



Prayer Network

November 2016

Focus Family Unity

- Praise God and pray for his continued blessing on the many loving and caring families and extended families in our world. Pray for families to receive a revelation of God the Father, the source of all good parenting.
- Pray for parents, that God would establish them with righteous influence in the lives of their children and give them strength as they struggle with pressures from work, education and technology.
- Pray for those most at risk of exclusion – the elderly, the disabled, the young who have fled their homes – that they would be received into the family of God.
- Pray for young Christians, especially those away from home for the first time, that God would guard them and empower them to be effective witnesses within their generation.
- Pray for Christian families desiring to adopt or foster children, for God to open a door for them to do so without discrimination.
- Pray for young people aspiring to form families, for God to establish their hopes in purity and righteousness.
- Pray that we, as sons and daughters of God's Family, will fully demonstrate God's love and provision for the poor and for the 'alien'.

Worship, Blessing & Intercession

"Bless the Lord, O my soul: and ALL that is within me, bless his holy name!"(Ps.103:1)

To bless the Lord means to proclaim, affirm and celebrate His qualities, not just as we have personally experienced Him, but as He has defined himself in scripture. To bless the Lord with ALL means that we find ways to worship with our bodies and minds as well as our lips. Maybe it is time to learn from David who *"danced before the Lord with ALL his might"*(2 Sam. 6.14).

As we spend time in worship and intimacy with God, He leads us into intercession. Oswald Chambers adamantly states that worship and intercession must go together, the one is impossible without the other. We are called to be a people who worship God and who live in Holy relationship to Him so that we discover His heart and mind about the people and situations we pray for. There is so much conflict and division in our world today and sadly also in the Church. We are called to keep our eyes on Jesus – to love and worship Him and to walk in His ways.

Prayer for the UK

- Pray for the Queen & Royal Family, that those who have Christian faith will be strengthened and those who do not may come to know Jesus as Lord and Saviour.
- Pray for our Government and for Godly counsel in establishing the nation's future.
- Pray for the protection of our Queen and Prime Minister
- Pray for all those working in Government in preparation for Brexit, for God's wisdom and good relationships with other European nations.
- Pray for unity in the Church across denominations and generations and that God's people will be instruments of reconciliation throughout these islands.
- Pray for the healing of the divisions exposed by the Referendum vote, especially across the generations and pray that the wrong spirit of nationalism will not gain ground.

Prayer for the world

- At this time of great turbulence, uncertainty and instability, we proclaim the Lordship of Jesus throughout the spiritual realms, especially in those countries undergoing a change in government.
- Pray for the strengthening of uniting bonds within the Church across the nations. Pray that this unity will bring stability, healing and hope, especially for those most severely affected by international conflict.
- Pray for all those in positions of authority across the world. Pray that they will seek God's wisdom in the face of insoluble problems.

Prayer requests received

The most frequent requests for prayer received by the Maranatha office relate to prayer for healing. Many of these requests refer to cancer of various types: lung cancer, breast cancer, prostate cancer, tumours. Others relate to the healing of broken bones, strokes, heart attacks, MS and kidney problems; also depression.

Latterly several Maranatha members have been moving house, usually to other parts of the Country, and these moves have often been beset with problems which we have prayed for the Lord to resolve.

We lift to the Lord all those who have asked the Community to pray for them, asking Him to meet each one at their point of need.

Prophetic Promptings to the Community

We have been waiting on the Lord and we recognise He has been speaking about doing a 'new thing'. Two-fold interpretation: we must ensure that we are holding on to God's word at this time of great turbulence across the world and releasing our grip on any other false securities; that we will not pre-empt what He is about to do.

My people, invite me in where you gather. As at Cana I transformed water into wine, so would I do with you. None of you has yet attained the personhood I have in mind for you, and I have urgent need for a transformed people to bring me into a world that is subverted by the evil one.

Face up to the one who calls wickedness 'justice' and to the one who invokes God's name to justify works of evil. For this, you need to become the person I have in mind and to be strong with my strength. My people, do not circumscribe me. Remember what you were taught at Cana: 'Do whatever he tells you'. Do this and you do well.

Prayer for the Maranatha Community

- As we approach our Annual Gathering in February 2017 please pray that we will hear the Lord clearly together. Pray for Linda, Juan and John as they oversee and guide the Community. Pray too for the Reference Group whose task is to assist the leadership in discerning God's Word and direction for this time.
- The Leadership and the Reference Group will meet together in January. Please pray God's blessing on this coming together to listen and discern.
- Pray for the Israel Spearhead Group as they wrestle with the content of a document, 'The State of Israel' on behalf of the Community.
- Pray for the protection of the whole Community.

Praying for the Persecuted Church

It is often overwhelming to turn our hearts to the persecuted and difficult to know how to pray in the face of such a huge problem. All that is required is that we will open our hearts to these Christian family members, affirming our oneness with them through the Spirit of God. As our hearts are opened, the Lord is able to use the most feeble of our prayers. Let us pray that our love for them will increase daily as we remember them.

We continue to pray for Christians throughout the Middle East, especially in Syria and Iraq. We have a personal report from a friend who has recently returned from a trip to Kurdistan where she visited many projects involving Christian communities:

During the trip they visited several Open Doors projects, including gardens overseen by church members which have been made for the children who have fled to Kurdistan for safety from other parts of Iraq.

'We had the privilege of meeting Bishop Moise, who lives in the monastery at Mar Matta, the oldest in Iraq. Dozens of families found refuge there when they had to flee Mosul. In August 2014 the bishop had to flee with the other villagers from the region of Quararqosh but some days later he returned. Daesh was only a few kilometres away but he preferred to stay where he felt he should be, with some of the other priests. The church where he is based is partnered with Open Doors and it is encouraging to see how the church is the centre of everything. There is unity and a sense of self-worth in this Middle Eastern church.'

The children are being prioritised for care. Church leaders reported that children arrived in Kurdistan in a traumatised state, some manifesting violent behaviour. They have been nurtured within a loving community.

'We could see the results - the children today are self-disciplined and calm even if they are numbering 40 children in a room of 20m². What peace.. probably due to the peace that emanates from the lady teachers who work with them.'

The Bishop's prayer request was that the refugees will be able to return home.

A further visit to a refugee camp revealed 1,128 Christian families were living together in a kind of container dwellings. They have water, electricity, toilets and air conditioning but in the summer temperatures reached 52 degrees. They don't know what the future holds and will need much patience as they face an uncertain future.

Pray for the continued work in Kurdistan and throughout Iraq, particularly as new military offences have begun.

DAILY: We endeavour to pray for one another each day. Prayers for the Maranatha Community are said at 'The Ark', Flixton at 9.30pm, Kalah House at 12 noon and in the Maranatha Office Prayer Room at 12 noon daily. We also unite with Christians of all traditions who pray for God's mercy on the UK as we pray the Lord's Prayer at 12 noon. The Maranatha Community, 102 Irlam Road, Flixton, Manchester M41 6JT. Tel: 0161 748 4858 Fax: 0161 747 7379 email: prayer@maranathacommunity.org.uk