

# cultivate

"Cultivate" is a bimonthly electronic publication of ASK Network USA that informs and encourages ASKers in the work of praying for the church, community and all the nations. It seeks to cultivate a deeper relationship with God and with one another.

# **Visiting the Zones**

By Art Rader

ASK. USA Zone Map

Last November our ASK USA Support Team met for a three day gathering to hear from the Lord about what might be on His heart for ASK USA. The Lord met with us in a profound way, guiding our discussion and melding us together as a team.

One of the things we sensed the Lord saying very clearly was that we were to strengthen ASK USA by visiting the zones over the next 18 to 24 months. So, Roberta and I, along with Lynne Bowman, who is responsible for pastoral care, are planning to visit the zones and meet with as many ASKers as possible all over the country.

We see this as part of our call and responsibility to strengthen the foundation of ASK USA that was laid through the leadership of previous ASK USA Directors, Celia McAlpine, Lisa Otis and Cheryl Cannon. We are so grateful for their faithful ministry to ASK.

As we consider these visits, two portions of scripture come to mind: Hebrews 10:25 "....let us encourage one another....", and Isaiah 54:2 "....do not hold back, lengthen your cords and strengthen your stakes..."

While our primary purpose in gathering with you is to encourage one another and strengthen relationships, we also very much desire to hear your heart for the ministry of ASK, to refresh the ASK vision together, and share with one another how that vision can be practically implemented, particularly at local and zone levels.

We are asking the Lord to go before us as we make plans "to gather together" in ASKing, fellowship and relationship. We look forward to being with you and would cherish your prayers that our plans will be the Lord's plans, and that His purposes for ASK will be accomplished!

#### **PARTICIPATE**

In the National Prayer Call

Third Saturday of each month

April 21

**May 19** 

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International
ASKing Point
March/April 2018

**ASKing for:** Honduras and Mongolia

"ASK and You Will Receive"

# **National Prayer Call (NPC)**

#### By Roberta Rader, Co-Director ASK USA

On a monthly basis, we "gather together" on the National Prayer Call across the USA to ask for nations and other areas of focus. The NPC is facilitated by different ASKers each month and provides a unique national gathering point that goes beyond gathering locally or in zones. Our participants literally span the country from California to Florida to ask of God together. Recently, we have had ASKers from Canada join in, also. We come to this prayer time prepared with our meditations as well as having communion elements ready for sharing the Lord's table together. We follow the ASK model of worship, meditation on scripture (done beforehand), sharing our meditations and praying them out.

The NPC is one of the ways we lengthen and strengthen ASK USA by deepening our relationships as we hear each other's voices in prayer and eat the Bread and drink the Cup together. It also reminds us that we are part of ASK International as we "pray for all nations," using the nations highlighted in the ASKing Point. Because this "gathering" provides such strong connecting points, we encourage all ASKers to regularly participate.

#### Some things you should know about the NPC:

- The NPC is on the 3rd Saturday of each month
- The call begins at 7:30 EST and lasts for one hour
- A toll free conference call number is provided
- If you are on the ASK mailing list, you will receive a call notice one week ahead and a reminder
- We begin with a brief time of worship and take communion together
- The first prayer focus for every call is one of the nations from the ASKing Point
- The second prayer focus is whatever the Lord puts on the heart of the NPC facilitator for that month

If you have any suggestions for improving / strengthening the NPC, please email me at roberta@asknetwork.net

### Reflections from an ASK Group Leader



As I was contemplating my years with our Wisconsin ASK prayer group, God showed me a picture of a quilt made up of individual blocks woven together by his loving hand. We each bring a unique Goddesigned "quilt square" to the ASK family table as we break the bread of the word and meditate on scripture, listening to the Holy Spirit, and sharing what is on the Lord's heart. When combined together, a beautiful prayer design emerges that we use for the basis for our prayers for the nations, church and community.

## **Praying for All Nations**



"Gathering all generations to <u>pray for all nations</u>, asking God to do what only He can do and doing what He asks of us."

In the past two issues of Cultivate we looked at the statements of the ASK vision to remind ourselves of our calling and explore ways we might more fully implement it. Last time we considered how we might gather the different generations. The reason for gathering the generations is to **pray** for all nations. Since the inception of ASK Network we have had a

mandate to pray for every nation, people, language and tribe. It is a primary reason for ASKers to gather. Our responsibility is to pray: for all people (1 Timothy 2:1-4); that doors for the gospel be opened (Colossians 4:2-3); that the Lord of the Harvest would send laborers (Luke 10:2); that the laborers would be bold to preach the gospel (Ephesians 6:18-20); and for those who go to the nations (Mark 16:15).

Here are some ways you can join us in ASKing for the nations:

- Each month in the ASKing Point two nations are highlighted. Background information is provided, scriptures for meditation and suggested prayer points are given. Local groups can use this material to facilitate their prayers for the nations.
- Participate in the National Prayer Call. On each call one of the prayer focuses is a nation featured in the ASKing Point.
- Commit to pray for an Unreached People Group (UPG). The Joshua Project (<u>www.joshuaproject.net</u>) lists the UPGs and gives some background information. Martie Hunter at the Continental Gathering in January encouraged us to adopt and pray for an Unreached People Group.
- Print out the ASK literature at asknetworkusa.net, "ASK for Nations," and "ASKing for those from every Nation, Tribe, People and Language." Use these guides to facilitate your group's prayer for nations or an ASK Day.
- Participate in the weekly Friday prayer call, "ASKing for the Ends of the Earth," praying for Muslims and Unreached People Groups. For detailed information see page 3 of the March/April 2018 ASKing Point.
- In many places the nations have come to our communities. Maybe God would have you pray for one of these people groups and eventually put feet to your prayers.

## **Upcoming Events**

Northwest Zone Day Apart Southwest Zone Meetings

June 23, 2018 June, 2018

More details to come. Check website in weeks to come for more information.