



maranatha newsletter

Our prayer is, 'Come, Lord Jesus!'

Issue: 131 November 2013
Internet Edition

Equipping the Saints

The command '*Equip the Saints*' was one of the first prophetic words given to the Maranatha Community. Our response was to produce simple teaching materials and to run training courses for the many who desired deeper teaching on the basics of the Christian faith, in particular prayer and healing.

What is the equipping that the saints of God need today?

Firstly, the equipping must relate to the culture and needs of today. Paul wrote to Timothy urging him to hold fast to his grounding in scripture, in the context of the godlessness of the 'last days' (2 Timothy 3). In Britain now, we are having to adjust to the almost total shift from a Christian culture to one which is marked by the same characteristics that Paul described as godless. Our equipping is *not* primarily about survival in a hostile environment. Far more importantly, followers of Jesus must be equipped and empowered by God's Word and his Spirit to present the Gospel of life and hope in the face of a culture of death and despair. In particular, there is need for clear teaching on the nature of secular humanism and Islam - the two main challenges to the Christian faith.

Secondly, equipping is personal and not material. 'The Message' gives a helpful insight in its translation of Jesus' instructions to His disciples, "*Don't load yourselves up with equipment. Keep it simple; you are the equipment*" (Luke 9.3). Our call is to holiness. The only way that the rampant tide of a godless culture can be turned is by the outstanding godliness of the Body of Christ. The Light of Christ in His people repels the darkness, the Grace of God welcomes the needy into His Kingdom and the Glory of God is manifest when His people are ONE in Love and Truth.

Serving the Church

The Maranatha Community has been raised up as a servant ministry to the Church of Christ. Throughout the life of the Community believers of all denominations have been built up through Maranatha gatherings, residential weekends, training courses and retreats and have thus helped to build up their local church congregations. Many have received healing and have grasped the centrality of healing ministry for the Church, helping their local churches to embrace this ministry. Most importantly, through involvement with Maranatha, many have become part of the furthering of the unity of the Body of Christ.

Maranatha provides a wealth of printed and audio visual resources, more than half of which are to help people to pray. Our materials have always been produced simply, at low cost. This is a further way that the Community endeavours to serve the Church. **We have now decided to make all our publications available for free download from our website.** This requires specialist work. If you would like to contribute towards this project please send your donations to the Maranatha office.

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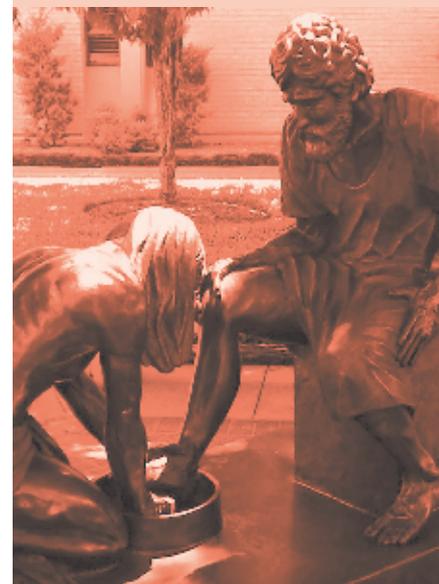
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And his gifts were that some should be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ.

(Eph 4.11-13)



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

How deep are your roots?

A tree that fails to continually extend its roots is in danger of being toppled. Conversely, a tree which pushes its roots deeply into hard ground is more securely anchored. A tree growing in adverse weather conditions is stimulated to deepen its roots. The metaphor is helpful for our Christian life. We are called to a living relationship with God - our Father, with Jesus Christ - our Lord, Saviour, Friend and Lover, and with the Holy Spirit - our Comforter, Counsellor and Sustainer of life. Oswald Chambers says, *"The root of faith is the knowledge of a Person"*.

Jesus uses the image of a vine to describe His relationship with His followers (John 15). This means that our roots are literally His life. In the measure that we embrace His life - His gift to us - we will be alive, nourished and fruitful.

Similarly, as followers of Jesus share the same roots - we are literally, spiritually bound together in Christ. As individuals deepen their relationship with Christ - the vine - their relationship with other believers - the branches - is also deepened.

St. Paul urges: *"So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness"* (Col 2.6-7).

And he prays for the believers at Ephesus: *"I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power...to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge - that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God"* (Eph 3.16-18).

It is vital, in the face of an increasingly anti-Christian environment, that followers of Jesus actively deepen their roots in Him, recognising that the Lord uses adversity to teach and strengthen us. This requires individual attention and commitment, recognising our responsibility also to build each other up in faith.

Prayer Resources

Maranatha runs a series of residential weekends and retreats providing opportunity to explore and deepen relationship with God. On one day, recently, three separate people shared the joy that their lives had been totally transformed through the Light out of Darkness retreat.

A Shalom Prayer also continues to be a means of great blessing and healing. Last month it was used by a church congregation in Italy, where there was a powerful manifestation of God's presence. This prayer is now available in English, French, German, Spanish, Italian, Arabic, Romanian, Chichewa and Mandarin Chinese, and is being translated into Urdu.

"Let us not be surprised when we have to face difficulties. When the wind blows hard on a tree, the roots stretch and grow the stronger, Let it be so with us. Let us not be weaklings, yielding to every wind that blows, but strong in spirit to resist."

Amy Carmichael

Are you in Position?

The message given at our Regional Gatherings this year combined God's command to Jehoshaphat, *"Take up your positions; stand firm"* (2 Chron 20.17) and Paul's instruction, *"Put on the full armour of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes"* (Eph 6.11).

God has been speaking to us for some time about the need for His people to be in **ALIGNMENT** with His will and Kingdom purposes; to be wholehearted in our **ALLEGIANCE** to Jesus Christ our Head; living in total **SUBMISSION** to Him and also to others in the Body of Christ. This is underlined by His call to **UNITY** of His people.

Too often we try to change or run away from adverse circumstances. However, the Lord calls us to stand firm so that He can transform our surroundings through us.

Satan's prime strategy is to get God's people out of position, or to make them ineffective in their position. But because of God's mercy and grace, we can at all times, proclaim: **My position is secure. It is in Christ, in the heavenly realms. I am one with Him and with all His people.**

You Chose Me

You trace my coming
through all
the tortuous channels
of the generations.

Each tribulet
and stream
You know

Each confluence
making me
what I now am.

The flickering torch
passed on through
hidden family years
burst forth

into a blaze that day
when You ordained
that I should live.

The tree
with deep, deep roots
nurtured by Your Spirit
in all the ages

knew many
joyous summers
and many
long bleak winters.

It knew the
gentle sadness
of the Fall.

Yet on fresh spring
its branches
reaching ever
out and up
produced the bud
that You decreed
would be my life.

It was no random chance

You chose,
You gave,

and ever since

Your hand
has been

upon my life
that it may be

a season of fruitfulness
that it may reflect

Your glory

that in its nothingness
and all its imperfection

it may become
one day

something beautiful
for You

and may this
for ever be

my joy
my comfort:

I did not choose You
You chose me.

(DW)

Community News

MARANATHA APPEAL

The Maranatha Trust is delighted with the response by so many to our recent financial appeal. **THANK YOU** to all who have contributed in any way.

We are convinced that the Lord is leading us into a new chapter in the life of this Community. At our gathering in Birmingham on 13th July this year the Lord spoke to us from Jeremiah 18: **'same clay, different form'**. God has established the foundations of this Community, especially through the leadership of Dennis Wrigley. Dennis continues to meet and pray regularly in oversight of the Community with Linda Stalley and Juan Fernandez-Arias. Linda now carries responsibility for the day to day running of the Community with help from a team of National Coordinators chaired by John Manwell.

The heart of the life of the Community depends upon our ability to communicate effectively. This is primarily facilitated by our very small team of 3 paid staff with the help of volunteers. Most of our very modest expenditure is spent on running the office. This is why our need is for regular giving. None of the Community Leadership receives any financial reward; in deed, the entire proceeds from the books and recordings by Dennis go straight to Maranatha funds.

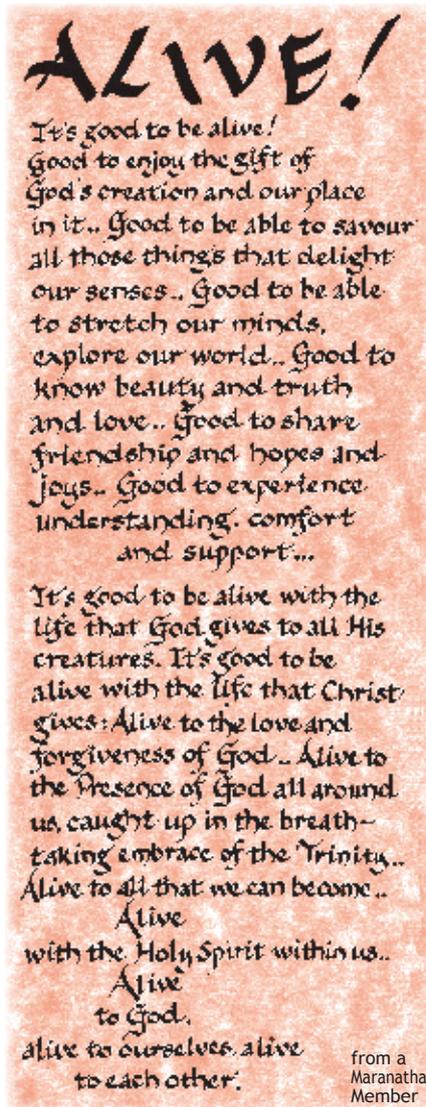
We are confident that as we continue to listen, as little brothers and sisters of Jesus, for God's direction, our Father will provide the necessary resources for the way ahead. **Please continue to pray for the whole community as we journey onward together in faith.**

Maranatha Teaching Retreats

The Community has enjoyed the inspired retreats led by, Rev. Allyn Benedict, over the past five years. **'Out of the Court Room and into the Father's House'** is a much needed teaching for the whole Church of Christ. One participant said *"This teaching has changed my life. I was hiding in fear and shame of my past. Now I see myself in a totally different way and I can hold my head up and speak to others, which I could not do before"*. Many have found that repeating the retreat has increased the depth of insight and healing. The next retreat is **5-8th February 2014** and the follow on, **'Living in the Father's House'** is **12-15th February 2014** at **'The Ark' in Flixton, Manchester**. Further information 0161 748 4858.

Healing

A new statement on healing is being prepared. It identifies the characteristics of our 21st century society and the needs that are now manifest in individuals, families, communities and our nation. In the light of this report we are planning a Maranatha conference on healing, to be held next Spring.



Maranatha Members Annual Gathering

The next annual gathering will take place from **10th-12th January 2014** at **Quinta Hall, Weston Rhyn, nr. Oswestry**. This provides an opportunity for 'members' to share fellowship, worship, prayer and ministry together. The weekend also provides time for us to listen to God, seeking direction for the Community. Please pray for this gathering. This is a crucial time for us to hear from the Lord as we believe He is doing a new thing.

Maranatha Spearhead Groups

Five groups have met regularly over the past two years to consider topics of great importance for the Church in the UK today. Reports are now being finalised on the subjects of **Islam, Secular Humanism, New Age & The Occult**.

The group which has been researching the **Persecuted Church** has produced a substantial report, detailing evidence of the persecution of Christians in 118 countries. Preliminary discussions with the World Council of Churches and the United Nations offices have paved the way for a Maranatha representation to visit both of these bodies in Geneva to make a formal presentation of the Maranatha report.

The group on **Israel** has engaged in an important journey of prayer and discussion. Members hold very diverse views on the position of Israel and Palestinians. A provisional statement has been agreed and this will form the basis of a consultation on March 1st 2014.

Malawi



A Maranatha team has visited Malawi twice in recent years and team members continue to be in touch with church leaders of different denominations. During this time we have sent gifts of money to help provide vital resources - Malawi is the second poorest country in Africa. A further trip is being planned for autumn 2014. Anyone interested in going or supporting this work should contact Heather Williams 0161 748 4858 or info@maranathacommunity.org.uk.

Maranatha Calendar

Weekends of teaching, fellowship & healing in 2014

SHIPSTON-ON-STOUR, The House of Bread, 28-30 March - *Rising up as Eagles*

DUBLIN, Emmaus Centre, 20-22 June - *More Love More Power*

CREWE, Wistaston Hall, 25-27 July - *Jesus our Personal Trainer*

CONWY, Beechwood Court, 12-14 September - *Prophets Alive!*

LLANDUDNO, Loreto Centre, 17-19 October - *Communing with God*

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



Retreats in 2014

Light out of Darkness - 'Stepping out in Faith'

OXFORD, Boars Hill, 7-11 April

LLANDUDNO, Loreto Centre, 15-19 September

Light out of Darkness (2) - Building with the Spirit'

LLANDUDNO, Loreto Centre, 13-17 October

Waiting with God in the Desert

LLANDUDNO, Loreto Centre, 15-19 September

Out of the Court Room and into the Father's House

FLIXTON, MANCHESTER, 'The Ark', 5-8 February 2014

Living in the Father's House

FLIXTON, MANCHESTER, 'The Ark', 12-15 February 2014



Quiet Days 2014

in Huddersfield

A time for teaching & meditation

First Saturday of alternate months:

4th January, 1st March, 3rd May, 5th July, 6th September, 1st November.
10am-4pm

Presentation Convent, 41 Ashbrow Rd, Sheepridge, Huddersfield, HD2 1DX.

Info: Peter Jackson 0161 748 4858

"When people stop believing in God they start to believe in anything, not just nothing" G.K. Chesterton

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

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 monthly

BEDFORD

BIRMINGHAM NORTH

BIRMINGHAM SOUTH

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, 7.30pm

FALMOUTH

GRAVESEND 4th Tues. monthly.

GRIMSBY

HALIFAX / HUDDERSFIELD 4th Wed. monthly, 8pm

HARROGATE 1st Friday monthly, 7.30pm

LEEDS 1st Tues. monthly, 7.30pm

LEICESTER 4th Fri. monthly, 7.30pm

LINCOLN 1st Mon. monthly, 7pm

LONDON

MACCLESFIELD 2nd Wed. monthly, 7.45pm

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

MANCHESTER - FLIXTON 3rd Fri. monthly, 8pm
The Ark, Ellen McCaig 0161 748 4858

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

TAUNTON 3rd Fri. monthly, 7.30pm

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.

WEST DARTMOOR 2nd Sat. monthly

WIRRAL bi-monthly, 10am-1pm

Wales

ANGLESEY Tuesday evenings, 7:15pm

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

MOLD 1st Mon. monthly, 7.30pm.

Scotland

HELMSDALE Fri. evenings, 7pm

MAYBOLE, Ayrshire. every Mon. am.

Northern Ireland

BELFAST 1st Fri. monthly, 7.30pm

Southern Ireland

FERMOY

Uganda

ENTEBBE

Prayer Cells meet in the following places
Abergele, Altrincham, Ashton-under-Lyne, Banbury, Barnstaple, Beaworthy, Bedford, Belfast, Birmingham, Blackpool, Bodmin, Bolton, Bridgnorth, Brigg, Brighouse, Bury, Bury St. Edmunds, Cheadle, Colwyn Bay, Congleton, Craigavon, Craven Arms, Deal, Enniskillen, 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, Kuala Lumpur, Dunlavin, Masaka, Ballynoe, Fermoy, Australia, Canada, Germany, Spain, India, and Israel.

Maranatha on Facebook



We have extended our Community communication to Facebook! Search for 'The Maranatha Community' and 'Like' the page to keep up-to-date. We pray that this Facebook page will serve to widen awareness of the vision of the Community and bring a new dimension of fellowship through sharing 'online'.

maranatha community

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