

Maranatha 30 years young

Since its formation in 1981 the Maranatha Community has been an open and dynamic movement of thousands of Christians, walking and working together as one. Drawn from the different traditions across the United Kingdom and abroad, our members are active and committed in the life of the churches of all denominations. Maranatha is a servant community to the Church.

We are pilgrim people, a family – little brothers and sisters of Jesus. We pray, praise, witness and serve as ONE. We regard divisions between Christians as an obscenity. We endeavour to pursue the radical demands of the Gospel and seek to be obedient to Jesus.

Maranatha prays and works for **unity** in a divided world. We pray and work for **healing** in a sick world. We pray and work for **renewal** in a dying world. We are called to **simplicity**, **poverty** and a sense of **urgency** in the face of the spiritual crisis overshadowing our culture. At this time Maranatha is being mobilised for a major leap forward as the Community grows. **ARE YOU WITH US?**

ABLAZE FOR HIS GLORY

For 30 years we have seen amazing evidence of the mighty power of God changing attitudes and lifestyles. Miraculous conversions and healings. Major initiatives taken for the Kingdom. Overseas relief projects. Major initiatives for Christian unity. Reconciliation work in Northern Ireland. Parliamentary research and witness. Street work with the homeless and prostitutes. Direct action for drug addicts. Help for those caught up in crime and lawlessness. Formation of specialist new Christian charities. Calling of many to full-time Christian ministry and priesthood. The life of the Maranatha Community has been driven by the power of the Spirit.

"Maranatha is an authentic Christian voice in the land and a great sign of hope" - Baroness Cox. *"Maranatha is a powerful and effective witness in the land to the love and truth of Christ"* - Professor Lord Alton. *"Maranatha effectively lives and proclaims the Gospel as public truth"* - Bishop Lesslie Newbigin. *"Maranatha is a beacon of light in a troubled world. Whenever I have encountered a new moral problem or crisis, spiritual or temporal, Maranatha has been there, wise, principled, intensely practical and human"* - Baroness Park of Monmouth. *"Maranatha has been raised up for such a time as this"* - Campbell McAlpine. *"The Maranatha people have been brought together to be little brothers and sisters of Jesus"* - Br. Carlo Caretto. *"God has given Maranatha a great vision of Christians, united and renewed in the faith, being used by the Lord to bring His healing to hurting people and a broken world"* - Alan Dale.

MOVING FORWARD

National Assembly

A great day of celebration – preparing for the future

'ABLAZE FOR HIS GLORY'

Saturday, 1st October 2011

10.30-4.30pm & 7-9pm

Cheadle Hulme Methodist Church, Ramillies Avenue,
Cheadle Hulme, SK8 7AL

Will YOU be there?

Also

'LEAPING FORWARD IN FAITH'

A special 'First Sunday' Maranatha Gathering

Sunday 2nd October 8pm

Christ Church, Lostock Road, Davyhulme M41 0TD

Maranatha's Vision

God's Spirit released across the land

TRANSFORMED lives
REVITALISED churches
HEALED families
RENEWED communities
A nation **CHANGED**

Maranatha's Calling

A **SERVING** COMMUNITY – helping and encouraging churches and local leaders.

A **LISTENING** COMMUNITY - drawing close to God in prayer, seeking His will.

A **WITNESSING** COMMUNITY - proclaiming and living the radical Gospel in love and humility.

A **HEALING** COMMUNITY - responding to sick, sad, broken and hurting people.

A **SHARING** COMMUNITY - walking closely together in mutual love and trust.

AN **APOSTOLIC** COMMUNITY – nurturing and preparing Christians for leadership and ministry.

A **PROPHETIC** COMMUNITY - speaking for truth, righteousness and justice

A **TEACHING** COMMUNITY - spelling out the essential non-negotiable truths of the Christian faith.

maranatha newsletter

Issue 125 September 2011

GOD'S WORD IN OUR CHAOS

The recent riots in different parts of England have shocked the world. Suddenly, the reality of our sickness, as a nation, has been exposed for all to see. **GOD IS SPEAKING - WHO WILL LISTEN?** He is shining the light of His truth into the previously concealed abscesses of corruption and evil in our nation - MPs and bankers succumbing to greed, defrauding the nation; senior police officers accepting bribes, turning a blind eye to illegal practice; journalists, employed by a multi-million pound empire invading the boundaries of personal lives for financial gain. Those in positions of trust and authority have plundered the lives of ordinary people whom they are supposed to serve and protect. We are seeing the truth of God's word "*People who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil*" (1 Tim. 6.9-10).

The rioting youngsters on our streets are the fruit of a nation which has deliberately turned away from God and His ways. We, the Church, have preferred the comfort of compromise, lulling us to sleep. God is shaking us out of our slumber. Likewise, our cry as His people must be **"WAKE UP!"**

Jesus says "*Watch out for false prophets...by their fruit you will recognise them*" (Matt. 7.15-16). As a nation and as the church in this nation we have swallowed the messages of the false prophets of the last half century. Our children are paying the price and we now have the foul taste of the rotten fruit.

This is a great opportunity for us to reveal the power and love of Christ to the nation.

WHAT ON EARTH HAVE WE DONE TO OUR CHILDREN?

Since we published 'What on Earth are We doing to our Children?' in 1995 we have seen the introduction of mobile phones, internet and many other forms of instant communication. Over the 16 years of accelerating development in modern technology, there has been an unrecognised escalation in the destructive influences on the lives of our young. Maranatha will soon publish 'What on Earth Have We done To Our Children?' a new report of the way in which we have betrayed our children. In Britain today, 45% of children are born outside of marriage and nearly a quarter of children live with only one parent. One in four 11 year olds leave primary school without a proper grasp of the three 'R's and just under one million 16-24 year olds in England are not in education, employment or training (NEETS). 35% of these young people have reported suicidal thoughts. As politicians propose to redefine marriage and legalise drug use we, the Church, must pray and work for the re-establishment of the Judaeo-Christian foundations of this nation **for the sake of our children.**

"Anyone who welcomes one little child like this in My name welcomes me. But anyone who is the downfall of one of these little ones who have faith in me would be better drowned in the depths of the sea with a great millstone round his neck".
(Matt. 18.5-6)

ANGELS: Maranatha Briefing

Over recent years there has been increasing interest in the subject of angels. Sadly, much of this has been associated with New Age beliefs. This new Maranatha document gives clear Biblical teaching. Available from the Maranatha office or the online bookshop www.maranathacommunity.org.uk/bookshop

URGENT CREDO-NET

Steps are being taken to launch an exciting electronic community for young people in Maranatha. We are seeking young committed Christians to launch this new project at the National Assembly. Can you help and let Dennis Wrigley have the names of those in your area who may be interested. Perhaps you could bring one of them with you to the Assembly?

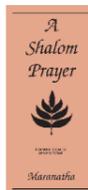
ABOUT LOVE

To be followers of Jesus we are called to love. This is not a vague or sentimental feeling - it is a call to action. The love of God is the power that transforms lives and communities. Our nation is bursting with wounded adults and children. We have an unprecedented opportunity to reach out in the name of Jesus to bring love, hope and healing. Our mission starts in our own family, our neighbours, our workplace.

**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.**

Excerpts from prayer folder 'About Love'

Shalom Prayer



This folder, millions of copies of which are in use all over the world, is being made available in an increasing number of languages - the most recent is Romanian. If you know of someone who could translate this prayer into other languages, please do let us know.

We have just heard that churches in Romania are now also using translated Maranatha 'micro prayers'.

Life Prayer in Northern Ireland

Life Prayer is a gentle, but very deep ministry for anyone who wants to embrace God's healing in their lives. Over many years we have seen countless people healed and set free. Following training courses in June and August there is now a Maranatha Life Prayer Ministry Team for Northern Ireland. Info: Phil Garrett 02890 625 251

Maranatha in the Irish Republic

Maranatha Gatherings were held in locations across County Cork in July: **Fermoy, Castlemartyr, Cork City, Castletownroache & Macroom.** A further gathering will take place in **Fermoy on Saturday, 8th October.** Info: Ian Fleming 00353 25 31978



Immediately following the riots across the UK, Dennis Wrigley made a statement '**The Struggle for the Soul of our Nation**' on behalf of the leadership of the Maranatha Community. This can be viewed on our website.

Global Vision : 'First Sunday'

At the past three 'First Sunday' gatherings in Manchester we have had speakers from **Malawi, Ghana, Nigeria, America, India, Ireland** and the **Philippines** in addition to a Skype link to **Uganda** and direct live phone links to **Nigeria** and **Turkey**. Archbishop Benjamin Kawashi from Jos, quoting from Hebrews 10.24-25, gave us the message "*Let us encourage one another, be together, journey together in the faith, be free*" and Pastor Kaan from Turkey inspired us through Ephesians 1 to be aware of the glory of God.

"If we were willing to learn the meaning of real discipleship and actually become disciples, the Church in the West would be transformed and the resultant impact on society would be staggering" David Watson

Sharing the Vision

We have continued to present the vision of the Maranatha Community at meetings in **Market Harborough** (June) and **Taunton** (July). Further meetings will be held in **Birmingham** (10 September), **Anglesey**, (25 September), **Sheffield** (15 October), **London** (12 November) & **Plymouth** (26 November). Info from the Maranatha office.

"What brings a human life to fulfilment is not spectacular exploits, but a serene joy that touches the depths of the heart".

Brother Alois

An Army of Worshippers Will YOU enlist?

"And as they began to sing and praise, the LORD set an ambush". (2 Chron 20.22)

For several years we have shared the vision of 24/7 worship, under-girding the life of the Community and challenging the powers of darkness in our nation. We believe that God wants to see a mighty army of worshippers exalting the Name of our wonderful Lord Jesus across the land. **WILL YOU JOIN US ?** Contact Margaret Taylor: m.taylor7@talktalk.net or Heather Williams: heatherw49@gmail.com or the Maranatha Office.

"If there were no God, there would be no atheists" G.K. Chesterton

maranatha community

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