

maranatha newsletter

Our prayer is, 'Come, Lord Jesus!'

Issue:133 March 2015

I have set before you an open door

We are seeing the evidence of a mounting spiritual battle across the globe. Light is penetrating darkness. Things concealed for years and even hundreds of years are now being exposed. The powerful movement of God's Spirit is illuminating the false and revealing truth; new life is bursting forth in places once thought dead. In the midst of great turbulence, uncertainty and insecurity across the world, there are now unprecedented opportunities for the advancement of the Kingdom of God. Truly, in the spiritual realms, doors are wide open. Do we have eyes to see them? Do we have faith to walk through them?

A door is the way through an obstruction; it is the opening of barriers of resistance. Jesus is the Way, He is the door. As we walk through the doors the Lord opens so we, who are 'in Christ', become a way through for others. There are now open doors of opportunity for every single member of the Body of Christ. The doors that the Lord opens no one can shut (Rev. 3.8).

Doors have opened for this Community over many years - doors of healing, doors of reconciliation, doors to speak with those in positions of authority, doors to represent those without a voice. Very recently the door was opened for us to meet with those in senior positions at the United Nations Human Rights Council to present the Maranatha report *Global Persecution - The Price of Faith for Christians worldwide*. This has also received the support of the British Prime Minister and other main party leaders. What is God saying to us?

WILL YOU PRAY, IDENTIFY AND WALK THROUGH THE OPEN DOORS?

- Doors are open to bring unbelievers to Christ
- Doors are open to build bridges for unity in the Body of Christ.
- Doors are open for the wounded and broken to be healed.
- Doors are now open to influence candidates for the General Election.
- Doors are open for churches to contribute to the life of the local community.
- Doors are open to take the Christian message into schools.

IN CHRIST WE STAND IN A DOORWAY OF HOPE POINTING THE WAY

His Abundance

I reach out
into the dark
and find there
the warm, strong
grasp of the hand of God.
I falter and stumble
and am at once raised up
in loving arms.
I seek and -
joy of joys,
I find.
I knock and
the door is
opened wide.
I ask : He gives
in bounty all I need.
In darkest prison
I cry out and
He gently leads me
into the light
of His presence,
locks shattered
chains destroyed
tightest bonds
all cut away.
I come to Him
in blindness
and now
receive my sight.
My tears turn into
laughter
my night
to glorious day.
Food for my hunger
is given
and warmth
for my coldness
of heart.
In abundance
my God provides
for me.

DW

*"The culture in which
we find ourselves is in
turmoil...the West is
engaged in a momentous
battle, one in which it is
risking its very soul"*

Ravi Zacharius

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

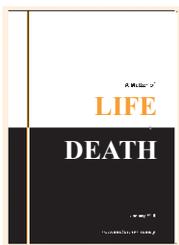
Turning our hearts to the children

Twenty years ago the Lord prostrated us in weeping as we asked Him to show us what was on His heart for the children of Britain. Out of those tears came the Maranatha booklet *What on Earth are We doing to Our Children?* This led to countless initiatives and opportunities to speak out for abused, neglected and wounded children. Last year the Lord renewed His call and asked if we as a Community would invest our resources in the equipping and encouragement of the younger generations.

As a nation, we have bequeathed a huge unpayable financial debt to our children and their children after them. More than that, we have deprived them of a spiritual framework and moral compass for life. We believe the Lord is calling us, as a Community, to invest sacrificially into these young lives, for the sake of their future and for the sake of the Kingdom of God.

We are, therefore, calling all those who belong to the Maranatha Community to pray with commitment for at least one child or young person.

- Pray especially for young Christians who are becoming lonely in their places of education and marginalized for adhering to their Christian belief.
- Pray for and consider how you can support Christian initiatives for children and young people in your locality.
- Pray for Godly values and teaching to be restored to school curricula.
- Pray that the heart of this nation will turn towards its children and young people.



**“I place before you life and death,
blessing and curse.
Choose life so that
you and your children will live.”**

Deut. 30.19



A third Call to the Nation

During the month of January, Maranatha arranged two Parliamentary Consultations. Both Consultations were well attended and had the support of MPs and Peers from across the Parties.

The first was based on the newly-published Maranatha document *A Matter of Life or Death - The Struggle for the Soul of Our Nation*. This was developed during a 12 month period of consultations with Christians leaders across the land. It follows the previous Maranatha statements *A Call to the Nation* published in 1993 and *The State of the Nation* published in 2004. As well as presenting warning of the seriousness of the economic, moral and spiritual crisis in our nation, it also gives evidence of real hope and makes the bold declaration “*There is absolutely no situation or person so damaged that cannot be brought to wholeness and freedom*”. Copies are available from the Maranatha office £1 + p&p or by free download at www.lifedeath.org. Pray that the political and church leaders who receive this will respond to its call.

The second consultation presented the statement *Values - The characteristics of our British national identity* the fruit of a remarkable unity between 22 senior Christian leaders who met together to consider the nature of British values. It is hoped that this single page document will be widely circulated amongst those of all beliefs and none. It states the historical fact that the values that most would consider characteristics of our British identity all originate in Judaeo-Christian belief, teaching and practice in these islands. **It is an ideal statement with which to stir public debate in preparation for the General Election** and has been welcomed by head teachers who now have a statutory obligation to provide teaching on British values in schools.

Copies may be downloaded from the Maranatha website or are available from the Maranatha office for the cost of postage and packing.

FACTS

- **Our real national debt is £6 trillion - 4x our GDP, equal to £400,000 per average family**
- **Family breakdown cost £46 billion last year, more than £1,500 per taxpayer**
- **Drug and alcohol related crime, costs £100 million per year**
- **1 : 10 children in the UK are severely neglected in childhood**
- **In 2012/13 14,863 children contacted ChildLine about suicide**
- **More than 34,600 youths aged 10-17 years were convicted of crime in 2013**
- **50% of children in the UK will experience the break-up of their parents' relationship before they are 16-years-old**
- **Churchgoers contribute 23.2 million hours of voluntary service each month in their local communities outside church activities**

We cannot expect the world to believe that the Father sent the Son, that Jesus' claims are true, Christianity is true, unless the world sees some reality of the oneness of true Christians.

Francis Schaeffer

Community News

PRAYER CELLS

Maranatha runs a network of Prayer Cells which extends internationally. Most consist of 3 or 4 members of different local churches who gather weekly for fellowship, worship and prayer. A weekly prayer letter is sent from the office. **Just as pylons cover the land, we believe this is a network of spiritual power across the nations.** Will you join? Information and a 'starter pack' can be obtained from the Maranatha office.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

We are now recruiting for a new **Maranatha Intern**. A new post: **Communications and Community Development Facilitator** has also been created. Job descriptions and application forms can be obtained from the Maranatha office.

YOUTH APOSTOLATE

As part of the Community's call to equip and invest in the lives of the younger generation, Dennis will be leading an initiative to bring together young Christian leaders. If you know of any young person whom you believe God is raising up in this role, please send their details (with their permission) to the Maranatha office.

SPECIAL MARANATHA WEEKEND

At our Annual Gathering in 2014 our attention was drawn to a call for unity across the generations. As a result, a special weekend has been arranged this year from **28th-31st August** at the beautiful Christian retreat centre, **The House of Bread, in the Costwolds**. The emphasis through the weekend will be **'Sharing Life'**. There will be activities for children as well shared worship, meals and fun. It is ideal for those who are single, married, old or young. Please book early!

GLOBAL PERSECUTION - The Price of Faith for Christians Worldwide

This Maranatha report details facts of Christian persecution in 130 countries over 14 years. It has been presented to senior church and political leaders. What is our response as members of the same Body of Christ? This document is for prayer and action. Available on the Maranatha website or from the office.

MARANATHA IN UGANDA

A team of 7 Maranatha members from the UK were joined by 3 members serving a mission in Uganda and, of particular joy, 2 members from **Malawi**, for a 2 week visit to different parts of Uganda last October. We were delighted to see how Maranatha groups in **Entebbe** and **Jinja** are building unity between Christians of different traditions, as well as impacting their local area through prayer and service. Our 2 brothers from Malawi - a Catholic priest and Anglican vicar, previously unknown to each other - were used powerfully by God as our oneness within the team and with our Ugandan brothers and sisters was deepened. If you would like to be involved in praying for Maranatha in Africa, please contact Rhona Marshall at rhona_cru@talktalk.net

"Only the Cross keeps us on course, lighting up the way before us. What makes the Cross so radiant? It is love that transforms the Cross into a beacon of light - love that would die to self, love that desires nothing else, but to follow Jesus on the way of the Cross"

Mother Basilea Schlink

HEALING AND PRAYER NETWORKS

Maranatha is a member of 'Christian Healing UK' - an informal fellowship of Christian Healing ministries in the UK. Regional Gatherings are organised for anyone involved in Christian healing ministry. Info at: www.nchf.moonfruit.com

Maranatha is also involved in a new alignment of prayer networks in Britain. The aim is to forge greater unity of prayer for our nation. Info from lindas@maranathacommunity.org.uk

TEACHING MODULES

This year we are offering four 2-hour teaching modules on the following subjects -

- **Islam - Who is My Neighbour?** Teaching on Islam with a presentation about 'Mahabba' - loving and praying for Muslims.
- **Healing - Redeeming Our Identity** Our response to brokenness
- **Prayer - Living Christ's Life** Deepening a life of prayer
- **Kingdom Conflict - Being Light in the World** Teaching on spiritual warfare, dealing with topics such as alternative therapies & spiritualities, and the advance of psychology including mindfulness and secular humanism

These dates are already booked:-

WIRRAL - 18th April

10am - 1pm

Info: Gerry Topping 0161 748 4858

MANCHESTER - 9th May 10am-1pm.

Info: Maranatha office

MARKET HARBOROUGH - 30th May 2pm-4.30pm.

Info: Maureen Douglas 0161 748 4858

WAKEFIELD - 30th May 10am-1pm.

Info: Chris Saville 0161 748 4858

NOTTINGHAM - 31st Oct. 2-4.30pm.

Info: Ann Lynch 0161 748 4858

If you would like to host one of these in your area, please contact the Maranatha office. 0161 748 4858

MARANATHA RETREATS

God's pattern of our life includes a weekly Sabbath rest, but this is often compromised in the midst of our ever increasing busyness. Relationships are not static; they will either deepen, mature and be strengthened through the difficulties of life or they become remote and brittle. This is particularly true of our relationship with God.

A Maranatha retreat provides space to spend time with God, teaching, opportunity to share with others and prayer ministry, if desired. A variety of retreats are available (see back page), including Quiet Days which can be arranged on request. Why not make some space for God this year? Testimonies confirm that these retreats are life-changing.

Maranatha Calendar

Weekends of teaching, fellowship & healing in 2015



IS LIFE STRESSFUL? Come and talk with Me!

Loreto Centre, LLANDUDNO, 24-26 April

ARE YOU THIRSTY? Come and drink!

Emmaus Retreat Centre, Swords, DUBLIN, 18-20 Sept.



WANT TO SHARE LIFE? Come and celebrate

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

Retreats in 2015

STEPPING OUT IN FAITH - the 'Light out of Darkness' retreat

Douai Abbey, READING, 27 April - 1 May



OUT OF THE COURTROOM & INTO THE FATHER'S HOUSE

The Ark, FLIXTON, Manchester, 10-13 June

LIVING AS THE FATHER'S CHILD

The Ark, FLIXTON, Manchester, 17-20 June



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: 7th March, 2nd May,
4th July, 5th September, 7th November
10am-4pm

Info: Peter Jackson 0161 748 4858

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

Rev. Edward Wright 01634 220220

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

MACCLESFIELD 2nd Wed. monthly, 7.45pm

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

MANCHESTER - FLIXTON 3rd Fri. monthly, 8pm

MANCHESTER - CENTRAL bi-monthly,

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

WEST DARTMOOR 2nd Sat. monthly

WIRRAL

Northern Ireland

BELFAST 1st Fri. monthly, 7.30pm

Republic of Ireland

FERMOY

Scotland

HELMSDALE Fri. evenings, 7pm

MAYBOLE, Ayrshire. every Mon. am.

Wales

ANGLESEY Tuesday evenings, 7:15pm

MOLD 1st Mon. monthly, 7.30pm,

Uganda

ENTEBBE Asher Kalema:

lifegospelchurch@yahoo.com

Prayer Cells meet in the following places:

Abergele, Altrincham, Ashton-under-Lyne, Aylesbury,
Ballynoe, Banbury, Barnstaple, Bedford, Belfast,
Bideford, Birmingham, Blackpool, Bodmin, Bolton,
Bridgnorth, Brigg, Brighthouse, Bury, Bury St. Edmunds,
Cheadle, Colwyn Bay, Congleton, Cork, Craigavon,
Craven Arms, Deal, Dunlavin, Eastbourne,
Enniskillen, Fermoy, Folkestone, Gravesend,
Grimsby, Halifax, Harrogate, Hassocks, Hayling Island,
Helmsdale, Hendon, Huddersfield, Largs, Ledbury,
Lewes, Lincoln, Lisburn, Liverpool, Macclesfield,
Manchester, Mallow, Matlock, Mitchelstown, Much
Wenlock, New Eltham, Norwich, Nottingham,
Nuneaton, Otley, Plymouth, Prudhoe, Redditch,
Rochdale, Rye, Sale, Saltash, Scunthorpe, Sheffield,
ShIPLEY, Shrewsbury, Shannon, Southall, Stockport,
Sudbury, Sutton Coldfield, Teignmouth, Tillicoultry,
Todmorden, Tottenham, Trowbridge, Uxbridge,
Wakefield, Wantage, Warrington, Wellington,
Westbury, Wick, Worcester, Worthing, Yelverton, and
in Australia, Canada, Germany, India, Israel, Malawi,
Malaysia, Spain and Uganda.

Divisions between Christians
are a sin and a scandal, and
Christians ought at all times to
be making contributions
towards reunion,
if it is only by their prayers.

C. S. Lewis

maranatha community

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