



maranatha newsletter

Our prayer is, 'Come, Lord Jesus!'

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Internet edition

TRANSFORMING LOVE

*Whoever lives in love lives
in God, and God in Him"*
(1 Jn. 4.16)

This is our call, as followers of Jesus - to live in love. Paul, formerly zealous pharisee Saul, who made his mission the murder of Christians, was transformed not by argument or teaching, but by the dazzling love of God personified in Jesus. As a result he testified to *"the most excellent way"* - the way of love, (1 Cor. 13). Paul, who formerly boasted of his righteousness through works - keeping the law - had his eyes and heart opened by the Grace of God. He declared that it is only by this Grace, not any of our 'good deeds', that our place in eternity with God is secured. Further, he warned that without love even the exercising of spiritual gifts and faith itself is worth nothing.

However, Paul did not sit back in his confidence in the Grace of God. The revelation of God's love for him spurred Paul on to *"love and good deeds"* (Heb 10.24) and he urges, *"Let us not become weary in doing good"* (Gal 6.9) and John insists, *"Let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth"* (1 Jn. 3.18).

Love without action is not love at all.

Jesus demonstrated for us the love of God. It is the gift of His life to us and for us. As we choose to live His life, denying our own, we will be transformed like Paul, whose hatred was turned into a passionate love ignited by the fire of God's Spirit. It is this love in action which has the power to transform the world.

CALLING PASSIONATE LOVERS

When we know we are loved unconditionally, for who we are, not what we do, our lives are changed and we discover a new capacity to love others. Scripture describes the love of God for His people as that of a husband for his wife, and He is preparing a Bride - His Church - for His Son.

Surely the thing that Jesus is looking for in His bride is passionate love for Him above all else; a bride who shares the passion of her groom and He calls us to feed the hungry, reach out to the lonely and sick, work for justice and liberation for the oppressed.

Our love for Jesus must be reflected in our love for ALL members of the Body of Christ. This is Jesus' prayer for us to the Father, *"that they may be one as we are one"* (John 17.22) and Peter instructs us, *"Love one another deeply, from the heart."* (1 Peter 1.22). It is through this love that Jesus is manifest to the world so they too will believe.

He calls us to pray and work for the building of His kingdom in our local community, our place of work and in our homes, not in our spare time, but with all our heart, our soul, our mind and our strength.

What will you do today to extend God's Kingdom of Love ?

"We are born to love, we live to love, and we will die to love still more"
(St. Joseph Cafasso)

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*God is love.
Love is my life blood.
I am born for love.
Without love I am nothing.
Love is the heart of the
Gospel of Jesus.
Without love there is no Gospel.
When I receive Jesus, I receive love.
Embracing Him, I am loved.
Jesus enables me to love Him.
He enables me to love myself.
He empowers me to love others.
If I love the hungry, I will feed them.
If I love the sick, I will help them.
If I love the bereaved,
I will comfort them.
If I love the persecuted,
I will speak out for them.
If I love those who are cast down,
I will raise them.
If I love my enemies,
I will forgive them.
If I love Jesus,
I will follow Him.
Here and Now.*

(Excerpt from 'About Love'
available from the Maranatha Office)

JESUS - our SERVANT Leader

In Jesus, God has demonstrated the full extent of His love for us. Jesus says, *"As I have loved so you should love one another"* (Jn. 15). The disciples, like us in our humanity, were concerned about where they were ranked in order of importance, to which Jesus responded, *"If anyone wants to be first, he must be the very last, and the servant of all"* (Mark 9.35). *"For even the son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve.."* (Mk 10.45). The way of the world, is to climb the ladder of achievement. The way of Jesus is to go to the bottom of the ladder, to wash the feet of the broken and the unlovely, to be a hidden servant, taking the last place. *"The power of God's glory grew only as Jesus disappeared, descending to the lowest place"* (Jean Vanier).

The Maranatha Community has always been a servant ministry to the Church. As we pray and work for Unity, Renewal and Healing in the Body of Christ, our prayer is like that of John the Baptist, *"He must become greater; I must become less"* (Jn. 3.30).

At a recent Maranatha 'First Sunday' gathering in Davyhulme we were again joined by several brothers and sisters from Africa. Rev. Dr. Lazarus from Malawi spoke to us about the parable of the labourers in the vineyard, and stressed the urgency of the times that we are now living in. The Lord is calling more labourers to work in His vineyard. Pastor John from Nigeria, brought us one sentence from Psalm 37.7 *"Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for Him"*. To wait patiently whilst aware of the urgency of the hour requires the discipline and attitude of a servant, ready to respond immediately to the Master's command.

The power of God is His love. In the measure that we renounce all worldly power and authority, becoming like Jesus, as a servant, we will be channels of the power and authority of God's love in this broken world. We are being taught this message afresh by brothers from Nigeria. Pastor William Kumuyi has permitted us to reproduce his teaching 'Servant Leadership' - 60p from the Maranatha Office. Also available 'Authority' - some thoughts for the Maranatha Community 50p + p&p.

Please pray as we arrange meetings with church and political leaders on this subject in the New Year.

"We are neither big nor small but what we are in the eyes of God, and as long as we surrender ourselves totally then God can use us without consulting us. We like to be consulted but letting him use us without consultation is very good for us. We must accept emptiness, accept being broken in pieces, accept success or failure."

Mother Teresa of Calcutta

"Here is one of the touchstones of true servanthood. Are we prepared to give up legitimate and treasured pastimes, possessions, prerogatives if love for someone, Christian or non-Christian, asks it? Giving up our 'rights' is a kind of death: a death to self. And dying is hard. But in the end, despite our unwillingness to believe, so it is the way to life. The only way."

Rowland Croucher

"We must see the difference between choosing to serve and choosing to be a servant. When we choose to serve we are still in charge. We decide whom we will serve and when we will serve... But when we choose to be a servant we give up the right to be in charge."

Richard Foster

UNITY & ALIGNMENT in the Body of Christ



God is drawing His people more closely together as we pray for God's mercy on our nation. Maranatha is part of a coalition of ministries concerned about the 'state of the nation'. As we have prayed and worked together over the past two years, the Lord has forged new bonds of love between us. Starting with a meeting of concerned individuals in the House of Lords in October 2008, the State of the Nation Group are specifically praying and working to bring church leaders together, and are also convening gatherings for intercession. Contact the Maranatha Office for more information about these gatherings, including the one on Saturday 27th November at The Emmanuel Centre, Marsham Street, Westminster, London.



500 DAYS OF NON-STOP PRAYER FOR GREAT BRITAIN

Launched on the 1st August, this initiative seeks to increase the magnitude and momentum of prayer in the nation by aligning small prayer groups and large prayer gatherings in specific prayer for local communities as well as our national life.

The Maranatha Week of Prayer in September was included in this initiative, as are our daily prayers at the Maranatha office, 'The Ark' and Kalah House. For more information see: www.gdoplondon.com

Operation Nehemiah



Barnabas Fund have published an excellent booklet 'The Way Ahead - Returning Britain to its Christian Path'. Using the example of Nehemiah this initiative urges Christians everywhere to play their part "God has placed each of us in communities, workplaces and positions in society where we can contribute to this campaign, which is seeking to 'rebuild' the Christian foundations of Britain. And we must start on our knees". Information: www.barnabasfund.org



Christian Concern has launched this initiative to encourage Christians to wear a small cross. They are urging everyone to wear this Cross on the 1st December as a public witness to our faith. Information: www.notashamed.org.uk

JOIN DAILY WITH CHRISTIANS OF ALL TRADITIONS ACROSS THE UK TO PRAY FOR OUR NATION BY UNITING IN OUR LORD'S PRAYER AT 12 NOON

Maranatha Community News

Developments in the Maranatha Community

Over almost 30 years Maranatha has gradually changed from being mainly larger local groupings to now being a widespread net of individuals and smaller Maranatha Groups and Prayer Cells. Our vision remains the same - to pray and work for unity, renewal and healing throughout the Church of Christ and to be effective followers of Jesus through our prayer and action. A group of '3' are gathering information about groups and prayer cells and the activity of individuals in order to discern how God wants to shape the Community for the future. Information Ros Dodd 01588 660298 email: rosalinddodd@btinternet.com

Maranatha Media Gallery

The Maranatha website now features several short film clips by Maranatha members on subjects such as 'The Birth and Growth of the Maranatha Community', 'Maranatha a Healing Community', 'Building Bridges of Reconciliation', 'Maranatha - A Listening & Trusting Community', 'Trumpet Call - An Introduction' and 'A Message to the Church in 2010', plus several others. Do take a look.

Study Teams

Islam, Secular Humanism and the Occult & New Age are the major spiritual threats to Christianity in this nation. Study teams are being set up to look at the way the Church can be better equipped through an understanding of these influences. Israel - Maranatha has close links with a number of Messianic Jewish groups. We are now forming a study team to consider the Christian attitude to Israel. If you would like to take part in any of these, please contact the Maranatha office.

What on Earth have we done to our Children?

Fifteen years ago Maranatha published the booklet 'What on Earth are we doing to our Children?' It had a far ranging impact on many, resulting in a number of important initiatives for children, politically, in society and the Church. An update is being prepared with more evidence of the way in which the decline of our nation has affected our children. Anyone interested in helping with the compilation, please contact the Maranatha office.

Maranatha Weekends

BAWTRY HALL - 'Turning Stress into Opportunity for Healing'

This Maranatha weekend in September was greatly blessed: *"I went for relief of stress. I came away set free". "I was blessed by the generosity of all the sharing". "It was really, really what I needed. The Lord...lifted me out of the doldrums and gave me back a proper perspective on life". "I was with friends I had never met before. A time to listen and share God's love for us".* And five days later *"The healing is still going ON and ON". "Yet another example of the Body of Christ in action. Praise God"*.

Men's Weekend

LLANDUDNO - 'Building An Army'

This recent weekend was arranged by the men who were greatly encouraged at the 'Rise Up Men of Faith' weekends in 2008 & 2009. *"Spending time with other men who are also wanting to be closer to God was an exciting and refreshing time. God spoke to us about walking with authority and being His united church. I would strongly recommend this weekend to all Christian men"*.

"At the end of our life, we shall be judged by love."

St. John of the Cross

Light out of Darkness

A New Programme

Many have been blessed over the years through the 'Light out of Darkness' course on deepening spirituality & contemplative prayer. One person wrote, *"The spiritual food - the teaching and sharing was beyond my expectation."*

Our retreat leaders have developed the current 5-day silent retreat into two separate 4-day portions, giving more time to draw on its richness including supplementary video talks given by Sr Kathleen, the author.

In 2011 there will be two of the first retreats: 'Light out of Darkness - Stepping out in Faith'. The second part: 'Light out of Darkness - Building with the Spirit' will be run from 2012.

The 'Waiting with God in the Desert' five-day retreat will continue to be the next step after these two 'Light out of Darkness' retreats.

24/7 Worship

The Community promotes 24/7 worship. In 2 Chronicles 20 the Lord led the King to put the worshippers at the head of the army, which was the key to victory. We desperately need a similar victory in our land. Will you join us in committing to one hour a week in personal worship? For more details contact the Maranatha office.

A new resource for teenagers - 'Be Hope'

This project aims to see young people across the country step out and take action in every day situations of despair they encounter. Family breakdown, bullying, identity crisis and drugs & alcohol are some of the relentless pressures that young people face. This a series of short films to encourage young people to 'be the hope' for others of their peer group who are struggling. The website www.be-hope.org.uk is to feature further resources. If you would like to be involved in the development of this project, please contact the Maranatha office.

New Books

'From Darkness into Light - Facing Human Unhappiness'

This collection of prayers and meditations, written by Dennis Wrigley, is especially for those who are experiencing darkness and depression. It is beautifully illustrated by a Christian artist, Christine Garwood, who was recently introduced to Maranatha. Available from December at £7.99 + p&p. Order through the Maranatha bookshop - tel 0161 747 5672.

'Beyond Coincidence'

A collection of short stories and answered prayer, written by Arnaldo Fernandez-Arias, a Maranatha member who lives in Spain. £7 plus p&p from the Maranatha bookshop.

Spotlight

In addition to the Community Newsletter another publication - 'Spotlight' - is produced every two months. This carries more localised news of what is happening in Maranatha groups and other areas of the Community. If you would like to receive a copy of 'Spotlight' please email Matthew Doherty on matthewdoherty@talktalk.net

"Of what use are riches in eternity?" St. Aloysius Gonzaga

Maranatha Events Calendar

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

Weekends in 2011

NEWCASTLE, CO. DOWN 4-6 March - 'Healing & life through God's Word'
CONWAY, Beechwood Court 25-27 March - 'By Still Waters'
PLYMOUTH, (non-residential) 17-19 June - 'The Transforming Love of Jesus'
OXFORD, Boars Hill 29-31 July - 'Jesus our Wounded Healer'
DONCASTER, Bawtry Hall 16-18 September - 'Joining heaven & earth in Worship'
LLANDUDNO, Loreto Centre 28-30 October - 'Prayer - A Way of Life'



Retreats in 2011

Light out of Darkness - Stepping out in Faith

WOOLHAMPTON, Douai Abbey - 6-10 June
LLANDUDNO, Loreto Centre - 3-7 October

Waiting with God in the Desert

LLANDUDNO, Loreto Centre - 3-8 October

Living in the Father's House

FLIXTON, MANCHESTER, 'The Ark', 2-5 November

Out of the Courtroom

FLIXTON, MANCHESTER, 'The Ark', 16-19 November



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

TAKE THE INITIATIVE NOW

There are over 140 Maranatha Prayer Cells nationwide. Will you form one in your district? We can help you.

Maranatha's Prayer Cell Co-ordinator is Hazel Catton (Tel. 01304 381927). A special folder is available to help you form a cell.

"Lord our God, grant us grace to desire you with our whole heart, that so desiring, we may seek and find you; and so finding you, we may love you; and loving you, we may hate those sins from which you have redeemed us."

St. Anselm of Canterbury

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.

England

AYLESBURY 1st Mon. monthly, 8pm
BEWDLEY
BICESTER 1st Tues. monthly, 7.45pm,
BIRMINGHAM NORTH
BIRMINGHAM SOUTH
BODMIN Thurs.
BRIGG, 3rd Mon. monthly, 7.30pm,
BURY ST. EDMUND, 1st Sat. monthly, 7.30pm,
CHISWICK 2nd Mon. monthly, 7.30pm
DEAL, KENT Hazel Catton 01304 381927
EASTLEIGH / SOUTHAMPTON,
ECKINGTON, PERSHORE 3rd Thurs. monthly, 7.30pm,
FALMOUTH
GRAVESEND 3rd Tues. monthly
GRIMSBY
HALIFAX / HUDDERSFIELD 4th Wed. monthly, 8pm,
HARROGATE 1st Friday monthly, 7.30pm
HAYWARDS HEATH 1st Tues. monthly, 8pm,
LEEDS 1st Tues. monthly, 7.30pm,
LEICESTER 4th Fri. monthly, 7.30pm
LINCOLN 1st Mon. monthly, 7pm,
LONDON Bi-monthly,
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, 0161 748 4858

MARKET HARBOROUGH last Fri. monthly, 10am,
MATLOCK
NOTTINGHAM 3rd Mon. monthly, 7.30pm,
PLYMOUTH 3rd Tues. monthly, 7.30pm,
PORTSMOUTH
SCUNTHORPE 3rd Thurs. monthly, 7pm,
SHEFFIELD 2nd Sat. monthly, 4pm,
SUDBURY SUFFOLK 3rd Tues monthly, 7pm,
TAUNTON 3rd Fri. monthly, 7.30pm,
THE MARCHES, SHROPSHIRE, Bi-monthly,
2nd Saturday 12.30-4.30pm
TWICKENHAM 3rd Tues. monthly, 8pm,
WAKEFIELD, 1st Fri. monthly, 7.30pm,
WALLASEY, Prayer Group,
WATERLOOVILLE 3rd Thurs. monthly, 10.15am,
WEST DARTMOOR 2nd Sat. monthly,
WEST WILTSHIRE (WESTBURY) 1st Mon. monthly,
WIRRAL Bi-monthly, 10.30-3.30pm.

Scotland

HELMSDALE Fri. evenings, 7pm,

LARGS

MAYBOLE, AYSHIRE Every Tues. a.m.

Wales

CONWY 1st Wed. bi-monthly, 10.30-3pm

MOLD 1st Mon. monthly, 7.30pm,

Northern Ireland

BELFAST 1st Fri. monthly, 7.30pm

Uganda

JINJA Godfrey Mwase:
godfrey_tastenseecafe@yahoo.com
KAMPALA Deo Kabiswa:
kabiswa2000@yahoo.com
ENTEBBE Asher Kalema:
lifegospelchurch@yahoo.com

Credo

Annamarie Moran:
annmarie@maranathacommunity.org.uk

Prayer Cells Co-ordinator

Hazel Catton 01304 381927

Contact details

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

maranatha community

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