



ASKing Point

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ASKing Point

is a bi-monthly communication on behalf of ASK Network International. It is an invitation to join the network of prayer throughout the nations, ASKing and agreeing regarding key issues on God's heart. It is a tool for prayer, a place for testimony to God's faithfulness in answering, and a gift of worship to the Living God.

www.ASKnetwork.net

ASKing with the Word—

On the ASK Network International Website (www.asknetwork.net) under Teaching Resources there are many topical lessons on how to meditate on and pray passages of scripture. Tryna Bahl prepared these lessons and here explains...

WHY WE SHOULD PRAY THE WORD and how these lessons may be used.

The Word is God's counsel, is inspired, is right, sure and perfect, corrects, instructs, convinces and persuades, gives revelation, wisdom, is settled in heaven, sets moral boundaries, measures and judges, is a restraint to evil, is purified and tested, is alive and full of power, it speaks, pierces hearts, leads to repentance, converts the mind, is spirit, has no limits, runs swiftly, goes anywhere and everywhere, is directed by God, executed by angels, prospers, bears fruit that lasts, is incorruptible, stands forever, cannot be broken, annulled or canceled, is truth that sets free, destroys strongholds, moves mountains, is decreed, prophesied, has jurisdiction, is the law in the spirit realm, is invisible but its answers can be seen, activates faith and equips you to pray. Anyone can do it! (2 Timothy 3:16, Psalm 33:4, Psalm 19:8, Romans 8:38, Psalm 19:7-8, Psalm 119:89, Exodus 20: 1-17, Hebrews 4:12, Psalm 12:6, Hebrews 4:7, Acts 2:37, Acts 16:14, John 6:63, Psalm 147:15, 2 Thessalonians 3:1, Isaiah 55:10-11, Psalm 103:20, 1 Peter 1:23, Isaiah 40:8, John 10:35, John 8:32, 2 Corinthians 10:4, Jeremiah 1:9-10, Psalm 2:7, Ezekiel 35:1,2; 37:4, Luke 10:19, Romans 4:17, Hebrews 11:3, Romans 10:1)

The lessons on the website are suggested prayer targets using the word of God as the basis for your prayer. Just read the verse and turn it into prayer. If you want to meditate first, take time in the Word asking God to bring a particular verse to your attention. (If Biblical Meditation is unfamiliar to you we invite you to study the booklet *Meditating on the Word of God*, found under **Introductory Resources** at (www.asknetwork.net) If you are praying with others encourage them to pray on that particular verse if they desire. Respond personally to what God shows you. Take a brief sharing to get the whole prayer picture. Then pray out what was received.

Here is one example of the lessons available on the website. We trust this will be a valuable introduction for you...

Meditation as the Heart of Prayer — Psalm 1

Benefits of Biblical Meditation

Psalm 1 shows a way to seek God for the prayers on His heart.

Psalm 1 "Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful;" This is a clear warning of what not to do. If you do not walk with God, where will you get

your counsel? If you do not stand for God, who and what will you stand for? If you sit in the seat of the scornful, you will become a scoffer and soon you will walk, stand and sit with those who oppose God.

Invitation: **walk, stand** and **sit** with God. **What is your response?**

WALK: Seek to walk in God's counsel for the prayer time by meditating in the Word first as the source of your prayers.

"Can two walk together unless they are agreed?" Amos 3:3

Respond to what you receive during the quiet time of meditation in the Word. Come into some kind of honest agreement with God about what you receive. How could you pray for someone else what you are unwilling to do yourself? Agreement with God's will suggests answered prayer. (1 John 5:14,15)

STAND: You stand for and with God protected, equipped in the armor of God (Ephesians 6:10-18)

You stand for the things God stands for — For example, His Word, His commands as sanctity of life, His words on marriage. You stand with God and pray for those who practice alternate lifestyles. You stand for Israel and pray because it is the apple of God's eye. God's concerns become your concerns; His prayers, your prayers.

SIT: You sit with the Lord at His table to receive the Word, then sit with Him at the place of prayer in submitted authority as the Word goes forth.

As you sit on a regular basis, the Word becomes the bread of life to you. You learn to recognize God's voice through the Word and sense the direction the Holy Spirit gives as Teacher. The table of the Lord is where your soul is restored and your spirit strengthened; it is the place of counsel, dialogue, fellowship, a place of delight.

...to finish this lesson, go to www.asknetwork.net/Teaching Resources/Asking with the Word/Psalm 1.

By Tryna Bahl



ASK Network News

Continental Directors to Gather

This summer, the Continental Directors for ASK will gather in North Carolina from August 10-14 to seek the Lord for the future of ASK Network around the globe. Please join us in praying Proverbs 2:1-11 over this very strategic gathering... "Then you will understand what is right and just and fair—every good path" (v. 9). Ask also for provision and safe travels.

Give to ASK Network while you shop

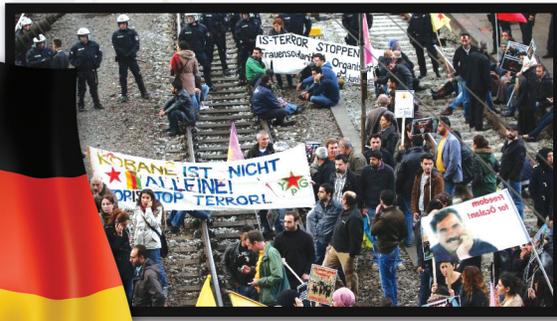
We would like to invite all ASKers who already do online purchasing with amazon.com to register ASK Network as your "charitable organization." With each eligible purchase AmazonSmile Foundation donates .5% of the purchase price to ASK Network.

To register, simply visit: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/26-3850899>.

As always, donations can also be made directly at www.asknetwork.org.

Thank you for your faithful support!

ASKing for the Nations



GERMANY

Germany is the European country with the largest economy, and it is the most populous nation in the EU with approximately 82 million people. In today's political environment, German leaders have a lot of influence on the world stage.

However, the country struggles in other ways with a low birth rate and a current decline in population (estimated loss of 0.18 percent in 2014).

In 2015, there has been a sharp increase of strikes across the country often paralyzing companies and transportation systems while revealing discontent among the general population. Germany is scrambling to keep up with the growing demands on immigration as a significant number of migrants and refugees are arriving to make their homes all across Germany.

The current spiritual climate is one where atheism is on the rise while historic cathedrals line the skyways of German cities. While much of the cultural structures of Christianity remain, a growing percentage of the population views these as only having historical significance. The church is straining to try and find ways to re-engage the next generations with the Good News of Jesus Christ. As the church has been in steep numerical decline over the last few decades, a bright place has been among emerging migrant churches. Many of these migrant churches have grown numerically and some are helping to recommunicate the Gospel in newly presented ways. Another encouraging sign is that prayer centers and prayer initiatives are springing up within the country as some Christian leaders are seeking a new move of God in this nation. Strength can also be seen in how numerous churches are working to be socially conscious and are often seen to be active voices for issues of justice.

Please ASK:

- For Germany's national leaders with its influential role in the EU and the world stage. Pray that the leaders would have wisdom and direction from the Lord. —Proverbs 16: 1-18, 1 Peter 2: 16-17
- For German and migrant Christians living in Germany to grow in respect and unity as they come together around Jesus Christ and a desire to see a new awakening. —Psalm 67, Psalm 133
- For the next generations to be re-engaged with the life-changing message of Jesus Christ and for the church to have a relevant witness among the people. —Psalm 78: 1-8, 1 Corinthians 9: 19-22 

Unreached People Group:

NORTHERN KURD OF GERMANY

Population: 540,000

Primary Religion: Islam

Language: Northern Kurdish

Background

With a population of 35 million worldwide, Kurds are one of the largest unreached people groups in the world today. They are indigenous to a geo-culturally defined region in southeastern Turkey, northern Syria, northern Iraq and western Iran, also known as Kurdistan. Kurds first arrived in Germany in the 1960s, when an economic boom in West Germany created an excess of low-wage jobs that the economically depressed Kurds were invited to fill. Historically, Kurds practiced Zoroastrianism but later embraced Sunni Islam after the conquest of Kurdistan in the 7th century. There are roughly 6,000 known believers among Kurds worldwide, a very small group of whom live in Germany.

ASK...that Kurd believers would have courage to share their faith others. Thank God for efforts made by Christians over the past 50 years to plant the gospel among Kurds. Ask that every seed would bear good fruit among them. (John 15:1-17, Galatians 6:1-10)

ASKing for the Nations



Mali



Unreached People Group:

Mali is a landlocked country in West Africa where the northern part is encompassed by the Sahara desert. It is surrounded by seven other nations and gained independence from France in 1960. Social stability that followed the democratic elections held in 1992 caused some economic growth, but it is still rated as one of the 25 poorest nations in the world. The country has a population of 14.5 million with 85 percent being Moslem. Christianity and animism were also practiced with freedom of religion guaranteed by the government.

All this changed in 2012 when the north came under the control of the Saharan branch of al-Qaeda. In response to the government's call to France for intervention, the major part of the insurgency challenge was quelled. However, the situation remained stressful. Last year al-Qaeda conquered a large portion of northern Mali and even with French involvement it has become a jihadist area with Islamist militants coming in from around the world. After the imposition of sharia law, Mali was listed number 7 in severity of persecution by the Christian Persecution Index according to Open Doors.

The education system is beset by a lack of schools in rural areas, along with shortages of teachers and materials. Some wealthy Muslims are choosing private education and are hiring Christian teachers. Estimates of literacy rates in Mali are below 46 percent, with significantly lower numbers among women.

Mali faces many health problems caused by poverty, poor hygiene, and sanitation. Their health and development indicators rank among the worst in the world. About one-fifth of the children will die before five and of those who do survive one-third will be malnourished

ASK for:

- Economic growth- one-third of the population is occupied with growing cotton that is susceptible to fluctuations due to weather and the world market prices. "That which makes her seasons certain, her wealth, salvation, wisdom, and knowledge, is the fear of the Lord..." —Isaiah 33:6 NABRE
- Mali would be delivered from the influence of the Islamist militants and that many would come to know the Lord. "You have heard it said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I tell you; Love your enemies and pray for those that persecute you..." —Matthew 5:44-45
- Christian educators would be influential in leading many to Christ and increased literacy rates would enhance the spread of the gospel. "Then he told them, 'As you go into the entire world, proclaim the gospel to everyone.'" —Mark 16:15 ISV "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." —Ps. 119:106 NKJ
- Leaders would have wisdom and insight in knowing how to provide for their people. "asking God, the glorious Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, to give you spiritual wisdom and insight so that you might grow in your knowledge of God." —Ephesians 1:17 Wisdom would lead them to the knowledge of Him. 

IDAKSAHAK OF MALI

Population: 125,000
Primary Religion: Islam
Language: Tadaksahak

Background

The Idaksahak (or Dausahaq) are a nomadic people group living in Mali, with some ranging into nearby Niger and Algeria. They were among the first Berbers to migrate to sub-Saharan Africa between the 8th and 9th centuries, and some of the first Muslims to reach the area. Traditionally, they lived in dependence upon Tuareg nobles, serving them as herders and religious experts in exchange for protection. While that dependence is no longer practiced, Idaksahak still live in close relationship with the Tuarag, and most men are bilingual. Interestingly, although Idaksahak practice Islam, their name actually translates as "sons of Isaac." There are very few known believers among the Idaksahak.

ASK...that God would reveal Himself to the Idaksahak as the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, and that they would be drawn into a covenant relationship with Him. Ask that Idaksahak would discover the life, security and freedom found in dependence upon Jesus. (Genesis 17:1-8, Psalm 62)