glory abounds. Ephesians 1:6, 12, 3:21
- Perseverance in prayer for the saints throughout the world. Pray for Holy Spirit inspired revelation, spiritual authority, Christ to be Head of the Church, faith to believe God for "above and beyond normal expectations," transformation, and needs to be met. Ephesians 6:10-18, 2 Corinthians 3:18, Luke 10:19
- The Church to be witnesses of Christ's love to the community and the world. Acts 1:8
- For God to raise up intercessors within the Church. Hebrews 4:16, Isaiah 56:7

...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 Vietnam

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



FAST FACTS ABOUT VIETNAM

Area: 128,565 sq. mi. **Peoples:** 113 (67 unreached) **Capital:** Hanoi
Religion: Buddhism 52.1 %, Non-religious 21.7%, Christianity 9.7%
Official language: Vietnamese
Population: 89,730,000

The word "Protestant" is translated as "**tin lành**" which means "Good News" in Vietnamese. The verb form of "tin" means "to believe;" and the verb form of "**lành**" is "to heal or make whole." The French Jesuit missionary Alexandre De Rhodes, who came to Vietnam in 1627, was credited for developing the Latin based Script which replaced the modified Chinese characters as the national written form. Thus, embedded within the Vietnamese language is God's invitation to be healed through faith in Jesus Christ.

Vietnam needs God's healing. Aside from the devastating aftermath of war-corruption, poverty, orphans, and disabilities, Vietnam incurred many deep wounds from the Vietnam conflict in which brothers mercilessly killed brothers over political ideology. Because of her history of violent war, and Buddhism's advocacy for peace, Buddhism is highly esteemed among the Vietnamese. Also, Confucianism and Taoism are deeply ingrained in the daily life of the culture resulting from China's thousands years of domination. Even the non-religious Vietnamese regularly attend temple to burn incense for their deceased parents as a family duty. They believe that the deceased spirits live among them. It's not uncommon to mix practices such as attending Catholic mass and annually burn incenses and paper money for their dead relatives.

Although Vietnam is entrenched in Eastern philosophy and religions, there is a growing and vibrant body of Christ in the land, especially among the ethnic minority groups. Over 80% of the population in Vietnam is ethnic tribal people. The Christian believers in the ethnic tribal regions suffer harassments and persecution from the local authority. In past few decades, government authority had beaten and imprisoned many believers, destroyed churches and Christian materials. However, much like China, the underground of churches in Vietnam are growing despite of persecution.

Miraculously, on April 10, 2011 this restrictive nation permitted an unprecedented evangelistic gathering leading by a pastor from the U.S. An estimated 12,000 people gathered to hear Pastor Palau delivering an evangelistic message. More than 1,000 people came to Christ. *"Your words were found, and I ate them, and Your word was to me the joy and rejoicing of my heart for I am called by Your name..."* Jeremiah 15:16

Ask For:

- **God to establish His eternal purposes in Vietnam and make her a nation of His inheritance.** *"Before I formed you..., I knew you..., I set you apart; I appointed you..."* Jeremiah 1:5, Romans 8:28-30
- **Pray for healing.** *"I have seen what they do, but I will heal them anyway! I will lead them. I will comfort those who mourn..."* Isaiah 57:15, 18-19 (NLT); Zechariah 13:1-2
- **Pray the people of Vietnam will trust in Christ alone.** *"He Himself bore our sins...that we might die to sin and live in righteousness..."* 1Peter 2:24-25, Isaiah 26:12-14
- **Pray for believers to live for Christ alone.** *"For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery."* Galatians 5:1; Colossians 2:6-10
- **Ask for God's protection and boldness for the Vietnamese believers in the face of persecution.** *"Be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power..."* Ephesians 6:10-20