Jan/Feb 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

ASKing for Peace on Earth: Eliminating Terrorism

Terrorism is a modern war phenomenon. It is hard to combat, hard to protect ourselves from, hard to predict. There are sophisticated counter-intelligence methods, but not sophisticated enough it seems. Or is it rather that the suicide bomber is uncontainable? He/she invites open fire but only at the risk of other lives. She/he targets those who are innocent in the cause, defenseless civilians, random victims, young and old. Terrorist groups are multiplying. Incidents of terrorism are increasing. At the root of every terrorist act is the desire to instill fear and gain control.

Prayer is our best, and perhaps our only defense. Why? Because God is sovereign. And because these incendiary attacks are so often religiously motivated, there is a dark spiritual power behind them. While physical weapons may be in the hands of human beings, scripture reminds us that our battle is not against flesh and blood but against principalities and powers (Ephesians 6:12). In fact the Lord goes even further, telling us to pray for our enemies (Matthew 5.44-45). Who are these enemies and what has given rise to such demonic anger, hatred and violence? How does such extremism take root in today's cultures and generations? Surely we need wisdom and understanding for these trying times that can only be given us by the Lord. Thanks be to God He has provided the way of escape for all mankind, no matter what their circumstance (John 3:16).

There have been approximately 300 terrorist attacks around the world in 2015 resulting in approximately 6500 innocent bystanders killed and countless others injured or displaced. ISIS is responsible for a majority of the attacks, followed closely by Boko Haram, one of their associate groups. While France and the USA have recently been much in the news, these ten nations are reported to be most affected by terrorism in 2015: Iraq, Afghanistan, Nigeria, Pakistan, Syria, India, Yemen, Somalia, Libya and Thailand.

ASK for...

Healing after terror attacks

- As we saw in the recent, tragic attack in Paris the trauma for the survivors is horrendous. Pray for healing from "survivor's guilt", for memories of the event to subside, that PostTraumatic Shock does not become a permanent disorder. "Lord, you establish peace for us." *Isaiah 26:12; Malachi 4:2*
- For consolation for the bereaved, praying that many will turn to God for comfort. Psalms 23

Protection from further attacks

 Uncovering of evil plans. Hidden things revealed. "The Lord's light penetrates the human spirit, exposing every hidden motive."
 Proverbs 20:27: Psalms 64

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- Security forces around the world. International cooperation and collaboration among territorial and national leaders. "Counsel and sound judgment are mine. I have insight, I have power. By me kings reign and rulers issue decrees that are just." Proverbs 8:14-15
- Adequate safety measures to be implemented. "In peace I will lie down and sleep, for you alone, Lord, make me dwell in safety." Psalms 4:8

The perpetrators of violence

- Learn about terrorist groups that affect certain regions. Pray for them in an informed way. "I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves." Matthew 10:16
- Pray that their evil plans will be confused and brought to nothing. Isaiah 54:17
- Pray for conviction and change of hearts as happened with Saul of Tarsus. Act 9
- For their efforts to recruit to be thwarted. "My son (daughter), if sinful men (women) entice you, do not give in to them...." Proverbs 1; Proverbs 12:13

These are some very useful resources for ongoing informed prayer:

- prayforisismembers.com
- africajournalismtheworld.com
- evangelicalsforpeace.org/#!prayer-challenge/c5ro (Prayer points for Syria, South Sudan, Central African Republic, Somalia, Afghanistan)
- atfp.org/prayer-resources (Adopt a Terrorist articles and prayer resources)

Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Matthew 6:10



ASK Network News

Welcome our new ASK Directors in Russia!

Sasha and Ksoosha Nikiforov have been growing in relationship with ASK Network since 2001. Over the years, they have hosted many ASK gatherings in their homeland. In April of 2014, they attended ASK Network's International Gathering in Israel and were invited to pray about becoming ASK Network leaders for Russia. As they took time to pray about it, the Lord instilled within their hearts a great love for ASK Network and ASKing principles. Just a few months ago they accepted God's call to shepherd the work in Russia. This year they were also able to attend the ASK European conference in Macedonia.

Sasha and Ksoosha live outside of Kaliningrad, Russia. They have two sons, Daniel and Simon, and are in the process of adopting a daughter, Sveta. Sasha owns his on business and Ksoosha home-schools their sons. They are also volunteers at the Project 1 orphanage. Please pray for Sasha and Ksoosha as they begin to serve in this new leadership role. John 15:16



ASKing for the Nations



Unreached People Group:

The Republic of Cameroon is often referred to as "Africa in miniature" for its geological and cultural diversity. Located on the western coast of Africa, it is home to more than 200 different linguistic groups, with French and English the official languages. During the late 1800s and up until 1961, the Germans, French and English colonized Cameroon. Relative stability has permitted the development of agriculture, roads, railways, and large petroleum and timber industries. Even so, large numbers of Cameroonians live in poverty as subsistence farmers. Power lies firmly in the hands of the authoritarian president, Paul Biya, and his Cameroon People's Democratic Movement party.

Boko Haram, Islamist militants from Nigeria (whose name literally means "Western education is forbidden) have targeted the impoverished Far North in Cameroon displacing thousands, raiding villages and seeking to stockpile supplies and recruits there. Founded in 2002, Boko Haram is most known for kidnapping more than 270 schoolgirls in Nigeria, most of whom are still missing. They have declared themselves to be the Islamist State's Western African Province, and mounted numerous attacks in Cameroon, Chad, Niger and Nigeria this year, turning the border region near Lake Chad into a war zone. One of their terrorist tactics has increasingly become the use of female suicide bombers, detonating themselves near infirmaries or village marketplaces.

Last December, Cameroon's military leaders announced the rescue of more than 900 hostages in the far north, and have also joined an 8,700-strong regional force led by Nigeria. President Obama recently deployed 300 US troops to provide supplies and support to Cameroon's military.

ASK for:

- Deliverance from evil, especially for the innocent and vulnerable, women and children, and those who have been conscripted against their will into Boko Haram. "Deliver me, my God, from the hand of the wicked, from the grasp of those who are evil and cruel. For You have been my hope, Sovereign LORD, my confidence since my youth." *Psalm 71:4-5*; "He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart. You will not fear the terror of night, nor the arrow that flies by day..." *All of Psalm 91*; "...LORD looked down from the pillar of fire and cloud at the Egyptian army and threw it into confusion." *Exodus 14: 24*
- Leadership in these militaries/nations who will turn to the Lord and seek His help, wisdom and favor. "Unless the Lord watches over the city, the guards stand watch in vain." *Psalm 127:1*
- Salvation and peace to return to the peoples of Cameroon. "Sing to the LORD, all the earth; proclaim his salvation day after day. Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous deeds among all peoples." Psalm 16:23-24

KANURI OF CAMEROON

Population: 150,000

Primary Religion: Islam

Language: Central

Kanuri

Background

The Kanuri of Cameroon are descended from the powerful Bornu Empire, a region around Lake Chad that incorporates parts of modern day Nigeria, Chad, Cameroon and Niger. This empire began losing power when the British took control in 1914, but the Kanuri people today still hold much influence over neighboring people groups and are very active politically. Islam was introduced to the Kanuri in the eleventh century, and continues to be practiced today with a mix of traditional or "folk" religion. The Kanuri practice polygamy and their divorce rate is very high. There are very few known Christians among the Kanuri of Cameroon, though a New Testament translation is available.

ASK...that God would be truly known to the Kanuri people of Cameroon through a revelation of Jesus Christ, that they would trust in Him as their Savior, Teacher and Ruler. (Matthew 11:25-30)



El Salvador (translated into English The Savior) is a tiny Central American nation known for its Pacific Ocean beaches, surfing and mountainous landscape. Although it would seem by climate and scenery an idyllic place to live it is far from that.

El Salvador has eclipsed Honduras as the country with the highest homicide rate in the world. In the first ten months of 2015 there were more than 5,500 reported murders in a country with a population of just over six million. El Salvador's murder rate is averaging one murder per hour. The staggering death toll follows the breakdown of a truce between powerful, rival gangs and the government. Police and military are now combating the gangs head-on and gang members are being charged with a new crime — membership of a terrorist organization.

According to World Watch Monitor (worldwatchmonitor.org) violence linked to organized crime is perhaps the most significant threat to Latin American Christians who are often singled out and targeted due to their perceived threat to the dominating influence of criminal organizations. Organized crime is able to operate with impunity because the rule of law is not guaranteed and corruption is endemic. The Biblical worldview of Christians, who openly confront their activities, is in opposition to the greed of organized crime thereby making them prime targets for terror.

The one bright light in all this terror is some of those who have been incarcerated for their gang-related crimes have found the Lord while serving their sentence.

ASK for:

- Many more gang and crime organization members would be reconciled to Christ. Colossians 1:21-22 "You who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works yet now He has reconciled in the body of His flesh through death to present you holy and blameless and above reproach in His sight."
- The church would stand strong against their enemies. Philippians 1:27-28 "...let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ...stand fast in one spirit with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel and not in any way terrified by our adversaries."
- The Savior to become the true name of El Salvador as His people begin to seek His kingdom rule over their nation. They would be delivered from the terror now ruling them. *Revelations 11:17* "We give You thanks, O Lord God Almighty, the One who is and who was and who is to come. Because You have taken Your great power and reigned."

TURKS OF EL SALVADOR

Population: 700

Primary Religion: Islam

Language: Turkish

Background

The Turks, a primarily Muslim people group numbering 57 million worldwide, historically populated the region between the Caspian Sea and the Mongolian desert. They arrived in Turkey in the eleventh century, where the majority of Turks still live today. Because of Turkey's placement at the crossroads between Western and Eastern cultures, most Turks are considered very open to different perspectives and practice a secularized brand of Islam. El Salvador is home to a very small group of Turks, the only known unreached people group in that nation. There are a few Christians among the Turks in El Salvador, and a Bible is available in the Turkish language.

ASK...that God's Spirit would bind together the Christian Turks of El Salvador in love and purpose, that the witness of their lives and faith would draw many other Turks to Jesus. (Colossians 3:1-17)

Source: Assist News