



# maranatha newsletter

Our prayer is, 'Come, Lord Jesus!'

Issue: 132 March 2014  
Internet Edition

# LIFE OR DEATH?

The good news of Jesus is all about **LIFE**. As followers of Jesus we are called to be **LIFE-GIVERS**. How do we proclaim a Gospel of **LIFE** when we are immersed in a culture of death? The truth is we are filled with the same Spirit that empowered Ezekiel to speak **LIFE** into the dry bones; the same Spirit that resurrected Jesus from death is alive in us! We are to call forth **LIFE** out of dead places and dead people.

A healthy society invests in the lives of its younger generations, as it is through them that the culture will continue to live. Young people in the UK are surrounded by images of death and corruption; they breathe in the culture of death that has emerged over the past half century in a society which now regards abortion, the indiscriminate use of contraception, drug abuse, occultic practices, and potentially euthanasia, as acceptable and even desirable.

Over one million young people in the prime of their lives, aged 16-24 years, are not in education, employment and training. It is no surprise that one-third of these young people have suffered depression and 40% feel they have no part in society. Lack of direction and purpose robs young people of hope. Denial of hope is a denial of life. Pope John Paul II said *"A culture that no longer has a point of reference in God loses its soul and loses its way, becoming a culture of death"*.

Secular humanism has nothing to offer our young people. A belief system that says we have come from nowhere and are going nowhere can never bring purpose, hope or life; it is a road-map for getting lost. In contrast Jesus says, *"I have come that they may have LIFE, and have it to the full"* (John 10.10).

This year has been designated 'HOPE 14' - a timely proclamation by the Church in the UK, across the denominations. The Maranatha Community strongly urges all who are concerned for our children and young people to unite with other local Christians to pray and work for the good news of Jesus to spread far and wide this year.

We have words of **LIFE** and **HOPE** to speak into situations of emptiness and despair; we have the power to pray the Spirit of **LIFE** and transformation into places of death and desolation; as salt and light we bring the light of **LIFE** into places of darkness and confusion. As God's united people - the living Body of Christ - we are called to **LIVE** Christ's **LIFE**, pointing the Way for those who are lost, a **LIVING** sign of the reality of the Kingdom of God here and now.

## The Struggle for the Soul of our Nation

A preliminary statement under this title was presented to a gathering of 35 Christian leaders last November at 'The Ark', Flixton. A fuller statement is now being prepared for two national Christian leaders' conferences in April, in addition to a presentation in Parliament. It is just 20 years since Maranatha first made 'A Call to the Nation', which was presented in Parliament and subsequently circulated widely. Ten years ago the alarm call was sounded again in the document 'The State of our Nation'. Both of these publications were supported with statistical evidence of the decline in our national life measured by trends in health and society. The evidence now confirms an escalating negative slide.

During this same 20 years, however, there has been a huge increase in prayer, as God's people have begun to wake up to the seriousness of our national situation. We believe that as God's people pray, worship, speak and act as ONE, the nations can be transformed. Please pray for these leaders' gatherings.

## Choose LIFE

*When hope is fading,  
choose life.*

*When strength is gone,  
choose life.  
In the valley of darkness,  
choose life.*

*In the shadow of death,  
choose life.*

*To the dead dry bones,  
speak life.*

*To the barren womb,  
speak life.*

*To the visionless church,  
speak life.*

*To the hopeless young,  
speak life.*

*In the midst of oppression,  
live life.*

*In the face of opposition,  
live life.*

*In sickness and health,  
live life.*

*As a light for others,  
live life.*

*To the grieving and lonely,  
give life.*

*To the sick and afraid,  
give life.*

*To those without opportunity,  
give life.*

*With the gift of yourself,  
give life.*

LS

*"The glory of God is a  
human being fully alive;*

*and to be alive consists  
in beholding God".*

Saint Irenaeus

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

# KINGDOM FOOD for Kingdom People

It is said that we live in a consumerist society. This suggests that the consumer has the power of choice. So, in a world overflowing with myriad products, how carefully do we choose what we feed our bodies, how are we feeding our minds and do we recognise the need to feed our spirits? Even more importantly, how do we ensure healthy food for our children?

Scripture sets out the way in which different types of spiritual food are needed for different levels of maturity, ranging from milk to solid food and real food. **“Solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil” (Heb.5.14).** There is a direct relationship between how we feed ourselves and our ability to discern God’s will. To live and grow as citizens of the Kingdom of God we need Kingdom food.

Feuerbach, the philosopher, perceptively wrote “Man is what he eats”. So what are we really consuming? There is an abundance of information, thought and entertainment available in an ever-increasing variety of media forms. We are saturated with images and words in a world that continually bombards all our senses. Advertisers know that by appealing to minds they can influence choices and cultivate appetites. Is our appetite stimulated by the things of the world, or by a longing for Jesus himself? He is the Bread of Life!

Fasting is a choice to feed our spiritual life over and above the demands of our flesh. Fasting was key in the life of Jesus as He lived to fulfil the Father’s purposes and because of this He was able to confidently declare **“My food is to do the will of Him who sent me and to finish His work” (John 4.34).**

How do we respond to God’s call? Let us encourage one another to feed on and be satisfied by God’s life-giving and sustaining Word. Let us encourage one another to look for solid and real food so that together we will be nourished to finish the work God has prepared us for. As we feed ourselves, so we feed the whole Body of Christ and as we feed our children so they too will grow to health and maturity.

In addition to the wide range of Maranatha resources, Maranatha Member Allyn Benedict has published much “good food” on his website [www.breadforthebody.com](http://www.breadforthebody.com)

## QUINTA 2014 Prepare the way for the Lord



At our Annual Gathering at Quinta Hall this January, we agreed that the Lord is doing a new thing. Our simple questions: Are we prepared? Are we ready to move? Do we know the way? Will we take the first step? formed much of our exploration over the weekend. Over the past two years the Lord has confirmed that the foundations of the Community have been laid and secured. It is now time to move. What does that mean? In practical terms how do we prepare for 2014 when we don’t know where the Lord is taking us?

As a listening Community, our response is like that of 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 in a time of **watching, waiting and surrendering** to the Potter’s hand as He reshapes us for His purposes. This is what the Lord spoke to us last July at our National Gathering in Birmingham **“Same clay, different form”.**

The foundational call of the Maranatha Community is akin to that of John the Baptist. Our prayer is **Maranatha, Come Lord!** The Lord spoke to us through the angel’s prophetic pronouncement about the call of John: **“He will go on before the Lord, in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous - to make ready a people prepared for the Lord” (Luke 1.17).** In particular we spent time considering the ways in which we as a community can pray and work for unity between the generations. The Lord is raising up a generation that He will use in a powerful way for His Kingdom. Those of older generations are to affirm God’s call and plan for the next generation, recognising their important role in praying for their equipping and protection.

A fuller report from our Annual Gathering is available on the Maranatha website or by request from the Maranatha office.

**“Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you.” (Jn 6.27)**

**“Come, all you who are thirsty... Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost. Why spend money on what is not bread, and your labour on what does not satisfy? Listen, listen to me, and eat what is good, and you will delight in the richest of fare.” (Is 55.1-2)**

**“Man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord.” (Deut 8.3)**

**“Jesus said to his disciples: ‘Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat...’” (Lk 12.22)**

**“The eyes of all look to you in hope; you give them their food as they need it. When you open your hand, you satisfy the hunger and thirst of every living thing.” (Ps 145.15-16)**

**“You prepare a feast for me in the presence of my enemies.” (Ps 23.5)**

**“The laws of the Lord are true... They are sweeter than honey, even honey dripping from the comb.” (Ps 19.10)**

**“Eat honey... for it is good; honey... is sweet to your taste. Know also that wisdom is like honey for you.” (Prov 24.13-14)**

**“You satisfy me more than the richest feast. I will praise you with songs of joy.” (Ps 63.5)**

**“Jesus declared, ‘I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.’” (Jn 6.35)**

**“My flesh is real food and my blood is real drink. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me, and I in them.” (Jn 6.55-56)**

**Jesus asked Simon Peter, “Simon son of John, do you love me.... Then feed my lambs.” (Jn 21.15)**

**“Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding feast of the Lamb.” (Rev 19.9)**



Turning  
fathers'  
hearts

to children

# Community News

## VOICE 2014

### A Generational Perspective

A small group of four young people (aged 19-27 yrs) have agreed to spend the first three months of this year listening to God on behalf of this Community. They will report to us what they believe God is saying to and about the world, our nation, the churches and the Maranatha Community.

Two of these young people: Pieter Hermens and Rachel Lee agreed, at Quinta, to be 'watchmen' for the Community. Please pray for this initiative, and for the developing vision of CREDONET.

## Maranatha in IRELAND

A review is currently being conducted of the Community's work in both Northern Ireland and the Republic over many years. During this time we have seen God do amazing things through individual men and women, most of whom have suffered extreme personal pain. It is in these situations that we have learned so much about the healing ministry of Christ. We are now embarking upon a time of listening and sharing together in order to discern what God wants of us as a community in these islands. If you are interested in being involved in this work, please contact Linda Stalley via the office or on [lindas@maranathacommunity.org.uk](mailto:lindas@maranathacommunity.org.uk)

## MALAWI & UGANDA

A Maranatha team will be visiting Malawi in September this year. Info: Heather Williams [heatherw49@gmail.com](mailto:heatherw49@gmail.com). We have also had an invitation to visit Uganda. There are committed Maranatha members in both these African countries and we are keen to hear how the Lord wants to use Maranatha to further the blessing of unity within the Body of Christ across the nations. Please pray for these initiatives.

## Dennis Wrigley VIDEO MESSAGES

A video library of teachings recorded by Dennis is now available on a new dedicated website [www.denniswrigley.org](http://www.denniswrigley.org). A wide variety of topics are covered and recordings range from 2 minutes to half hour teachings.

## SAME CLAY, DIFFERENT FORM

This word was given at our National Gathering in Birmingham last year. It has helped to shape the way that we are waiting and listening for the Holy Spirit's prompting in this new stage of our pilgrimage together as a community.

In order for clay to be re-formed it needs to be gathered in one piece and moistened, so that the potter can re-fashion it. In response to this image, for a period of time, the respective discerning and decision making groups of the Community (Reference Group and National Co-ordinators) will be amalgamated and augmented by new members from different regions of the country.

This new co-ordinating 'hub' will establish lines of communication with the networks of 'Watchmen' and 'Pillars' in addition to local Maranatha groups and prayer cells, as we pray for a deepening of our oneness in listening, discerning and decision-making as a Community. If you would like to be involved in this please contact Linda Stalley.



This picture, painted by Christine Garwood during our Annual Gathering at Quinta, depicts the cross as a sword. God is present over all our circumstances. We trust Him and His Word (sword) as we daily put on His armour. The battle is His. Prints available - see opposite.

## FREE Maranatha Resources

The Maranatha Community has a wealth of written and audio visual resources. We have decided to make our written resources available for free download from our website. In addition to this, a series of topical videos will be featured throughout the coming year. All these new developments will be advertised on the Maranatha website [www.maranathacommunity.org.uk](http://www.maranathacommunity.org.uk)

## ISLAM - An Appraisal

The report from the Islam Spearhead Group is now available for free download from the Maranatha website, and for a small charge from the Maranatha office.

## GLOBAL PERSECUTION of Christians

This is a substantial report with over 3,000 individual cases cited as evidence of persecution in 132 countries. This report has already been requested by the Foreign and Commonwealth Offices in Parliament and will be presented to the World Council of Churches and the United Nations. As a Community we are committed to praying and speaking out for our suffering brothers and sisters.

## MINDFULNESS

A Briefing document is now available on this Buddhist meditation technique which is being widely promoted in our health and educational systems. It is available from the Maranatha office for 50p +p&p or for free download from the Maranatha website.

## SECULAR HUMANISM

The report from this Spearhead Group is also now available from the Maranatha office or free download from the website.

## NEW - Cards & Posters

One of our members - Christine Garwood - has made her artwork available to the Maranatha Community. Cards and posters, with or without Biblical texts, are available via the Maranatha website.

# Maranatha Calendar

Weekends of teaching, fellowship & healing in 2014



**RISING UP AS EAGLES** - SHIPSTON-ON-STOUR,  
The House of Bread, 28-30 March



**MORE LOVE MORE POWER** - DUBLIN,  
Emmaus Centre, 20-22 June



**JESUS OUR PERSONAL TRAINER** - CREWE,  
Wistaston Hall, 25-27 July

**PROPHETS ALIVE!** - CONWY,  
Beechwood Court, 12-14 Sept

**COMMUNING WITH GOD** - LLANDUDNO,  
Loreto Centre, 17-19 October



## Retreats in 2014

**STEPPING OUT IN FAITH** - the 'Light out of Darkness' retreat  
OXFORD, Boars Hill, 7-11 April

LLANDUDNO, Loreto Centre, 15-19 September

**BUILDING WITH THE SPIRIT** - a follow-on 'Light out of Darkness' retreat

LLANDUDNO, Loreto Centre, 13-17 October

**WAITING WITH GOD IN THE DESERT** - building on the 'Light out of Darkness' retreats

LLANDUDNO, Loreto Centre, 15-19 September

## Quiet Days

**Huddersfield:** 3rd May, 5th July,  
6th September, 1st November.

10am-4pm

Info: Peter Jackson 0161 748 4858

## You Ask

*You ask, Lord,  
for me to provide the fertile soil  
for you to sow your seeds.  
You ask that I water and feed them  
with my prayers  
Then you will see that they blossom  
and bear fruit.*

Sr. Elizabeth Tuttle PBVM

*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 contact person. There is also a national network of Maranatha Prayer Cells usually meeting weekly.*

### England

AYLESBURY 1st Mon. monthly

BEDFORD 1st Mon. monthly, 7.30pm

#### BODMIN

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

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 0161 748 4858

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 4858

MANCHESTER - CENTRAL bi-monthly, 0161 748 4858

MARKET HARBOROUGH last Fri. monthly, 10am

#### MATLOCK

#### MIDLANDS

NOTTINGHAM 3rd Mon. monthly, 7.30pm

PLYMOUTH 3rd Tues. monthly, 7.30pm

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

WALLASEY Prayer Group, 1st Tues. monthly

WEST DARTMOOR 2nd Sat. monthly

#### WIRRAL

### Northern Ireland

BELFAST 1st Fri. monthly, 7.30pm

### Republic of Ireland

FERMOY, Co. Cork.

### Scotland

HELMSDALE Fri. evenings, 7pm

MAYBOLE, Ayrshire. every Mon. am.

### Wales

ANGLESEY Tuesday evenings, 7:15pm

CONWY 1st Wednesday. Bi-monthly April, June,  
August etc. 10.30-2pm REVERB, Madoc St,

#### Llandudno.

MOLD 2nd Mon. monthly, 7.30pm,

### Uganda

#### ENTEBBE

**Prayer Cells** meet in the following places:

Abergele, Altrincham, Ashton-under-Lyne, Ballynoe, Banbury, Barnstaple, Beaworthy, Bedford, Belfast, Birmingham, Blackpool, Bodmin, Bolton, Bridgnorth, Brigg, Brighouse, Bury, Bury St. Edmunds, Cheadle, Colwyn Bay, Congleton, Craigavon, Craven Arms, Deal, Dunlavin, Enniskillen, Fermoy, Folkestone, Gravesend, Grimsby, Halifax, Hassocks, Hayling Island, Haywards Heath, Helmsdale, Hemel Hempstead, Hendon, Huddersfield, Largs, Ledbury, Lewes, Lincoln, Lisburn, Liverpool, Macclesfield, Manchester, Matlock, New Eltham, Norwich, Nottingham, Nuneaton, Otley, Peterborough, Plymouth, Prudhoe, Redditch, Rochdale, Rye, Sale, Saltash, Scunthorpe, Sheffield, Shipley, Shrewsbury, Southall, St. Austell, Stockport, Stoke-on-Trent, Sudbury, Sutton Coldfield, Teignmouth, Tillicoultry, Todmorden, Tottenham, Trowbridge, Uxbridge, Wakefield, Wallasey, Wantage, Warrington, Wellington, Westbury, Wick, Winchelsea, Worcester, Yelverton, and in Australia, Canada, Germany, India, Israel, Malaysia and Spain.

maranatha community

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