

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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GLOBAL 4/14 DAY IS SATURDAY, APRIL 14, 2012

ONE MILLION Christians will be praying for TWO BILLION children under age 15. These boys and girls represent the largest unreached people group in the world. See: www.Global414Day.com to learn more and plan. This is your invitation to join the movement and pray for children on Global 4/14 Day. Watch for more in the next ASKing Point.

The Lord has done great things—progress in the battle against human trafficking

*Then they said among the nations, “The LORD has done great things for them.”
The LORD has done great things for us, and we are glad. - Psalm 126:1-3*

We know that when we pray, God will answer; but it is still exciting to see those answers. Many in the church worldwide, privately and corporately, at various times and locations, have been asking God to uncover the sex trade industry and to rescue the victims.

Here are some recent signs of God answering such prayer:

- There has been a dramatic increase in public awareness of the subject of slavery, which has opened up new ways for this matter to be addressed.
- This vast subject has become the recipient of philanthropic interest. For instance in December, Google donated 11.5 billion dollars to organizations devoted to battle all forms of slavery. International Justice Mission, a Christian Non-Government Organization, was a beneficiary of a significant amount of that.
- A specific example of educating the public took place at US Football Season finale of the Super Bowl in February. Local newspapers ran front page articles exposing the crime of sex trafficking, educating the public on what to watch for. A hotline was set up and legislation was passed making it a crime, punishable with prison sentences of 20-50 years. Safe houses were then set up for victims to take refuge.

What God is doing is huge. Let us stop & praise Him for what He has already done and continue to pray against this evil practice. Human trafficking (sex and labour) generates \$32 billion annually and is tied to the fastest growing criminal industry in the world, behind the arms trade. About 75-80% of children trafficked are used for sex. The average age is 14, but much younger ones are also recruited.

- Praise Him that the injustice of human slavery is being addressed. -Isaiah 58:6
- Thank God he reveals Himself to victims. Pray for their ongoing comfort and healing.- Isaiah 53:4-5
- Thank God for increased funding, awareness, and information about this evil. -Exodus 2:23

...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 Greece

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



FAST FACTS ABOUT GREECE

Area: 131,990 km -50,944 sq. mi

Peoples: 46 (10 unreached)

Capital: Athens

Official language: Greek - 42 in all

Religion: 91% Christian (98% Orthodox)

Population: 11 million

Greece has roots that go back to at least 3,000 BC which have been validated by excavations of settlements dating from that time. The foundations of Western civilization were in Athens in the 5th century BC. Ancient Greece is considered the birthplace of democracy. Greece has been ruled by many empires starting with Alexander the Great in 334 BC before gaining independence and is now a Parliamentary Republic.

The Greek language was used to compose the text for the New Testament during the years from 50 to 100 AD, thus aiding the spread of the Gospel as most of known world spoke Greek.

Today Greece is a nation in much conflict with deep financial difficulties. As a member of the European Union, Greece is looking to them for help with the current economic downward spiral. However, the amount of money in loans needed to keep them fiscally solvent calls for even further austerity measures than those already put in place. Riots are occurring in reaction to these drastic policies. One in five civil service jobs (150,000) are slated to be cut by 2015 and the minimum wage has been cut by more than a fifth. Nearly half of those under 25 are unemployed. Dramatic scenes of social unrest will only tend to increase as the national leaders try to place tighter economic control on the nation to be eligible to receive and to facilitate the repayment of loans from the EU and the International Monetary Fund. It has been stated that no nation or people can survive without hope that tomorrow will be a better day. Right now, Greeks feel frustrated and see no light at the end of the tunnel.

The Greek Orthodox Church is one of the oldest branches of Christianity. It is recognized and legally protected by the government as the dominant, established religion making up over 90% of the population. There has been persecution of non-Orthodox activities and Protestants for many years. Greece was the first country to be evangelized by the Christians but the church has now become more cultural than spiritual in its makeup with only about 2% attending church on the average Sunday. Because of Greece's location many migrants traveling west to escape war and seeking job opportunities have come to Athens giving the church an avenue of continuing ministry to the needy.

Ask for:

- **God to make Greece once again a fertile place for evangelizing and that they would in turn reach out to all of Europe.** Acts 16:9-10
- **The difficult economic conditions to soften hearts so they begin to cry out to God for direction instead of rioting in frustration.** Psalm 72:12-14
- **Their hope to be renewed and to trust God for answers.** Psalm 33:18-22
- **The church to take the lead in seeking ways to help the needy.** Matthew 25:34-40