



This prayer letter is sent out approximately once every three months. Please send prayer requests to the contact people listed overleaf. Anyone wishing to participate in the prayer network and receive this prayer letter should inform the Maranatha office.

## Focus: - Weakness

The euro is weak, the dollar is weak, the pound is weak; job opportunities weak, the economy weak, the housing market weak; weakness in the health service, weakness in the press, weakness amongst politicians, weakness in the police: All around us there is weakness!

Weakness for chocolate, weakness for alcohol, for sex, for drugs, for telling lies, weakness for gossip, weakness for opting out; weakness in body, in mind and in spirit. Faith is weak, hope is weak, love is weak: Everywhere within us there is weakness.

What can we do with all this weakness? It drives us apart, sends us into hiding. We are ashamed and we construct smokescreens between ourselves, each other and our God. Yet God is not ashamed to become weak in order to be with us, to understand our weakness, to love us and to reach out to us.

In the darkness of winter when much may overwhelm us there is a safe place to go.

We are promised: *'A bruised reed he will not break, and a smouldering wick he will not snuff out.'* (Matt 12.20)

Paul discovers *'God's grace is sufficient, his power made perfect in weakness'* and can therefore declare:

*'when I am weak then I am strong'* (2 Cor 12.9-10)

We find that as the weakness of others reaches us, *'who is weak and I do not feel weak'* (2 Cor. 11.29) so the power of the Holy Spirit comes to help us as we pray for ourselves and for others (Ro 8.26).

### Pray for

- ❖ those without home, or food or friends
- ❖ people with debilitating illness, acute pain, disability
- ❖ those with mental stress, with dementia, frail from age
- ❖ anyone struggling with addiction
- ❖ those held captive, by others, by their fears
- ❖ ourselves as we acknowledge the gap between our intentions and our actions.



Praise God, He *'chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong'* (1 Cor. 1.27)

*'Comfort, comfort my people' says your God.....*

### Pray God's comfort and our encouragement during 2012 for:

- ❖ the many Christians imprisoned because of their faith - pray God's presence
- ❖ military families whose husbands, fathers, children are serving in Afghanistan and other trouble spots;
- ❖ those for whom bereavement is still fresh and raw - peace, rich memories and loving support;
- ❖ any whose lives are in pieces after a breakdown in relationships
- ❖ emergency staff and anyone facing unexpected disaster;
- ❖ those who have lost touch with their faith.
- ❖ the unemployed - pray that they will be able to find work

*'It is the Lord, lying on straw and the small things and the humble burn with holy fire.'*

(Eric Milner-White in 'My God, my Glory')

**GIVE THANKS - KNEEL - WORSHIP - ADORE**

## PRAY FOR PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS

*We believe all Christians in the free world should be actively involved in seeking justice for those who share our faith, but not our freedom. The Biblical mandate for such activity, is "Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute" (Proverbs 31.8)*

**Afghanistan** – for all who are being persecuted in this country

**Africa** – for many Christians desperately short of food following the droughts

**Algeria** – for all those being persecuted for their faith

**Australia** - Christian leaders have condemned changes to the national curriculum that will replace the terms BC (Before Christ) and AD (Anno Domini) in text books.

**Belgium** - A Shari'a court has been established in Antwerp by a radical Muslim group called Sharia4Belgium.

**Belarus** –for the churches being closed down because they are not officially registered

**Burma** – thousands of Christians have been forced from their homes in Katsu Kachin after being subject to extortion, torture and looting.

**China** – for God to protect all the children who attended a summer camp in Anhui province, for Pastor Lu Jingxiang & three others church leaders arrested for holding an 'unregistered illegal meeting'

**Colombia** – each year more than 25 pastors are killed simply because they lead churches

**Cuba** – for Pastor Omar Gude Perez & his family who have been refused exit visas even though they were granted asylum in the USA

**Denmark** – where Muslim radicalism is on the increase and certain areas are no longer safe for Christians

**Egypt** –radical Muslims are violently killing and terrorising the Coptic Christians. For the first time in many years churches are being systematically burned and destroyed and the media is urging the Muslim majority to stop buying goods from Coptic Christian merchants

**Eritrea** – for three Christians who recently died while imprisoned & for all the students still in detention

**Fiji** – where the government have banned all church activities except Sunday worship

**India** – for Pastor Swamidas Jula, badly beaten and thrown from a moving train by Hindus, sustaining broken arms, back and head injuries

**Indonesia** – for all those suffering persecution in this country

**Iran** – Officials recently seized 6,500 copies of the New Testament in Abhar city in the north west. Pastor Youcef Nadarkhani imprisoned since October 2009 on charges of apostasy; facing the death sentence, his appeal to Iran's Supreme Court was denied in June 2011.

**Iraq** – for the families of Emmanuel Hanna Paules & Bassam Eshoo who have been murdered & Pastor Jamal, kidnapped in July and still missing

**Kazakhstan** – where places of worship require approval by both national and local authorities & for all the churches raided by the police

**Kyrgyzstan** – in the last few years more than 16,000 Christians have left the country to go to Russia, Europe and the USA

**Laos** – 16 out of 19 Christian families expelled from Katin village, Saravan province in 2010 are still living in the jungle. Officials in Nonsawang village recently evicted 10 Christians from their homes and they can only return if they renounce their faith.

**Libya** – after the overthrow of Gaddafi Christians face an uncertain future

**Maldives** – where it is illegal to speak of any other religion apart from Islam

**Nigeria** – where Muslims are shooting or hacking Christians to death

**North Korea** – regarded as the worst violator of religious freedom across the world & where Christians face public execution and imprisonment for their faith

**Norway** - Muslim asylum seekers attacked a Christian convert with acid and boiling water.

**Pakistan** – for the family of evangelist Zahhid Jameel murdered by an unidentified gunman & Ruqqiya Bibe sentenced to 25 years in prison for touching Quran with unwashed hands

**Philippines** – for the family of Clariot dela Cruz tortured and murdered in Mindanao. His church had been subject to many threats from local Muslims

**Russia** – Protestants are being fined for organising worship meetings in buildings that have not been specifically approved by local authorities

**Somalia** – for the families of Guled Jama Muktar & Juma Nuradin Kamil, both killed & beheaded by the extremist Islamic group 'al Shabaab'.

**Sri Lanka** - for all those suffering persecution in this country

**Sudan** – for the new country of Southern Sudan, which is mainly Christian. Muslim violence led to the deaths of 1500 people in 2011

**Syria** – for all Christians who are dying as a result of the unrest in this land

**Turkey** - An American church group has reported that the government's 'plan' to return confiscated Christian property is a smokescreen.

**Turkmenistan** – for members of a Baptist Church harassed by local police and Islamic officials in Avaza. Pastor Limurad Nuriliev remains in jail for leading his church.

**Uganda** – where 12% Muslim minority attempting to introduce Shari'a law. Pray that the country's Parliament will reject this bill when it comes to a vote.

**United Kingdom** – The British government has cut aid to countries that persecute gay people, but still gives millions in aid to countries that are killing Christians. UK aid to Malawi was cut over the treatment of two gay men, but absolutely no action was taken against aid provided to Zimbabwe, which currently receives £69 million a year, despite the systematic persecution of Christians there.

**USA** – for all those being persecuted for their faith

**Uzbekistan** – in the city of Samarkand, police raided and fined Baptists conducting worship

## PRAY FOR BROTHERS & SISTERS OVERSEAS

**Australia:** Patrick; **Canada:** Christine Pryor; **Czech Republic:** Charles, Jan & Zita & The Effeta centre; **Egypt:** Pastor Sam and the Church at Luxor; Pastor Ayad and his church; **France:** Anne Marie; Temoins Community; St Mark's Church, Versailles; **Germany:** Evangelical sisters of Mary, Darmstadt; **Holland:** Peter, Henk & the Apostolic Community; friends at the house of Prayer; **India:** Pastor Immanuel at Prayer House, Vuyyuru; Rev David Shrisander; **Israel:** Evangelical sisters of Mary in a tense part of Jerusalem; **Italy:** Sr. Giovanna & brothers at Spello; **Kenya:** Bishop Joseph and Redeemer Faith Fellowship churches; Christians at Kisii; street children in Nairobi; **Lithuania:** Sue working with children; **Malawi:** Rev Dr Lazarus Chakwera, Rev Charles Masina, Bishop Tengtenga, Archbishop Tarcisi Gervazio Ziyaye, Rev Michael McDonald Kadawati, Rev Lewis Mwanamvekha, Bishop Mark Kambalazar and members from CREDOM, Rose Zalimba of Jeffrey Nursery, Pastor Damson Tambwali, Major Francis Nyambalo, Rev Maxwell Songola, Bishop Jackson Chapo, Sonya Lester, Rev Dr Felix Chingota, Pastor Andrew Dube, Rev Francis Mkandawire; **Malaysia:** Bishop Moon Hing; **Mauritius:** Rev Mario, Rev James, Belinda & Thierry & Fellowship of Christian churches; **Oman:** Carlos & Meriel, Luba; **Pakistan:** the Zaraphath Bible Institute training church leaders; Razi and work of the Biblical Educational Ministry with the poor; Nigel and the BASIS team; **Paraguay:** Molly and the work of FEISA training teachers; **Peru:** Rev Margaret Valle, Aldo; **Singapore:** Richard Chen; **Slovakia:** Mary,, God's church in Dolny Kubin; **South Africa:** Fr Terry; **Spain:** Arnaldo & Shona and the Cavern Project; **Sri Lanka:** Prasad, Director Sevawa (House of Divine Healing); **Tanzania:** Brother Tomasso; **Uganda:** Fr Ernest Sievers & Emmaus Community; Maranatha Groups and the 'Taste and See' café: the River of Life Church: Duncan and Mary hoping to return there soon, Sarah, working with the girls, Rob, Katharine & Elena and the new playgroup; Christine and her ministry; **USA:** Abraham's ministry to diplomats & national leaders; Alan Benedict and his ministry; Still Waters farm; Rev Nigel Mumford at Christ the King Spiritual Life Center; **Zimbabwe:** wisdom & protection for Fidelis;

## PRAY FOR INTERNATIONAL CONCERNS

**Mozambique** where a typhoon has left 40 dead and fears of cholera; **Syria;** unrest in the **Middle East;** Debt crisis in the **Eurozone;** **Iran** including nuclear concerns; continuing hunger in the Horn of Africa;

## PRAY FOR THOSE FIGHTING PERSECUTION

Barnabas Fund, Christian Solidarity World Wide, Jubilee, Release, Open Doors, Voice of the Martyrs, give thanks for their vigilance and pray on-going guidance, protection and provision;

## PRAY FOR THE MARANATHA COMMUNITY

Dennis, Juan & Linda, wisdom, discernment and unity as they lead the Community, and peace and protection for them and their families; National Co-ordinators peace and vision as they fulfil their role; the Trust; Groups and Prayer Cells; Taste & See and the Office, for staff and volunteers, right deployment of skills of new ones, Ruth as she settles into her job in the café, peace, protection & effectiveness; equipment; research teams & Spearhead Groups; publications; Trumpet Call; The Reference Group; 'The Ark'; Kalah House; communication, encouragement and bonds of unity and love across the Community

## PRAY FOR THESE MINISTRIES & INITIATIVES

Barnabus, Betel, Bless, Boaz, Care, ChildAid; The Christian Legal Centre, Christian Voice, Flame, Lydia, The Message, Mothers Prayers; Prayers for Parliament; Prayers for Scotland; Project Caleb; SPUC; Seedcorn; Tearfund; Victory Outreach; UCB, The World Prayer Centre;

## PRAY FOR THE NATION

The decision to make prayers before council meetings illegal to be overturned; protection for Christian marriage and for attempts to alter the definition of marriage to fail; people struggling financially and those affected by job loss in the current economic crisis; wisdom for the government in economic decisions and social legislation; the NHS,

## PRAY FOR THOSE FACING HARD TIMES/STRESS

**Anthony**, with failed business and financial problems, unable to support himself and daughter and facing eviction, pray protection, provision and a job; **Barbara** for deliverance from fear and to know peace and freedom in Jesus; **C** whose husband has left her; **David**, bullied when younger, now on drugs and suffering depression; **Debbie** struggling at university with visual impairment, has some assistance which is often too late for assignments; **John**, gripped by a stronghold of fear and fighting all who try to help; did have a scan but is terrified of results, praying healing and deliverance; pray too for his wife almost at breaking point; **Lillian**, with depression, reluctantly taking sleeping pills, has some current relationship problems; **Nick** in turmoil beset by traumas and with mental health problems; **Paulette** with depression; **Pregnant lady** after 12 week scan told her baby has no brain has declined an abortion, pray for her & family; **Sean** for peace and protection; **Steve** with mental health problems and wife **Hailey** & mother, **Debbie** trying to support him; **Suresh** to be set free from fear; **Wendy** troubled by nightmares, flashbacks and lack of sleep; **Victor and his daughter**: she had breakdown last year and has more problems emerging; he is travelling south to help her and the family;

## PRAY FOR THOSE NEEDING HEALING

**Amity**, with a spinal injury following a car accident; **Ann** with primary lateral sclerosis, causing loss of speech, difficulty swallowing and losing use in her limbs; also for husband **Clive**; **Connie**, heart racing despite increase in beta blockers; **Derek**, with problems following an op on his left eye; **Donna** home from hospital but seriously ill; **Elaine** with phlebitis and recovering from eye treatment; **Elise** with undiagnosed pain in her hands and feet; **Evelyn**, diagnosed with glaucoma; 'G' (80s) with poor health and ulcerated legs, plagued by distressing wartime memories, for complete healing; **Geoff**, in constant pain from cystitis, due to on-going medication since having a tumour removed 5 years ago; **George**, in army hospital in Delhi with sudden undiagnosed paralytic disease; **Ian** with pneumonia; **Irene** with damaged shoulder after a fall and unable to drive; **Jackie** with multiple health problems, epilepsy and needing a supportive church fellowship; **Kate** who has shingles; **Martin & Dennis**, brothers, both with back and knee problems after serving in army, for healing and to come to know Jesus; **Natasha** expecting twins in April told the artery feeding them is too narrow, pray sufficient nutrients; **Olive** (85) in hospital with blood clots on her lungs; 'S', an alcoholic in his youth has overcome his addiction but now suffers a defective heart which frequently needs urgent hospital attention; **Scarlett**, a new Christian, suffering from after effects of Reiki, for healing and protection; **Susan** for a speedy recovery from her gall bladder op; **Thomas**, born prematurely with little or no sight; **Toni**, mother of two, with blood clots in both lungs; **Tony** with shingles; **Trisha** after tests for breast cancer were inconclusive, having further tests pray clear diagnosis and healing; **Vera** in hospital with lung and heart problems, and **Ian & Linda** and all the family concerned;

## PRAY FOR FAMILIES UNDER PRESSURE

A couple from Lancashire going through turbulent times; **John & Liz** facing increasingly difficult situation; **Kerry 's family** for healing and unity

## PRAY FOR THOSE WITH CANCER

**Adrienne** after bowel cancer op & husband **Dudley** with prostate cancer; **Awena**, after a liver cancer op last year is now having aggressive chemo; **Barbara** has terminal cancer, is at peace and rejoicing in God's goodness; pray for all the healing God can give her; **Charlotte**, having more chemo, the last treatment went better than expected, pray healing, strength and peace; **Donna** who has terminal cancer; **Elizabeth**, recovered from breast cancer some months ago, now 5 months pregnant and cancer has spread to lungs & pronounced terminal, having chemo but baby should be unharmed – she given approx. 2 years; **Graham**, diagnosed with terminal cancer; **Jean**, with cancer, having op to remove a kidney & husband **Tom** very worried – their daughter died from cancer; **Jim** with continuing chemo, and his wife **Jea** ; **John** with terminal cancer and his wife, **Karen** and son, **Godwyn**; **Jonathon**, recently started chemo for cancer in his throat and stomach glands; **Julia** (5) with untreatable leukaemia; **Penny** has cancer of the ovaries & in her womb, having chemo to which she is reacting badly;

## PRAY FOR THOSE WITH ADDICTION PROBLEMS

**Brenda**, addicted to pain killers, trying to reduce them slowly, also feeling suicidal; **Kate** not a Christian, struggling with multiple addictions;

## DISCERNMENT, GUIDANCE & PROTECTION

**Alison & Arthur** and those preparing with them for an 'Olympic Praise and Worship Bus'; **David**, a Christian MP, for wisdom, guidance and strength; **Ian** wisdom, protection and inspiration as he considers writing about his release from freemasonry; **George**, needing a job, for guidance and provision; **Mark** learning to use his false leg and settling into a new ground floor flat; **Michael** with his responsible role in organising forthcoming public events; **Rosemary**, clarity, peace and protection; **Yvonne** wisdom and guidance particularly in relation to her boyfriend;

## PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE BEREAVED

**Beryl and her family** following the death of her son-in-law in January; **Beryl** whose husband, **Dennis**, died peacefully from bowel cancer in early February; **Hazel** and her husband mourning the death of his father in December; **Michael** died on 14<sup>th</sup> January, pray for his widow **Gaynor**, their 3 children and his mother, **Sylvia**; **Teresa**, still depressed 3 years after her husband died and unable to move forward, for the healing peace of Jesus;

## PRAYER NETWORK REQUESTS TO

- *The Maranatha Office – 0161 748 4858  
email: [info@maranathacommunity.org.uk](mailto:info@maranathacommunity.org.uk)*

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*DAILY: We endeavour to pray for one another each day. Prayers for the Maranatha Community are said at 'The Ark', Flixton at 8 a.m., at Kalah House at 12 noon and in the Maranatha Prayer Room at 12 noon daily.*

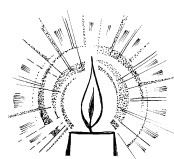
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The Maranatha Community, 102 Irlam Road, Flixton, Manchester M41 6JT. Tel: 0161 748 4858 Fax: 0161 747 7379 email: [info@maranathacommunity.org.uk](mailto:info@maranathacommunity.org.uk)

## Prayers for your use

Come, true light.  
 Come, life eternal.  
 Come, hidden mystery...  
 Come, reality beyond all words.  
 Come, person beyond all understanding.  
 Come, rejoicing without end.  
 Come, light that knows no evening.  
 Come for unfailing expectation of the saved.  
 Come, raising of the fallen.  
 Come resurrection of the dead...  
 Come, for your name fills our hearts with longing...  
 Come, for you are yourself the desire  
 that is within me.  
 Come, my breath and my life.  
 Come, the consolation of my humble soul.  
 Come, my joy, my glory, my endless delight.

*From St Symeon the New Theologian in 'The Oxford Book of Prayer'*



My dearest Lord,  
 Be thou a bright flame before me  
 Be thou a guiding star above me  
 Be thou a smooth path beneath me  
 Be thou a kindly shepherd behind me  
 Today and for evermore.

*St Columba quoted in 'The Open Gate' by David Adam*



In the mighty name of God,  
 In the saving name of Jesus,  
 In the strong name of the Spirit,  
 We come  
 We cry  
 We watch  
 We wait  
 We look  
 We long  
 For you.

*'The Open Gate' by David Adam*

Keep my faith strong  
 You, Lord are my hope  
 And in you alone do I put my trust;  
 You will protect me from all danger  
 And from every kind of trouble  
 which can hurt my soul.  
 There is uncertainty all around me  
 And so little hope for the future,  
 But I know you will be with me.  
 You will show me a way  
 Where no way seems to exist.  
 Keep my faith strong  
 And if it weakens, strengthen it;  
 And help me always to remember  
 To praise and to thank you for your care and  
 protection

*From 'As was his custom' by Michael Hollings & Etta Gullick*



O Lord Jesus,  
 great is your goodness to those who seek you.  
 You redeem the captives;  
 you are the Saviour of the lost,  
 the strength of the weary,  
 the freedom of the oppressed,  
 the consolation of those who are cast down,  
 the crown of the conquering,  
 the reward and the joy of your saints.  
 O mighty God,  
 may all things that are in heaven above  
 and in the earth beneath, bless you  
 for you are great and great is your name.  
 When you come in your power and your glory  
 raise us up, we beseech you, among your chosen  
 that in our flesh we may see your brightness,  
 and be filled with the joy of your countenance.

*St Anselm (altd)*

