



maranatha

International & Nationwide
prayer network

November / December 2009

This prayer letter is sent out approximately 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: - ADVENT

AN AWESOME SEASON!

Longing -

O come, O come Emmanuel-

Mourning -

Ransom captive Israel that mourns in lonely exile here

Waiting -

Hark a solemn voice is sounding Christ is near it seems to say

Hoping -

All my hope on God is founded

Urgent -

Wake O wake for night is flying, the watchmen from the heights are crying

Preparing-

Make way, make way for Christ the king in splendour arrives-

Anticipating -

Hark the glad sound the Saviour comes, the Saviour promised long

Rejoicing -

Tell out my soul the greatness of the Lord



A PENETRATING SEASON

Questioning Where are you Adam?

Probing: What are you looking for? What do you want me to do for you?

Discomforting: Where is your brother?

Challenging: Martha you are busy about many things.

Demanding: When the Son of Man comes will he find faith on the earth?

A GOD-COMING SEASON

While we were still unready, still alone, still fretting over many things,
still searching in the wrong places for the wrong things:

*In the stillness of the night when the world was asleep,
the Almighty Word leapt out*

In the midst of our pain, our conflict, our distress

*He comes with succour speedy to those who suffer wrong;
To help the poor and needy and bid the weak be strong.*

At the end of time, when some have ceased from looking
and many hearts grown cold

*At the name of Jesus every Knee shall bow
Every tongue confess him King of glory now.*



Maranatha - Come Lord Jesus!

PRAY FOR PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS

57 Muslim states forming the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) at the United Nations, want the UN to protect Islam from all criticism. As a result of their pressure, discussion of the negative aspects of Islam, such as treatment of converts, is now largely suppressed in UN assemblies. Officials in a Middle Eastern country have produced Bibles with cell phone micro-chips hidden in the covers. Several House Churches have been tracked down & closed using this method.

Afghanistan – where the Taliban and other Islamic fundamentalists carry out severe persecution of Christians.

Armenia – for all those suffering persecution for their faith.

Azerbaijan – New amendments to their Religion Law will make life even more difficult for non-Muslim minorities.

Belarus – for all those being persecuted for their faith.

Burma – Pray for Chit Pe and Aung Soe Wei both jailed for 18 months for publicly praying for release of the opposition leader.

Burundi – for pastors who are now returning to Burundi after years as refugees in Tanzania.

Caribbean – although percentage of Muslims in the Caribbean is generally low, it is increasing as Muslim nations continue to invest in the region

China – for all House Church leaders, Christian solicitors and lawyers who have been imprisoned for their faith

Colombia – where Christians suffer violence and intimidation from organised crime cartels

Costa Rica – about 500 families lost everything and 20 Evangelical & 2 Roman Catholic churches were destroyed by a recent earthquake

Cuba – for Pastor Gude Perez sentenced to 6 years imprisonment

Egypt – for all those suffering persecution at the hands of Muslims

Eritrea – where over 2,000 Christians are in jail for their faith, without charge. Many thousands of Eritrean Christians have fled to Ethiopia and Sudan

Europe – pray that the increasingly visible presence of Muslims in Europe will spur Europeans to rediscover their Christian faith.

Fiji – Where a Methodist Church conference has been banned because “the church was getting too involved in politics”

Guinea – where other Arab countries are funding a Muslim/Islamic revival

Haiti – where Islam is growing at an alarming rate due to Arab countries investing in the country

India – for all those still being persecuted by Hindu militants, especially for the Christians in Orissa.

Indonesia – for the congregation in Depok, West Java who have been forced out of their church because the Muslim mayor revoked its permit

Iran – Praise and thank God that Christian women Marizah & Maryanm imprisoned for their faith have now been released.

Iraq – for all those who are suffering persecution in this country.

Israel – Christians in Beersheba facing hostility from ultra-orthodox Jews, who obtained police permission to demonstrate outside local church.

Jordan – A military court has passed sentence on 3 militants who planned to explode a car-bomb outside a church in the capital

Kazakhstan – for two women targeted by the anti-terrorism police and fined for carrying out missionary activity without local registration

Kenya – Christians being attacked & threatened by the Mungki sect – a politico-religious group rejecting Christianity and westernisation

Laos – for all Christians facing horrific persecution and loss of their homes and livestock if they do not abandon their Christian faith

Libya – for Massoud Hanna arrested for proselytising Christianity

Macedonia – where the State continues to discriminate against the Serbian Orthodox Church.

Nicaragua – for all the children forced to beg and work on the streets.

Nigeria – for all those displaced in the states of Borno, Yobe, Kano, Niger and Bauchi following attacks by Muslims on their homes and churches

North Korea – where Christians suffer some of the worst persecution on earth. Pray for Li Mingshun from Heilongjiang Province recently jailed for helping to smuggle Christians out of the country.

Pakistan – hundreds of Muslims torched & looted Christian homes in Gorja; 6 people burned to death & 2 men shot by rioters; for Joseph Francis (National Director of CLAAS) and 2 other Christians jailed in July.

Peru – where Christians face violence and intimidation from drug cartels and organised crime.

Russia – for Christians in Kamshatka, at the eastern extremity of the USSR. Most of the evangelical churches have been closed down with just a few house churches remaining in the city of Petropavlovsk.

Rwanda – for a ministry supporting converts from Islam, who face persecution from the authorities

Saudi Arabia – where any outward expression of the Christian faith is banned. For Joshua, a convert to Christianity, son of an Imam, given 20 minutes to flee leaving behind his family and all possessions.

Sri Lanka – for all those harassed by Buddhist and Hindu factions and all those who are homeless

Somalia for the families of those Christians who were beheaded earlier this year. Islamic extremist rebels from Al Shabaah mounting campaign to kill Christians and enforce Shari'a law across the south of country

Sudan – for all those suffering persecution from Muslims in this country

Tajikistan – for all those suffering persecution in this country

Turkey – pray that a Christian seminary, closed by government in 1971, will be re-opened

United Arab Emirates – Praise God that some Muslims are speaking out against the Islamic Apostasy Law, which calls for the death penalty for Muslims converting to another faith

Uganda – although this nation is 85% Christian, many Christian schools have Muslim headmasters and Board members. Pray that Christians will be alerted to the problems.

Uzbekistan – for Pavel Nenno jailed for providing food to poor children.

Vietnam – for all those suffering persecution, especially Pastor Nguyen Cong Chinh being harassed by the police

Zimbabwe – where a rural church was closed down and used by government militia as torture facility. Pray for all those who are suffering starvation.

PRAY FOR BROTHERS & SISTERS OVERSEAS

Australia - Frances, Patrick; **Austria** – Br. Franz, **Canada** – Christine Pryor;

Czech Republic – Charles, Jan & Zita & the Effeta Centre; **Egypt** – Pastor

Sam & church at Luxor, Pastor Ayad & his church; **France** – Anne-Marie;

Temoins Community; St. Mark's Church, Versailles; **Germany** – Evangelical

Sisters of Mary, Darmstadt. **Holland** – Peter, Henk & the Apostolic

Community, also friends at the House of Prayer; **India** – Pastor Immanuel's

ministry at Prayer House, Vuyyuru; Rev. David Shrishander; **Israel** –

Evangelical Sisters of Mary in tense part of Jerusalem; **Italy** – Sister

Giovanna & brothers at Spello; **Kenya** – Bishop Joseph and Redeemer Faith

Fellowship churches; Christians at Kisii; Street children in Nairobi; **Lithuania**

– Sue, working with children; **Mauritius** - Rev Mario, Rev. James, Belinda &

Thierry & Fellowship of Christian Churches; **Middle East** - Karen & David

Hans; **Oman** - Carlos & Meriel ; Luba; **Pakistan** - the Zarephath Bible

Institute training church leaders; Razia & work of the Biblical Educational

Ministry with the poor; Nigel and the BASIS team; **Paraguay** - Molly & the

work of FEISA, training teachers; **Peru** – Rev Margaret Valle, Aldo; **Russia** –

Nick Guryachkin and his work; **Singapore** - Richard Chen; **Slovakia** – Mary

with cancer, God's Church in Dolny Kubin; **South Africa** – Father Terry;

Spain Arnaldo & Shona and the Cavern Project; **Sri Lanka** – Prasadh,

Director, Dev Suwa Sevawa (House of Divine Healing.); **Tanzania** – Brother

Tomasso; **Uganda**, Fr Ernest Sievers & Emmaus Community, Maranatha

groups and the 'Taste & See' café; Christine & ministry; **USA** – Abraham's

ministry to diplomats & national leaders; Rev Allyn Benedict (and his

ministry), Still Waters Farm; Rev Nigel Mumford at Christ the King Spiritual

Life Centre; **Zimbabwe** wisdom & protection for Fidelis.

PRAY FOR INTERNATIONAL CONCERNS

Burma for an end to the corrupt tyranny; for the Karen people, for those still

suffering from the devastating floods a year ago; **Afghanistan** for the troops

fighting there, for bereaved families, for tribal people under threat from the

Taliban, for security and peace; **Pakistan**, stability, protection from

insurgency clear government; **Piracy** becoming a problem, effective means

to overcome it; the conference on Climate Change

PRAY FOR THOSE FIGHTING PERSECUTION

Barnabas Fund, Christian Solidarity Worldwide, Jubilee, Release & Open Doors, Voice of the Martyrs

PRAY FOR THE MARANATHA COMMUNITY

Dennis, Linda and Juan wisdom, unity and discernment as they lead the

Community, peace & protection for them and their families; **National Co-**

ordinators, wisdom & understanding in fulfilling their roles; **regions and**

local groups, Trust, adequate resources; **Maranatha teams**; **National**

Representatives; staff and volunteers in office and 'Taste & See', for 'The

Ark'; **Kalah House**; the prayer School at Douai Abbey (Nov 16-18); for the

whole Community as we pray 'Maranatha' and respond to the continually

unfolding vision of unity, healing and renewal;

PRAY FOR THESE MINISTRIES & INITIATIVES

Barnabas; 'Betel'; CCFON (Christian concern for our Nation) & the lawyers

working with and for them, Divine Healing Ministries N.I., Flame, working

towards Dec 19th, start date for fulltime broadcasting; **Lydia**; **Project Caleb**;

Street Pastors; **The Message**; **Mothers' Prayers**; **UCB**; **World Prayer**

Centre; **Precious Life** working against abortion in Ireland

PRAY FOR THE NATION

Give thanks for our Christian heritage and pray that Christian values will

again motivate and guide our nation; **Recession**: those out of work,

struggling with mortgages, made homeless, hopelessly in debt; **Young**

people – NEETS – not in education, employment or training; students

completing their first term; for right values in education, right relationships;

Parliament and local government, for increased answerability, for integrity,

wisdom and good judgement; for wisdom in relation to Europe; for a right

balance between parliament and the judiciary; for protection of the **freedom of speech**; for a simplified less bureaucratic access to benefits; The Media for responsibility in reporting and giving opinion; Pray for good stewardship of the environment, a turning away from the culture of waste;

PRAY FOR THOSE FACING HARD TIMES

Adam, whose parents recently divorced; **Angela** (84) had a fall causing confusion and now in hospital; **Charlotte** pregnant & with little girl (4) whose partner of 15 years has suddenly left without explanation; **Dale** made redundant and back on crutches, needed intermittently since childhood accident; **Jonathon** in secure care after becoming violent when suicide attempt following divorce failed; **Liz** & sister struggling to support mother (93) 40 miles away has had a stroke and refuses any paid help; **Kay** whose peaceful nature is being disturbed by increasing dementia; **Simon** going through a difficult time

PRAY FOR THOSE EXPERIENCING STRESS

Alex, a nurse involved in the occult, for deliverance & new life; protection for colleagues; **Amy** with obsessive compulsive disorder; **Bernard** suffering severe anxiety; **Carrie** 20 weeks pregnant: a scan has shown many organs missing & genetic kidney disease in her expected baby; **Clarence** starting with dementia; **Hazel** struggling with various issues; **Karen** (15) self-harming; **Lorraine** for God to lift away her anger; **Marcella**, troubled, for God's peace; **Mary** in a nursing home, well cared for but confused, and her family; **P & E**, an elderly couple he having sudden outbursts of anger as lifetime fears and frustrations surface causing upset to both; **Ron's wife** in hospital with depression and fearful of losing sight after several eye ops failed; **Shane**, suicidal was bullied as a child;

PRAY FOR THOSE NEEDING HEALING

Alice with thyroid and heart trouble; **Andrew** suffering with MS and still painful shoulder some time after fracture; **Andrew**, a year after accident is home, pray for larger house to take equipment, facilities for exercise & assessment at driving disability centre; **Angela** very ill in hospital after an op on oesophagus connecting it to her stomach; **Ben** with very small aortic aneurysm; **Betty** with the base of her spine crumbling and several slipped discs, enduring a long painful wait for the needed op; **Caddy** (nrlly 18) in & out of hospital with bouts of extreme breathing difficulties often leading to left lung collapse; **Clive**, healing and protection for left eye; **David** with debilitating back problems; **Dennis** healing of his aneurysm; **Diane** with long term ME and needing to move house; **Elsie** with painful ulcerated legs; **Bro Franz** in hospital, at peace but in considerable pain; **Ian** struggling with ME; **Jane** suffering shingles in head and painful eye problem; **Jenny** with ME & shingles; **Jim** complete healing and strengthening of his heart muscles; **John** with prostate and kidney problems; **Kath** in IC in Plymouth hospital, after emergency aorta op and also with lung cancer; **Lesley** has broken her 2nd wrist shortly after 1st healed; **Margaret**, for complete recovery from her op and healing of scabies, and protection for Ivy; **Mariane**, having cataract op pray it does not trigger return of macular; **Marie**, painful osteoarthritis and osteoporosis have twisted her body into an 's' shape having to decide whether to have long complicated op.; **Michelle** with complex medical condition needing consultants and GP to meet to formulate joint management plan; **Peter** with benign tumour on his foot awaiting op and bone graft, concerned about his job as youth worker; **Prince Noel**, a bay twin in hospital with breathing difficulties, responding to treatment, pray life; **Rachel** in hospital with painful inner ear infection also has unidentified food allergy; **Richard** in hospital after severe stroke, also has diabetes and heart disease; **Roger** (75) taken suddenly into hospital, and his wife Margaret; **Sam** in severe pain, infection in some rods attached to his muscles to support badly fractured leg also end to phantom pain from arm amputated some years ago & for wife **Jean** exhausted; **Samantha** back at work after heart attack but stressed and unwell; **Sarah** with persistent kidney problems; **Susan** after a mini stroke; **Tony**, give thanks his wound now closed, pray complete healing and release from allergy rash.

PRAY FOR FAMILIES UNDER PRESSURE

C & S with marriage difficulties; **Christian marriage** under attack; **Hannah** with bi-polar disorder released from hospital into the care of her parents; **Jane & Juan** with many responsibilities and her 3rd child due next month; **Joshua** (10) has autism pray for him and his family; **L & Y** whose marriage is under stress; **S & N** for God to hold them & their children together in his love and help them resolve their problems;

PRAY FOR THOSE WITH CANCER

Amelia (3) been attached to Hickman's line for 2+ years now to be removed as body can take no more; **Anna** with very advanced brain tumour now living with son, Juan and family; **Anna** had op to remove pancreatic tumours in Sept.; **Ben** (14) diagnosed with leukaemia; **Charlotte** with breast cancer, awaiting chemo when site infection clears; **Christopher** with acute anaemia and wife, **Mary** in wheelchair with painful back problems; **Daniel** with a tumour directly on top of his aortic aneurysm; **Emile** part of an aggressive tumour, left after an op being targeted by chemo and radiotherapy; **Jean** after

op to remove 2ndary tumour on her liver; **Jeff**, whose cancer has spread beyond medical assistance; **Jenny** having herceptin treatment; **Jo** was clear but now having chemo after cancer has spread to all parts of her body; **John** having chemo following bowel cancer op; **Lee's son** (4) with a rapidly developing tumour, given only months to live; **Lillian**, clear after her leg was amputated some yrs ago has had her cancer return; **Margaret**, had uterine cancer which cleared some time ago, back in hospital with lung problems awaiting scan results, her son recently died from cancer; **Margaret** having side effects from chemo; **Marney** already has breast cancer, now to have op for new cancer on abdomen, close to bowel; **Mary** suffering a vigorous cancer; **Michael** with advanced bowel cancer; **Michelle** with lung cancer; **Pamela** with terminal cancer, knowing her sister has just died from the same thing; **Patricia** after removal of a lung and chemo is depressed and confused; **Phillip** with an inoperable sarcoma on the back of his lung; **Rachel** (40s) has cancer and partner Daniel struggling with possibility it may be terminal; **Reavely**, was in hospital 4 months after rectal tumour op went wrong now awaiting right treatment; **Roger** with prostate cancer and wife **Phyllis**, forgetful and losing confidence; **Sheila** with low cell count for both red and white blood cells, for increase and protection from infection; **Sophie** (18) in great pain & having to let go the things she has managed to do over the 4 yrs of cancer, feels life closing in; **Yohannan**, having chemo for 2ndary cancer;

DISCERNMENT & PROTECTION

Anthony for order, protection and purpose in his life; **Brian** for protection and direction; **Craig** for permanent employment and provision; **Denise** drawn to spiritualist reading since husband's death earlier in the year; **E & L: E** facing a court case, for protection, peace, wisdom and closure; **Fiona** in a difficult situation; **James & Jo** God's protective hand on them as they settle into their new home; **James** evicted from Canadian flat while over here to make room for flatmate's girlfriend; **Jean** for encouragement, protection and the right was forward; **Jenny** struggling with difficulties arising after her husband's murder 9 yrs ago; **Jude** dismissed from his job for offering to pray for a client; **Julia** protection and guidance as she seeks to become a parliamentary candidate; **Julie** going through divorce proceedings; **Kieron** seeking employment and facing demanding challenges; **Linda** as she retires from the NHS; **Marteena** and her family; **Matthew** young bi-polar suffering, worried because work hours have been cut; **Phil & Jennifer**, travelling in India doing Christian work; **Sarah** shortly to begin voluntary work in Uganda; **Toni-Marie** with long-term unemployment and low self-worth; **Van** for increased confidence in relationships;

PRAY FOR THOSE WITH ADDICTION PROBLEMS

Barbara in a very vulnerable position following a major anxiety attack; **Barry** was dry but under pressure and drinking again; **Caroline** with alcohol problem and in hurtful relationship with partner; **Daniel** awaiting sentence for drug involvement; **David** (60) with liver problems, unable to walk after a lifetime alcohol abuse, was depressed and overdosed, pray for wife, **Sylvia**; **Joseph**, crack cocaine addict now in rehab; **Margaret** for the truth to set her free; **Matthew** to be released from love of alcohol;

PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE BEREAVED

Amy, disabled, died shortly after moving into a good care home, pray for parents angry and distressed; **Beryl** died last month from lung cancer, pray for family and friends; **Brian** whose adult son has recently committed suicide; **Denis**, eldest son died 10 yrs ago, wife nearly 2 yrs, youngest son last month, he awaits serious back op, postponed twice, comfort, strength & healing; **Eileen** died last month pray for husband **Paul**, mother **Brenda** and all the family; **Glenys** trapped in grief and anger since husband's death, to be able to move forward; **Glyneth** whose husband died last month; **Gladys**, Michelle's nan, died in Sept. pray for all the family especially daughter, **Rita**; **June** who has lost 2 close family members recently; **Karen** & daughters **Pippie & Katie**, after her husband was killed in a freak accident; **Neil** and family after his father-in-law, **Jim** was killed in a motorway crash in August; **Pauline** has just died soon after a massive stroke, pray for husband **John** and their 2 sons **Rupert** and **Jeremy**; **Peggy** whose husband died recently from a heart attack; **Rosina** died after long painful illness, give thanks for her life and pray solace for husband **Richard**; **Sylvia** died recently pray for **Carolyn** and all the family; **Selwin** and all the family following the death of his sister Marion.

GIVE THANKS

Jim has had a stent fitted and is at home recovering; **Jo** is back home after aneurysm op; **Roger & Diane** have been granted full custody of their granddaughter;

FOR PRAYER NETWORK REQUESTS TO -

- *The Maranatha Office – 0161 748 4858
Email: info@maranathacommunity.org.uk*

Prayers for your use

O come – the cry of Advent

O come, O come Emmanuel and ransom captive Israel..

O come wisdom from on high and reveal
the way of truth and life

O come, Lord of majesty and awe
give us humble obedience to your law

O come, rod of Jesse free us from all of Satan's tyranny

O come, key of David fling open the door
and bring us safely to your throne room

O come Dayspring, radiance of the Father's love,
banish our dark shadows with your shining.

O come healer of the Nations, Saviour King,
unite the whole world in worship of your Name

O come, O come Emmanuel, complete in us
the work you have begun.



O God your fertile earth is slowly being stripped of its riches,
Open our eyes to see.

O God your living waters are slowly
being choked with chemicals
Open our eyes to see.

O God your clear air is slowly being filled with pollutants,
Open our eyes to see.

O God, your creatures are slowly dying
and your people are suffering
Open our eyes to see.

God, our maker, so move us by the wonder of creation,
That we repent and care more deeply.

So move us to grieve the loss of life,
That we learn to cherish and protect your world

Ali Newell 'The Book of a thousand prayers' compiled by
Angela Ashwin



Lord Jesus Christ; let me seek you by desiring
you, and let me desire you by seeking you;
let me find you by loving you,
and love you by finding you.
I confess, Lord, with thanksgiving,
that you have made me in your image,
so that I can remember you, think of you and

love you but that image is so worn and blotted
out by faults and darkened by the smoke of sin,
that it cannot do that for which it was made,
unless you renew and refashion it.
Lord I am not trying to make my way to your
height, for my understanding is no way equal to
that, but I do desire to understand a little of

your truth which my heart already
believes and loves.

I do not seek to understand so that I can
believe, but I believe so that I may understand;
and what is more, I believe that unless I do
believe, I shall not understand.

St. Anselm



Sursum Corda

Glory to our ascended Lord that He is with us always
Glory to the Word of God going forth with His armies
conquering and to conquer.

Glory to Him who has led captivity captive and given
gifts for the perfecting of His saints.

Glory to Him Who has gone before to prepare a place in
His Father's home for us.

Glory to the Author and Finisher of our Faith; that God
in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ,
to whom be all worship and praise, dominion and glory;
Now and for ever and ever. Amen

In 'Great Christian prayers' ed. by Louise & R.T.Kendall



Glory

What is glory in the eyes of the world?
It is something here for a moment and then gone
It is of no lasting quality.

Your glory, Lord, is eternal;
It is real

It is beautiful

It is everlasting

It reigns in heaven

And penetrates the earth
Where your children belong,
truly belong to you.

Sr Elizabeth in 'Walking with God'



And O, ye lamps of fire,
In whose resplendent light
The deepest caverns where the senses meet,
Once steeped in darkness dire,
Blaze with new glories bright
And to the lov'd one give both light and heat!



How tender is the love
Thou wake, nest in my breast
When thou, alone and secretly, are there!
Whispering of things above,
Most glorious and most blest,
How delicate the love thou mak'st me bear.

*St John of the Cross in 'As was his custom'
by Michael Hollings and Etta Gullick*

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 12.30p.m. daily. Mothers' Prayers are said in the Maranatha Prayer Room on Monday morning 9.30am-10.30am.

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