



maranatha newsletter

Our prayer is, 'Come, Lord Jesus!'

Issue: 134 June 2015
Internet edition

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 through 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 unprecedented 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

Maranatha members join with Christians across the UK in praying the Lord's prayer at 12 noon daily

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, 3rd 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

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) 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



Quiet Days 2015

Huddersfield: 4th July, 5th September,
7th November 10am-4pm

Info: Peter Jackson 01282 438964

MARANATHA NATIONAL GATHERING

**Saturday,
26th September
10.30 - 4pm**

St. Margaret's, Jarvis Street,
Erdington, Birmingham
B23 5RS

Please make a note of this important date in your diary.
Info from Maranatha office.

Have you considered sponsoring someone for a Maranatha weekend or retreat? Please contact the Maranatha office.

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

BODMIN

BROUGHTON, BRIGG, 3rd Tues. monthly, 7.30pm

CHISWICK 2nd Mon. monthly, 7.30pm

CLIFFE, KENT 4th Thurs. monthly

EASTLEIGH / SOUTHAMPTON, monthly

ECKINGTON, PERSHORE 3rd Thurs. monthly, 7pm

FALMOUTH

GRAVESEND 4th Tues. monthly.

GRIMSBY Carole Pearce 01472 887221

HALIFAX / HUDDERSFIELD 4th Wed. monthly, 7.30pm

HARROGATE 1st Friday monthly, 7.30pm

LEEDS 1st Tues. monthly, 7.30pm

LEICESTER 4th Fri. monthly, 7.30pm

LINCOLN Wednesday, weekly 2-3.30pm

LONDON

MACCLESFIELD 2nd Wed. monthly, 7.45pm

MANCHESTER - DAVYHULME ‘First Sunday’ monthly,
8pm. 0161 748 4858

MANCHESTER - FLIXTON 3rd Fri. monthly, 8pm

The Ark, 0161 748 7058

MANCHESTER - CENTRAL bi-monthly, 0161 748 4858

MARKET HARBOROUGH last Fri. monthly, 10am

MATLOCK

MIDLANDS

NOTTINGHAM 3rd Mon. monthly, 7.30pm

PLYMOUTH

ROMILEY

SCUNTHORPE 3rd Thurs. monthly, 7pm

SHEFFIELD 2nd Sat. monthly, 4pm

TAUNTON 3rd Fri. monthly,

THE MARCHES, SHROPSHIRE, bi-monthly, 3rd

Saturday 12.30-4.30pm

TWICKENHAM 3rd Tues. monthly, 8pm

WAKEFIELD 1st Fri. monthly, 7.30pm

WEST DARTMOOR 2nd Sat. monthly

WIRRAL

Northern Ireland

BELFAST 1st Fri. monthly, 7.30pm

Republic of Ireland

FERMOY

Scotland

HELMSDALE Fri. evenings, 7pm

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 31st October 2015
2pm – 4.30pm

Church of the Good Shepherd,
Thackerays 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



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