



# ASKing Point

May/June 2016

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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](http://www.ASKnetwork.net)

## ASKing for Pastors

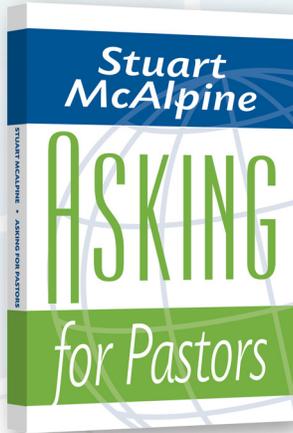
How would you write a pastor's job description? What are you asking **of** pastors? What does that tell you about what you need to be asking of God **for** them? We may be clearer about what we are asking of the pastor, than what we are asking of God for the pastor. When we intercede for the church, we must ask biblically and specifically for those who are entrusted by God to care for the sheep of His pasture. When we pray for someone to become a Christian, we should pray for the pastors who will nurture them and enfold them in the love of Jesus. Tragic events in the lives of many ministers and ministries serve to persuade us that we must plead for those who lead. Many are the never-ending demands of pastoral ministry. I remember my father describing Moses waking up in the morning and lifting his tent-flap and saying, "Oh no! They're still there!" Of course, with pressures there are always privileges, but pastoral pressures do not cease, therefore nor should our prayers for pastors.

You might think it is obvious to ask for pastors, given their very public role in the community, but the premise of the appeal of the newly expanded and published booklet for the ASK Network, 'Asking for Pastors', is that pastors are most often the least prayed for members of a church community. For most of them there would be little comfort in a show of hands of those who prayed for them on a daily basis, or any basis at all for that matter. This booklet will kick-start your strategy for asking for pastors.

Writing in 1858, James Smith had a passion to get people to pray for pastors. As a pastor himself, he knew what he was talking about and he did not mince words: *"How much do you pray for your pastors? Do you pray for them as their office and work demand? Do you pray for them as they entreat and beseech you to do? Do you pray for them now, as you once did? Do you pray for them as your conscience will admit you should?"*

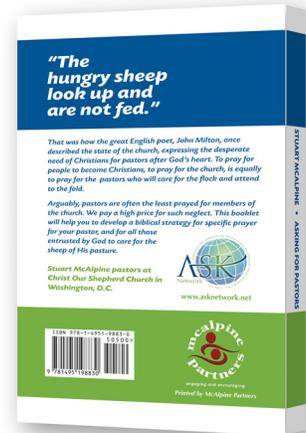
I know you have heard of Spurgeon but probably have no clue about this James Smith, who happened to precede "the prince of preachers" at the Metropolitan Tabernacle in London by four years. The extraordinary harvest of Spurgeon's ministry was unequalled in England. But here's the thing. When asked once about the spiritual success of his ministry, Spurgeon took the enquirers down into the church basement to what he called his spiritual *"heating plant."* It was where the furnace was situated and it has been estimated that there would be as many as four hundred people in there, praying for him and for the message he would soon be delivering. Is it any wonder that there was not a chair in that huge church where someone had not committed his/her life to Christ? Is it any surprise that Spurgeon's preaching and teaching legacy remains a spiritual inheritance for every new generation of pastors? I have a hunch that it was the unknown James Smith, with his passion for pastors to be prayed for, who laid the foundation in that community of faith for what was to come, and that would impact a nation and generations.

*Stuart McAlpine*



**Asking for Pastors,**  
 a new booklet by Stuart McAlpine and written for  
 ASK Network International, is now available ...  
 a suggested donation of \$5 (+\$2 S/H within USA) or in  
 packets of ten for \$45 (+\$5 S/H within USA).  
 S/H for orders outside the USA will be handled  
 on an individual basis.

You may order this by visiting [www.ASKnetwork.net](http://www.ASKnetwork.net) and clicking on the donate button, adding your address in the message box. Buy a pack and you can give copies to your church's pastoral staff and those who will form a new ASK group for your pastors and the pastors in your city and community. (Only a limited number of copies will be available, requests will be honored in the order received.)



## 2017 ASK ISRAEL CONFERENCE

January 24-27, 2017 the ASK Network National Leadership and intercessors will be gathering in the Negev Desert

This will be the third trip in which we will be able to complete our border patrol, praying on the Egyptian border. Plan to join us if the Lord leads

but also pray about helping the many leaders hoping to come from other nations who might otherwise not be able to attend.

To advance

this gathering of funds Nancy Merritt has done a lovely painting for sale. All proceeds will go toward the conference. The cost is \$100 each and shipping is \$10 for one, \$14 for two and multiple orders will be billed to the recipient. Extra postage may be required for orders outside the USA. All orders must be received by November 30, 2016. Contact Nancy Merritt at 202-546-0120 or [NWMerritt@Verizon.net](mailto:NWMerritt@Verizon.net)



## ASK Network News

ASK leaders gathered in Lagos, Nigeria, WEST AFRICA, on June 2-3. The event, hosted by Franklin Chidozie (ASK Director, Nigeria) and presided over by Charles Kaloki (Africa Continental Director alongside his wife Miriam) was a purposeful and very fruitful time. With some of our key African ASK leaders, they prayerfully considered each nation in West Africa, assessing the internal and external needs and discussing how the Church must fulfill its call within those contexts. These choice servants of the Lord went on to evaluate their calling to ASK Network to see how it can serve the Body of Christ in West Africa. They agreed: "Waiting and listening is a key in ASK Network ... ASKING cannot be separated from acting ... ASKING leads to acting ... great work requires greater ASKING."

### Please join them in ASKING for:

1. The growth of ASK Network in Nigeria, Togo, Liberia, Burkina Faso, Ghana, and for the vision to be received in the eleven other nations of West Africa. Acts 2:40-42
2. Financial provision and strategy to raise the work. Philippians 4:19
3. The participation of ASK Network Africa in global issues. Proverbs 2:6-9



# ASKing for the Nations



## Unreached People Group:

### ISOLADOS DO JANDIATUBA OF BRAZIL

Population:	300
Primary Religion:	Ethnic Religions
Language:	Unknown

#### Background

The Isolados do Jandiatuba of Brazil are one of nearly 70 “uncontacted” tribes identified by Funai, Brazil’s agency for indigenous Indian affairs. Their tribal name and language are unknown, so they have instead been designated as the “isolated” group living along the Jandiatuba River in the far western region of Brazil. To say they are “uncontacted” is a misnomer. For centuries, outsiders have encroached on Isolados tribal land, intent upon taking over its resources. This contact has been marked by terrible abuse and mistreatment, forcing the Isolados deeper into reclusion in order to survive. There are no known Christians among the Isolados, and no Scripture translation. It is unlikely the Isolados have ever heard the Good News of Jesus.

**ASK...** God to send compassionate, peaceful, gentle-hearted believers to make positive, restorative contact with the Isolados, demonstrating in word and deed the Good News of God’s kingdom through Jesus Christ. (Psalm 23, Isaiah 11)

**Brazil** is the largest nation and economy in Central and South America, the largest Portuguese speaking nation in the world and the fifth largest nation by population. Its borders touch all but two South American countries (Chile & Ecuador), and Brazil ranks high among the 17 nations in the world designated as “megadiverse.” Among these select nations who harbor the vast majority of Earth’s plant and animal species, Brazil is recognized as having the greatest biological diversity in the world. It is a land rich with resources, and a very strategic nation to ASK for.

Indigenous, semi-nomadic peoples populated this geography for thousands of years. In the early 1500s, European explorers “discovered” this great land of resource and, in a history similar to what would happen later in North America, claimed it for Portugal. In the ensuing years, vast numbers of the estimated two thousand original tribes perished from exposure to diseases unknowingly introduced by those arriving from Europe. Between 1500 and 1800, millions of African slaves were also imported to work the sugarcane fields, goldmines and coffee plantations. While ethnically diverse, today one of Brazil’s greatest struggles is the unequal distribution of wealth and income, one of the most extreme in the world. In recent years, estimates were that 25% of Brazil’s population survived on less than one dollar a day.

Predominantly and historically Catholic, Brazil has experienced gradual but steady change in its spiritual makeup over the past several decades. With both a renewal movement sweeping through the Catholic Church, and the steady growth of Evangelical, Protestant communities, many consider Brazil to be a nation undergoing spiritual transformation.

Among the most pressing concerns for prayer, is the current outbreak of Zika virus. Just two months ago the Brazilian government released figures documenting a continued increase of microcephaly in newborns resulting from Zika. Women are now being encouraged not to get pregnant at this time. Zika also threatens the gathering of the nations of the world at the upcoming 2016 Summer Olympics held this August in Rio de Janeiro.

#### Let’s ASK for the growth and deepening of God’s good work in Brazil from Isaiah 58:

- Healing of historical wounds among her peoples — “...loose the chains of injustice, untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free, break every yoke” V. 6
- The poor — “... share your food with the hungry, provide the poor wanderer with shelter—when you see the naked, clothe them, do not turn away from your own flesh and blood...” V. 7
- Safety from sickness and corruption — “The LORD will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land and will strengthen your frame. You will be like a well-watered garden, a spring whose waters never fail.” V. 11
- Just and godly development as more of her people turn to God — “Your people will rebuild the ancient ruins and raise up age-old foundations; you will be called Repairer of Broken Walls, Restorer of Streets with Dwellings.” V. 12 

# ASKing for the Nations



## Unreached People Group:

**South Korea** (also known as the Republic of Korea) is one of the world's most ethnically homogenous nations. Following a long history of occupation, it gained independence in 1945 when Japan surrendered at the end of World War II. After a season of authoritarian rule, public discontent led to a multiparty democracy. Its current president, Park Guen-hye, is South Korea's first female president.

Historically dominated by shamanistic beliefs, South Korea's population of over 50 million people today includes Buddhists (23%), Christians (29%) and Non-religious (46%). South Koreans today enjoy complete religious freedom.

Christianity was first introduced to Koreans in the 16th century by Korean diplomats who had encountered Roman Catholicism while traveling in Japan and Manchuria. An indigenous lay movement led to rapid growth of faith, but also sparked controversy and periods of intense persecution. Protestant missionaries arrived in Korea in the late 19th century. Their efforts to translate Scripture and open schools helped spread the Gospel beyond Korea's elite class.

The explosive growth of Christianity in South Korea is attributed to several factors: a Holy Spirit-breathed revival in 1907; a strong foundation in Biblical teaching; a passion for prayer; an emphasis on sharing one's faith with others; and a determination to remain indigenous and self-sustaining, rather than rely on foreign missionary support. Korean nationalism was also a driving factor for some church growth. During Japanese occupation (1905-1945), many Koreans viewed Presbyterian missionaries as allies and saw conversion to Christianity as an important act of defiance against their occupiers. Many Korean Christians were martyred during that time for refusing to comply with the Japanese practice of emperor worship.

During a 1973 crusade in Seoul, South Korea, Billy Graham spoke repeatedly about South Korea's spiritual power, believing its influence for the Gospel would thrust Asia into the "gravitational center" of Christianity worldwide. Today, South Korea is home to several of the largest Christian congregations in the world, and is one of the world's largest missionary-sending nations.

### Ask for:

- Creative and culturally appropriate strategies for South Korean missionaries to use in sharing the Good News of Jesus to Buddhists, Muslims and others (Proverbs 3:5-6, 1 Corinthians 9:19-23, James 1:5).
- Renewal in South Korea's Church, that humility, unity and servant leadership would grow and have a transformational impact on society (2 Chronicles 7:14, Psalm 85, John 21:15-17).
- South Korea's young Christians, that their faith would be set on fire despite cultural trends toward complacency (Psalm 86:11-13, Joel 2:28, Ephesians 5:1-20).
- South Korea's relationship with North Korea, that Christians would continue to embody compassion for their northern neighbors, and that opportunities for reunification would open doors for the Gospel (Ephesians 2:11-22, 2 Corinthians 5:11-21). 

### KHALKA MONGOL OF SOUTH KOREA

Population:	31,000
Primary Religion:	Buddhism
Language:	Halh Mongolian

### Background

The Khalka, direct descendants of Genghis Khan, are Mongolia's largest people group. Their name means "shield," though under Khan's brutal regime they were called "people from hell." Today, they are preservers of Mongolian culture, known for their generous and hospitable nature. Traditionally, the Khalka kept livestock. Due to environmental changes, many moved to cities in search of work. Over the past decade, thousands of Khalka emigrated to South Korea for employment as migrant workers, forming the largest population of Mongolians living abroad. The Khalka practice a mix of shamanism and lamaism (Tibetan Buddhism). There are very few known Christians among the Khalka.

**ASK...** that God would turn the hearts of South Korean Christians to the Khalka, raising up laborers to share the Gospel among them. Ask that the Kalka of South Korea would be open and receptive to the message of Jesus. (Ezekiel 36:24-30, Matthew 28:16-20, Ephesians 2:1-9)