

# WATCH, LOOK, SEE

Across the world dramatic, unexpected and humanly unpredictable events are taking place. As God's people, we know that what is visible is actually a sign of an invisible reality which is only recognisable to those who have the revelation of the Holy Spirit. God is shaking the nations. A shift is taking place in the heavenly realms. Our Sovereign God is doing a new thing which, by definition, is not something we can predict or imagine.

So what is our response? We should take a lead from the prophet Habakkuk: "*I will stand at my watch and station myself on the ramparts; I will look to see what he will say to me...*" (Hab 2.1). We are to WATCH, but we must also LOOK to the Lord and ask Him to open our eyes to SEE what He is showing us.

We are living in times of increasing deception. Jesus warns, "*Watch out that no-one deceives you.*" (Matt 24.4). More than ever, we are to "*live by faith, not by sight.*" (2Cor 5.7). Our reliance is upon the Kingdom vision given to every follower of Jesus when they are re-born though His Spirit (Jn 3.3). With eyes of faith we LOOK to see what the Father is doing in order to SEE the doors He is opening to us.

Jesus has promised He will return, and urges us to WATCH and BE READY for Him. As we pray together, '*Maranatha!*', let us be aware of the many ways in which He comes to us in our daily lives, and let us be alert to His invitation to SEE the world, its people and all situations through His eyes.

The world is lost. Our call, as followers of Jesus, is to show the Way to Life. In these unprecedeted times, there is a renewed call for the alignment of our vision with that of Jesus, so that we can be trustworthy signposts for others.

## Kingdom Vision - weeping and joy!

As we look at the sickness of our nation, it is easy to be overwhelmed by the scale of brokenness - thousands traumatised by childhood sexual abuse; thousands scarred by family breakdown; thousands destroyed by addiction to alcohol, drugs, gambling or sex; thousands suffering from mental ill health; thousands without friends, without joy, without hope. What is in the heart of Jesus as he sees the mess that we have made? He weeps, as He wept over Jerusalem seeing what might have been, as He wept with the sisters of Lazarus in grief. Are we prepared to face the reality of what we are doing to our children and let our hearts be broken too?

But those who see through the eyes of Christ see not only the broken individual in need but, at the same time, the transformed and healed child of God that they were created to be. Our weeping can become a prayer for the rebuilding and healing of lives, of families and of communities, as we offer our tears in intercession to the one who declares "*I am making everything new!*" (Rev 21.5)

## A CRY

Lord

You have given me  
a bright and glorious  
vision of Your Kingdom.  
Will You open my eyes  
to see with great clarity  
the beauty of Your grace?

Will You strengthen  
my weak limbs  
to rise up  
and go where You command?

Will You loose  
all tight bonds which  
hold me back?  
Will You break  
all heavy chains which  
crush me?

Will you silence  
the voices of despair  
within me?

Will You roll back  
the clouds of discouragement  
and desolation?

Will You  
deepen my love  
strengthen my faith  
replenish my hope?

May this frail creature  
surrounded by so  
much darkness  
be overwhelmed  
by Your Shekinah Glory  
that I may forever  
live and love  
and have my being  
in the light of Your presence.

DW

At this critical time in the life  
of our nation Maranatha  
is supporting

**TRUMPET CALL- A NATIONAL  
DAY OF PRAYER & WORSHIP**

Saturday, 4th July 2015

The ICC, Birmingham  
[www.worldprayer.org.uk](http://www.worldprayer.org.uk)

# A PROPHECY

## REVELATION NOW

This year I will reveal the magnitude  
of the deep darkness which now engulfs your land.

This year your eyes will be opened to the terrible consequences of people  
ignoring Me, denying Me, dishonouring Me, rejecting Me and disobeying Me.

This year you will weep for what you have done to the  
children and coming generations  
for you have sacrificed them on the altar of your greed.

This year I will reveal painful truths.

Your tears will overflow for the furious unbelief  
which has captured the hearts and minds of the people.  
Your tears will overflow for churches engulfed in the night  
of confusion, doubt and fear.

You will be brought to your knees in sorrow and repentance.

In the measure that you listen to Me, cry out to Me, submit yourselves to Me,  
I will reveal to you the magnitude of My Power and My Glory  
and your nation will have a great revelation of truth.

Rivers of life and healing will flow across barren deserts.  
My people watch and pray earnestly.

I, Almighty God, will reveal Myself and when My Spirit is upon you  
you will receive power and a mighty rushing wind will sweep the land.

The Light of my Hope will shine forth and penetrate the gloom  
and I will give you a new confidence and a voice for the nations again.

There is no limit to what I can do. To me nothing is impossible.

DW - May 2015

Other prophecies may be found on the Maranatha website.

## A Holy Priesthood - the aroma of Christ

When God brought His people out of slavery, He instituted a pattern of worship for them which was centred around the place of His presence - the Ark of the Covenant - and which was administered by appointed priests. Jesus sealed God's new covenant for all people and became the High Priest of a new priesthood. We are this new priesthood, a people whose first responsibility is to offer worship to the Lord. The following are some brief notes to stimulate Biblical study and prayer on what this call means.

- Our call is to be a priesthood rather than individual priests - we are called to be ONE (1 Peter 2.9, John 17. 20-23)
- The offering of sacrifices was central to God's pattern for worship in the Old Testament (Lev 1-5, Heb 5.1)
- Jesus' sacrifice of Himself fulfils all the requirements for Godly worship for all people and for all time - namely atonement for sin (Heb 10.1-14)
- Love is at the centre of Jesus' offering of Himself. Love is central to true worship (1 John 3.16)
- In response to Jesus' call to follow Him, the sacrifice of our lives is central to our offering of worship (Romans 12.1)
- Our sacrifice of ourselves is a response to the two great commandments to love (Matthew 22.37-39, John 15.12)
- The burning of animal sacrifices produced an aroma that was pleasing to God. When we unite the sacrifice of our lives with that of Jesus, we become the aroma of Christ (2 Cor 2.15)
- As a priesthood we are called to administer blessings (Lk 6.28)
- Priests are intercessors, praying according to the leading of the Holy Spirit (Ep 6.18, 1 Thes 5.16-18, Rev 5.8)

## STANDING FIRM IN THE ARMOUR OF GOD

I put on the belt of Truth - I  
am a child of God and the evil  
one cannot harm me.  
(1 John 3.1 & 5.18)

I put on the breastplate of  
righteousness - I affirm that  
I am IN Christ Jesus who is  
my righteousness.  
(1 Cor 1.30)

I stand firm in the Gospel of  
Peace - since I have been  
justified by faith, I have peace  
with God through my Lord  
Jesus Christ.  
(Rom 5.1)

I take up the shield of faith -  
I can do everything through  
him who gives me strength.  
(Php 4.13)

I take up the helmet of  
salvation - I know that  
nothing will be able to  
separate me from the  
love of God in Christ  
Jesus my Lord.  
(Rom 8.39)

I take up the sword of the  
Spirit, the Word of God -  
through it I am equipped for  
every good work.  
(2 Tim 3.17)

I commit this day to you  
Lord Jesus, standing firm in  
You and in unity with Your  
Body, knowing that apart  
from You I can do nothing.  
(John 15.5)

*Sacrifice is the ecstasy of giving the best we have to the one we love the most.*

Anon

*God is looking for some wicks to burn. The oil and the fire are free.*

J. Hudson Taylor

# Community News

## NEW APPOINTMENTS

### COMMUNICATIONS & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FACILITATOR

Sean Ryan has taken up this new post in the Maranatha office and would love to hear from you! Please pray for him.

### MARANATHA INTERN

Gabriella Lineen will begin work in the Maranatha office on Monday, 3<sup>rd</sup> August as our new Intern. Please pray for her.

### PRAYER CELL CO-ORDINATOR

Frances Marshall has kindly agreed to take on this important role. She is a member of the Romiley Maranatha Group. Please pray for her.

### TASTE & SEE MANAGER

After many years Sylvia Middlemist has retired from running the Maranatha bookshop. Anne Dorset is now our voluntary manager of the Bookshop and Coffee Shop. Please pray for her.

## NEW INITIATIVES

### MARANATHA NATIONWIDE AND INTERNATIONAL PRAYER NETWORK

A new quarterly prayer letter has been launched. If you have not received this and would like to then please contact the Maranatha office. The network is continuing to be developed and we are now looking for members who will serve as 'Prayer Pillars' co-ordinating regional and urgent requests.

### NETWORKS PRAYING IN UNITY FOR THE NATION

Maranatha is one of a number of national prayer networks now committed to a united approach to praying for our nation. The first united prayer letter can be found at [www.maranathacommunity.org.uk/pdf/united-prayer-letter-jan15.pdf](http://www.maranathacommunity.org.uk/pdf/united-prayer-letter-jan15.pdf)

***Our greatest strength is our weakness; our greatest power is our vulnerability; our greatest glory is our humility.***

JF-A

## NEW TEACHING MODULES

### ***Islam - Who is My Neighbour?***

The first of these teaching modules was held at Bebbington, Wirral in March. Teaching on the nature of Islam was complemented by a presentation about Mahabba ([www.mahabbanetwork.com](http://www.mahabbanetwork.com)) a prayer and friendship ministry aiming to bring Muslims to Christ. One participant wrote, "*I came to my first Maranatha meeting... I learned about the history of Islam and Mohammed.... The solution being proposed is, of course, love*".

### ***Kingdom Conflict - Being Light in the World***

This important teaching on spiritual warfare, in the context of our current national situation, has now been held in Oldham and Wakefield during May. One lady said "*This has really helped me to see how I can stand securely within the Kingdom of Light, whilst facing the reality of the kingdom of darkness - it's all about my relationship with God*".

### ***Prayer - Living Christ's Life***

The gathering at Market Harborough in May introduced a variety of dimensions of prayer, including a new online introductory resource for contemplative prayer which is being developed by one of our members. The importance of personal worship as part of our regular devotions was also emphasised.

*If you would like to arrange a teaching module in your locality then please contact the Maranatha office.*

## NEW RELATIONSHIPS

A pack entitled 'Supporting Parliament with Christian Values' has been sent to all MP's, with a covering letter of support and appreciation from the Nationwide Christian Trust, the Gideons, CARE and the Maranatha Community. It contains a booklet 'Rebuilding Christian Britain' (NCT), a Gideon's New Testament and Psalms, a CARE prayer diary, 'The Big Question - What on Earth are we Doing to our Children?' and the statement 'Values - the characteristics of our British national identity'. **Will you pray regularly for your MP?**

## LOCAL GROUP INITIATIVES

A number of local Maranatha groups have taken exciting initiatives this year to further the vision, prayer and work of the Community.

### **Fermoy, County Cork**

The Maranatha group used the week of Christian unity in January this year to highlight the worldwide persecution of Christians and organised a day of prayer in support of them.

### **Macclesfield**

A special meeting was convened by the local Maranatha group in their Town Hall under the title 'A Matter of Life or Death - The Struggle for the Soul of Our Nation'. Local church and political leaders were invited to hear Dennis and Linda speak on the subject, with time for questions and discussion. Following positive feedback, a further meeting was arranged to consider how local people might respond to this challenge.

### **Wakefield**

An afternoon of prayer and worship was held in May. The focus was praying for the nation, in particular using 'The Statement from the Mill Gathering' - drawn up by a united gathering of leaders of national prayer networks.

### **Romiley, Cheshire**

This local Maranatha Group was prompted to arrange a meeting with representatives from the Manchester branch of the Council of Christians and Jews, with invitations extended to local churches.

### **Nottingham**

Having experienced the powerful impact of the teaching retreat 'Out of the Courtroom and into the Father's House', the Nottingham Maranatha Group decided to hold their own 2-day local retreat. One participant described "*a realisation that my self-judgement is usurping Christ's seat of judgement. I found this very liberating, surprising and humbling*".

**Will you take an initiative in your local area?**

# Maranatha Calendar

Weekends of teaching, fellowship & healing in 2015

## Are you thirsty? Come and drink!

Emmaus Retreat Centre, Swords, DUBLIN, 18-20 September



This weekend will give the opportunity for quiet time with God, teaching, worship, fellowship and prayer ministry.



## "Sharing Laughter, Sharing Life!"

Come and Share In Fun, Fellowship and Family!

The House of Bread @ The Mill, Burmington,  
SHIPTON-ON-STOUR, Warwickshire, 28-31 August

Accommodation is offered in the converted mill, or you can opt for camping or your own caravan within the beautiful grounds.

## Retreats in 2015

BUILDING WITH THE SPIRIT - a follow-on

'Light out of Darkness' retreat

Loreto Centre, LLANDUDNO, 12-16 October



WAITING WITH GOD IN THE DESERT

- building on the 'Light out of Darkness' retreats

Loreto Centre, LLANDUDNO, 12-16 October

## Maranatha Groups & Contacts

*Maranatha Community members pray for one another daily, especially at 10pm.*

*Many of the Maranatha Groups meet in a number of different venues. They welcome visitors but please check the time and place of the meeting with the Maranatha Office. There is also a national network of Maranatha Prayer Cells usually meeting weekly.*

### England

BEDFORD 1st Mon. monthly, 7.30pm	MARKET HARBOROUGH last Fri. monthly, 10am
BODMIN	MATLOCK
BROUGHTON, BRIGG, 3rd Tues. monthly, 7.30pm	MIDLANDS
CHISWICK 2nd Mon. monthly, 7.30pm	NOTTINGHAM 3rd Mon. monthly, 7.30pm
CLIFFE, KENT 4th Thurs. monthly	PLYMOUTH
EASTLEIGH / SOUTHAMPTON, monthly	ROMILEY
ECKINGTON, PERSHORE 3rd Thurs. monthly, 7pm	SCUNTHORPE 3rd Thurs. monthly, 7pm
FALMOUTH	SHEFFIELD 2nd Sat. monthly, 4pm
GRAVESEND 4th Tues. monthly.	TAUNTON 3rd Fri. monthly,
GRIMSBY Carole Pearce 01472 887221	THE MARCHES, SHROPSHIRE, bi-monthly, 3rd Saturday 12.30-4.30pm
HALIFAX / HUDDERSFIELD 4th Wed. monthly, 7.30pm	TWICKENHAM 3rd Tues. monthly, 8pm
HARROGATE 1st Friday monthly, 7.30pm	WAKEFIELD 1st Fri. monthly, 7.30pm
LEEDS 1st Tues. monthly, 7.30pm	WEST DARTMOOR 2nd Sat. monthly
LEICESTER 4th Fri. monthly, 7.30pm	WIRRAL
LINCOLN Wednesday, weekly 2-3.30pm	Northern Ireland
LONDON	BELFAST 1st Fri. monthly, 7.30pm
MACCLESFIELD 2nd Wed. monthly, 7.45pm	Republic of Ireland
MANCHESTER - DAVYHULME 'First Sunday' monthly, 8pm. 0161 748 4858	FERMOY
MANCHESTER - FLIXTON 3rd Fri. monthly, 8pm	Scotland
The Ark, 0161 748 7058	HELMSDALE Fri. evenings, 7pm
MANCHESTER - CENTRAL bi-monthly, 0161 748 4858	MAYBOLE every Mon. am.

### Wales

ANGLESEY Tuesday evenings, 7.15pm

MOLD 1st Mon. monthly, 7.30pm

### Uganda

ENTEBBE Asher Kalema:  
lifegospelchurch@yahoo.com

An invitation  
**MARANATHA TEACHING MODULE**

## KINGDOM CONFLICT



*Being Light in the World*

Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> October 2015

2pm – 4.30pm

Church of the Good Shepherd,  
Thackeray's Lane, Woodthorpe,  
Nottingham NG5 4HT  
All are welcome.

*Unity in Christ is not something to be achieved: it is something to be recognised.*

A.W. Tozer

maranatha community



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