

# maranatha newsletter

Our prayer is, 'Come, Lord Jesus!'

Issue: 121 March 2010  
Internet edition

## A Net of Prayer

*We have a vision of a 'net' of prayer covering the nations where prayer cells form the knots of the net. The closer together the knots, the more effective the net.*

We are now in the midst of a battle for the soul of our nation. The call to prayer is being heard by the people of God from different traditions and the Holy Spirit is prompting a greater unity between a number of prayer initiatives.

For many years God has called the Maranatha Community to be as a watchman, sounding the trumpet. At the same time we continue to reaffirm with urgency God's call to oneness in the Church. As a servant community, our desire is to strengthen the Church of Christ so that *"...we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ"*. In the face of the great seriousness of our national situation we ask the same question as David *"When the foundations are being destroyed, what can the righteous do?"* (Ps.11.3) Our response is to trust in the mercy of God who promises in 2 Chronicles 7:14,

*"...if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land"*.

The Maranatha Prayer Network has been foundational in the life of this Community. In addition to individuals who are committed to praying, we already have a large number of Prayer Cells across the UK and overseas. Many members have connections with other ministries and organisations within the churches. We believe that God is wanting to align the hearts and minds of His people as we pray. In Proverbs we read *"righteousness exalts a nation"* (Prov. 14.34). When the people of God are aligned in righteousness under the Lordship of Jesus, we will see transformation in this land.

**WILL YOU BE A PART OF THIS 'NET' BY FORMING A PRAYER CELL?**

### STILLNESS

Lord,  
In the quiet sanctuary  
of my earnest longings  
there You and I meet.

You desire a place within me  
which is hidden,  
where the rush and bustle  
of the world  
cannot penetrate,  
a place of silence  
which is impenetrable,  
Your abode,  
Your dwelling place.

*(Sr. Elizabeth Tuttle -  
taken from 'Prayers &  
Meditations for Today')*

## When we pray...

Prayer is to our spiritual life as breathing is to our bodies. It is the means of our communion with God. It is the inclination of hearts that recognise their need for Him. Whether the desperate cry of the sceptic, the devoted intercession of a saint, or the silent contemplation of a mystic, prayer is the opening of lives to the one who made us and who is always ready to express His love for us. It is in prayer that our relationship with God is deepened and relationships within the Body of Christ are strengthened.

When we pray our hearts are softened, our minds are cleared and we breathe in the pure air of God's love. When we pray we turn away from the shrieking sounds of the world into the deep silence of God. When we pray we declare our need and accept God's benevolence. When we pray we recognise our great weakness and God's immeasurable strength. When we pray we admit our loneliness and share in the rich fellowship of the one who has made us. When we pray we turn aside from the lies of the world and in honesty receive the truth of God. When we pray we reveal ourselves to God and allow Him to reveal himself to us. When we pray we allow God to water the parched earth of our lives. When we pray we recognise that nothing within us is hidden from God.

*"In prayer you align yourselves to the purpose and power of God and He is able to do things through you that He couldn't do otherwise"* (E. Stanley Jones)

*"Prayer is life, passionately wanting, wishing, desiring God's triumph. Prayer is life striving and toiling everywhere and always for that ultimate victory"* (George Kempel Morgan)

*"Prayer is the key of heaven"* (Augustine of Hippo)

*"Prayer is the water of blessing which cleanses us of our weaknesses"* (Francis De Sales)

*"It is in the zeal of prayer that life's critical battles are lost or won"* (J. H. Jowett)

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# THE WAY AHEAD

## Where is God leading us?

This was the theme of our annual gathering which took place at Quinta from 15th - 17th January. Over recent months there has been a sense of God wanting to do something new in the life of our Community. This was confirmed in our opening session through the scripture: "...you have never been this way before." (Josh 3.4). At the start of our gathering there was a time of anointing in preparation for what the Lord wanted to do. This was for the individuals present but also for the whole Community. Throughout the weekend ninety representatives of Maranatha groups, prayer cells and leadership listened to the Lord together. There was worship, teaching, ministry and much silence. Three new words were given: *Alignment, Allegiance, Submission.*

### Alignment

This word literally means to stand in a line in obedience to the king. As followers of Jesus we align ourselves with Him - He is our King. We align ourselves with God's Word - Jesus is The Living Word. Jesus is also the manifestation of the Love of God and this alignment can only be effected as we receive the Love and Grace that God has released to us through the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross. Our alignment is the gift of His righteousness - we cannot earn or achieve it through our own effort. Our lives are aligned through the orientation of our hearts to Him and as we submit to His ways, so we are aligned with one another - united, as members of the Body of Christ under His Headship. *We believe that God is using Maranatha as a vehicle of alignment in unity for the Church of Christ.*

### Allegiance

Before entering into battle a soldier pledges allegiance to the King. Letting go of all other attachments, he is ready to respond to orders immediately and without questioning, even in the face of death. Jesus makes clear that we cannot be true followers of Him if our prime allegiance is to anything or anyone else, even our family. He expects an immediacy of response when He calls us. *As the Maranatha Community, our allegiance is to Jesus, the only Lord, and to His Body, the Church, not to structures, institutions or any other head.*

### Submission

Jesus lived in complete submission to God the Father. He said, "*By myself I can do nothing ... for I seek not to please myself but him who sent me.*" (John 5.30). This is the way that He teaches us to live. Submission is the attitude of a humble and obedient heart not simply an outward expression. Submission to God affords protection, "*Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.*" (James 4.7). Our submission is an expression of our love for God who is our loving Father (Heb 12.9) and in that same love we are called to submit to one another as members of the Body of Christ (Eph 5.21). *When the people of God are aligned in submission and allegiance to our King, Jesus, and to one another His reign will be manifest.*

# 3

Over recent months the figure '3' has been presented to the Community through a number of different sources. We believe God is speaking to us about the way in which He wants us to develop the working structure of the Community. Biblically, there are many examples of '3' being an important number or pattern:

God the Trinity - Father, Son and Holy Spirit - is the model for all good relationships.

In Ecclesiastes 4.12 we read "*A cord of three strands is not quickly broken*".

The concept of three is embedded in the life of the Church. Three vows are taken by religious orders and St. Benedict divided the day into three periods - prayer, work and study.

Because we are a scattered Community it is sometimes difficult to maintain working groups where members live at a distance. By looking to the formation of more

and smaller working groups, opportunity could be made for wider participation in the life of the Community whilst also making for more efficiency in the running of the various activities. We are aware that we have not always dealt well with offers of help in the past. For this we are sorry.

If you would like to be more involved in any part of the life of the Community please write to Linda Stalley at the Maranatha office.

### An Allegiance Prayer

*Dear God in heaven,  
I pledge my allegiance to You.  
I give you my life,  
my work and my heart.  
In turn, give me the grace  
of obeying your  
every direction  
to the fullest possible extent.*

### A Maranatha Commission

The recent annual gathering at Quinta marked a significant point in our journey together as a Community. God is clearly taking us into new pastures and our immediate need is to discern His will for the next stage.

A 'Commission' has been set up to pray and discern how the working cells of three should be taken forward. Following much prayer a team of nine members have been asked to consider this and report to the Community. They met on Saturday 20th March at 'The Ark' in Flixton. Please pray for this initiative. More information available from Peter Williamson email: [peter\\_williamson@dsl.pipex.com](mailto:peter_williamson@dsl.pipex.com)

**A REPORT FROM THE ANNUAL GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY AT QUINTA IS AVAILABLE TO MARANATHA MEMBERS ON REQUEST FROM THE MARANATHA OFFICE**

# Maranatha Community News

## Malawi 2010

A team of 11 Maranatha members, from at least six different Church traditions, will be visiting Malawi this year from the 11th to 31st May. The trip has been prompted by one of our members, Dereck Chunda, who is from Malawi. He has invited us to go and share the vision of Maranatha in his homeland. We will be based in Blantyre and hope to meet leaders and members of many of the different churches there. Another member of the team is already involved in prayer and action for unity in Uganda, so we are excited about what God has in store. If you would like to make a financial contribution towards gifts for the churches and schools we will visit, please contact the Maranatha office. **Please pray for this venture.**

## 'Compass'

'Compass' is a listening group for the Community which meets each Sunday evening (except 'First Sunday') in Flixton. The starting point of our listening as a Community has always been open hearts and minds, not our own questions or agendas. Any words or promptings from God are offered to the Community leadership and Reference Group for discernment.

At the same time as the 'Compass' Group is listening to God, another small group meets in the same building to worship. We believe that these two groups are complementary in expressing our desire for the Lord to make His direction clear as we engage with the battle in the heavenly realms.

## 'Solid Food'

Throughout last year 'The Ark' has hosted a monthly Bible teaching given by Dereck Chunda who has a particular gift for in-depth biblical study and reflection. The programme will continue this year and podcasts of this teaching will be made available on the Maranatha website. Further information from The Ark 0161 748 7058.

## New Book of Prayers

Following the successful publication of prayers by Dennis and Sister Elizabeth, 'Walking with God', we have produced a further booklet of prayers written by Sr. Elizabeth. These are particularly helpful for personal reflection and meditation. Copies available from Maranatha office at £2.50 + p&p.

## A Reflection

*(by a participant in the School of Prayer)*

Jesus, I lay myself down before you.  
You are Lord over all - King of Kings,  
the Holy One.  
I worship you, yield myself  
completely to you,  
And you want to come and  
wash my feet.  
I find this too hard to take in.  
Let me wash your feet Jesus,  
in the people that I meet.  
But I hear you saying  
as you did to Peter  
"If I do not wash your feet you  
have no part with me".  
Your love is too great for me Jesus,  
how can I receive it?  
Would you choose to kneel when I sit,  
love and care for me,  
tenderly wash and dry my feet?  
Like Peter, I want to be fully  
immersed in you,  
but you are saying feet.  
Lord help me to receive your love,  
such love.  
I am yours Lord -  
let me love with your love,  
in humility and completely.

## Europe

Maranatha has been represented at several recent prayer conferences and important links are being forged with those who are praying for God's will to be done in Europe. Erika, who runs a House of Prayer in Sibiu, Romania, and Caroline who lives in a House of Prayer in Utrecht, Holland recently came to stay at 'The Ark' and shared in Maranatha events. A new Maranatha Group is being formed in Paris and there will be a launch meeting in April. Please pray for the establishment of a 'net' of prayer across Europe.

## 'The Peace of God'

### New 'micro prayer' folder

This series of prayer folders has been immensely popular. They are being used by a variety of people for personal use, chaplaincy, healing and other areas of ministry. This new folder contains many of the blessings used in the Church. Available at 30p + p&p.

## Help Needed!

Research, administration, cafe  
- locally and nationally. Please  
contact Charles at the office.

## Sound the Trumpet!

### 'Hate Crime'

The Maranatha Community has made a study of UK 'Hate Crime' legislation and the guidelines which have been drawn up. We are now in discussion with key people responsible for this area of public policy, to challenge the way in which 'Hate Crime' legislation severely limits freedom of expression, especially for Christians. These notes are available from the office and on the website.

### The UN & Human Rights

Maranatha has recently taken an initiative challenging the United Nations Human Rights Commission. They have persistently ignored the plight of persecuted Christians in many parts of the world. Maranatha has produced a briefing document on this. It is available from the office and on the website.

### 'Pleasure' for children

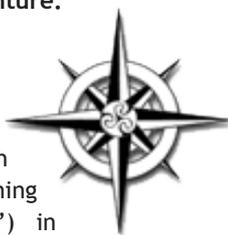
The NHS Trust in Sheffield has produced a booklet for children and young people advising of the ways in which they can pursue sexual pleasure. Christian doctors have already condemned this as equating with child abuse. Maranatha has produced a Submission to the Secretaries of State for Health & Children, Schools & Families and this has been sent to civic and church leaders in Sheffield. A copy of the Submission and further information is available from the office and on the website.

### Broadcasting Standards

Maranatha has responded to a recent BBC survey about broadcasting standards. In addition to this we continue to challenge the widespread use of bad language on TV and radio. Please see the most recent 'Trumpet Call' to find out how you can act to influence the content of our media.

## Northern Ireland

As we witness the exciting developments in the life of the people of Northern Ireland we continue to pray together for the healing of the deep wounds of the centuries. Please pray for the continued development of Maranatha Prayer Cells and Community. We had blessed meetings during February in Randalstown, Newcastle, Belfast and Derry and there will be further visits, including training in healing ministry during 2010. Info: Maranatha office



# Maranatha Events Calendar

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

## Weekends in 2010

CONWY 26th - 28th Mar	Being Formed in the Image of Christ
PLYMOUTH 11th - 13th Jun	Living in the Power of God's Spirit
FORMBY 23rd - 25th Jul	Joining Heaven & Earth in Worship
DONCASTER 17th - 19th Sep	Turning Stress into Opportunity for Healing
LLANDUDNO 22nd - 24th Oct	Listening to God

## Retreats in 2010

FLIXTON 13th - 16th Oct	Living in the Father's House
PLYMOUTH 27th - 30th Oct	Out of the Courtroom & into the Father's House
READING 25th - 30th Apr	Light out of Darkness
READING 25th - 30th Apr	Waiting with God in the Desert
LLANDUDNO 4th -9th Oct	Light out of Darkness
LLANDUDNO 4th -9th Oct	Waiting with God in the Desert

## Prayer Weeks in 2010

HELMSDALE 8th - 15th May	Repentance & Healing
HELMSDALE 18th - 25th Sep	Praying for the Church & Nation

If you would prefer to receive your newsletter via email, saving the Community some money, please send an email to [charles@maranathacommunity.org.uk](mailto:charles@maranathacommunity.org.uk)

## God's Dwelling Place

Your dwelling place, Lord, is in our hearts; You are not in buildings, in pictures or in statues though You may work through them if You choose.

But the dwelling place you seek is every human heart. Our hearts can be likened to houses that sometimes need restoration.

You look after Your houses, keep them in good order when you restore and rebuild they are in better order. An open heart You can transform from the hardest stone to flesh that loves like You do.

*(Sr. Elizabeth Tuttle - taken from 'Prayers & Meditations for Today')*

# Maranatha Groups & Contacts

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

## England

AYLESBURY 1st Monday monthly  
BEWDLEY Tuesday, monthly  
BICESTER 1st Tuesday monthly 7.45pm  
BIRMINGHAM NORTH Contact the Maranatha Office  
BIRMINGHAM SOUTH 1st Monday monthly,  
BODMIN Thursday each week  
BRIGG, 3rd Tuesday of the month 7pm  
BURY ST. EDMUND, 1st Saturday of the month 7.30pm  
CHISWICK 2nd Monday of the month 7.30pm  
DEAL, KENT Contact the Maranatha Office  
EASTLEIGH / SOUTHAMPTON, Quarterly, contact the Maranatha Office  
ECKINGTON, PERSHORE 3rd Thursday of the month 7.30pm  
FALMOUTH Contact the Maranatha Office  
GRAVESEND 3rd Tuesday of the month  
GRIMSBY Contact the Maranatha Office  
HALIFAX / HUDDERSFIELD 4th Wednesday of the month, 8p,  
HARROGATE 1st Friday of the month 7.30pm  
HAYWARDS HEATH 1st Tuesday of the month  
LEEDS 1st Tuesday of the month 7.30pm  
LEICESTER 4th Wednesday of the month 7.30pm  
LINCOLN 1st Monday of the month 7pm  
LONDON 10.30-4pm, Saturday - 8th May, 10th July, 11th Sept, 13th Nov, St. Vincent's, Carlisle Place  
MACCLESFIELD 2nd Wednesday of the month 7.45pm  
MANCHESTER, DAVYHULME 'First Sunday' of each month, 8pm, Christchurch, Lostock Rd, Davyhulme  
MANCHESTER, FLIXTON 3rd Friday of the month

MANCHESTER, CENTRAL 10.30-4pm, 3rd Apr, 5th June, 7th Aug, 2nd Oct, 4th Dec, Brunswick Parish Church, Brunswick  
MARKET HARBOROUGH last Friday of the month 10 am  
MATLOCK Contact the Maranatha Office  
NOTTINGHAM 3rd Monday of the month 7.30pm  
PLYMOUTH 3rd Tuesday of the month 7.30pm  
PORTSMOUTH Last Saturday of the month, Breakfast  
SCUNTHORPE 3rd Thursday of the month 7pm  
SHEFFIELD 2nd Saturday of the month, 4pm  
ST. AUSTELL 2nd Friday of the month  
SUDBURY SUFFOLK 3rd Tuesday of the month, 7pm  
TAUNTON 3rd Friday of the month, 7.30pm  
THE MARCHES, SHROPSHIRE, Contact the Maranatha Office  
TWICKENHAM 3rd Tuesday of the month, 8pm  
WAKEFIELD, 1st Friday of the month, 7.30pm  
WATERLOOVILLE 3rd Thursday of the month 10.15 am  
WEST DARTMOOR Contact the Maranatha Office  
WEST WILTSHIRE (WESTBURY) 1st Monday of the month 7.45pm  
WIRRAL Saturday every other month

## Scotland

HELMSDALE Friday evenings, 7pm  
MAYBOLE, AYSHIRE Tuesday mornings

## Wales

CONWY 1st Wednesday of every other month, 10.30-3pm  
MOLD 1st Monday of the month, 7.30pm

## Northern Ireland

BELFAST 1st Friday of the month 7.30pm

## Uganda

JINJA Godfrey Mwase:  
[godfrey\\_tastenseecafe@yahoo.com](mailto:godfrey_tastenseecafe@yahoo.com)  
KAMPALA Deo Kabiswa: [kabiswa2000@yahoo.com](mailto:kabiswa2000@yahoo.com)  
ENTEBBE Asher Kalema: [lifegospelchurch@yahoo.com](mailto:lifegospelchurch@yahoo.com)

## Youth Group

LEICESTER 3rd Friday of the month, St. Paul's Worship

## Credo

Annamarie Moran:  
[annmarie@maranathacommunity.org.uk](mailto:annmarie@maranathacommunity.org.uk)

## Maranatha National Co-ordinators

Rob Davies  
Jim Dainty  
Peter de Bourcier  
Mike Kendrick  
Gaye Colleran

## Prayer Cells Co-ordinator

Hazel Catton

## Contact Details

For contact details for any of the above Maranatha Groups and people, please contact the Maranatha Office: [info@maranathacommunity.org.uk](mailto:info@maranathacommunity.org.uk) tel: 0161 748 4858.

maranatha community

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