

Trumpet Call !

Effective Christian action for Truth, Justice and Righteousness – April 2010



GENERAL ELECTION

Polling 6th May 2010 – A briefing from the Maranatha Community

AN IMMEDIATE OPPORTUNITY

The General Election is an opportunity for Christians to witness to their faith and express their beliefs on important public matters. We can make an effective contribution to the national debate and drive key issues to the top of the political agenda.

DISCREDITED POLITICS

A huge gulf now exists between the public and the politicians. There is widespread cynicism, distrust and apathy. The expenses scandal and parliamentary corruption have inflamed public anger and discredited Parliament. There is growing irritation with 'spin', 'political correctness', the excessive powers of the Whips and wasteful bureaucracy. There is a growing demand for higher standards in public life.

DEMOCRACY AT RISK?

Increasing numbers do not vote. Membership of political parties has declined. The present Government was elected with the support of only 34% of those who voted and only 22.5% of the electorate. Church membership is infinitely greater than all the political parties and churches play a major role in community life, yet our voice is often silenced. Now is the time to speak out.

THE REAL CRISIS

Greed, irresponsible speculation and lack of regulation of the financial system have brought disaster. Bankers' bonuses continue to be paid and the nation faces a monumental budget deficit. Future generations are being crippled with debt. We have been living beyond our means. Debt has been encouraged, saving penalised. Our priorities have been wrong. Extremely painful decisions lie ahead which will bring real suffering. There is a need for far greater honesty about this on the part of all politicians. However, the real crisis is spiritual and we have yet to face up to this. The truth is we have turned our backs on God.

THREATENED VALUES

The foundations of our country are Christian – our legal and educational systems, our health and caring services, our children's welfare agencies. The freedom and democracy we enjoy are rooted in Judaeo-Christian values. These are now under fierce attack by secular humanist influences, which are openly seeking to destroy the Christian foundations of society. They are endeavouring to expel the Christian presence from the public space, but the Gospel is public truth. These islands sent missionaries out across the world, yet we are now seeing discrimination against Christians for their faith. The State is beginning to intrude into the life and practices of the churches.

Act Now

This is the time for the Christian voice to be heard in our land.

Christian activists can take the initiative immediately.

First pray, then approach each candidate directly. Express your concerns. Ask your questions.

Write or email each candidate with the names of a dozen or so supporters.

Invite candidates to meet you at short house meetings and at local churches.

Use the letters page of local newspapers.

Arrange a delegation to candidates' offices on specific issues.

Urge other Christians to raise crucial issues – the protection of human life, marriage & family, freedom of conscience.

THESE ARE A FEW OF THE ISSUES WHICH YOU ARE URGED TO RAISE WITH THE CANDIDATES.
They are not in any order of priority and you may care to raise other issues.



Worldwide Persecution of Christians

What steps will you take to defend the basic human rights of over 250 million Christians, who are being deprived of their religious freedom and many of whom who are being assaulted, imprisoned, tortured and murdered for their faith?

A few weeks ago 500 Christians were murdered by Islamic gangs in Jos, Nigeria for no other reason than their faith.



Marriage

Will you support the mandatory teaching in our schools of marriage as being the desirable and preferred basis of family life, in view of the huge problems caused by marriage breakdown?

All the evidence shows that children fare best within the security of marriage, yet half our children are now born outside wedlock.



The Marriage based Family

Will you do all in your power to ensure that social policies and taxation help, rather than hinder, the marriage based family?

A quarter of children in Great Britain live in lone-parent families.



Promiscuity and Sexual Disease amongst Children

Will you oppose the use of schools and youth services for the distribution of contraceptives to children? In the light of rampant sexual disease amongst children are you prepared to press for teaching which specifically discourages promiscuity?

There is now an epidemic of Chlamydia among teenagers. A recent report shows that 40% of those with gonorrhoea were female teenagers.



Sex Education

Are you prepared to protect children from the corruption of so-called 'value free' sex education? Would you support an inquiry into the possible corruption of children through sex education classes in our schools?

Children as young as four are being taught about same-sex relationships in a Government-funded scheme.



Abortion

Are you prepared to bring to end the scandal of the destruction of over seven million babies in our country through abortion? Will you work to ensure that schoolgirls are no longer provided with abortion facility without approval or even knowledge of their parents?

Will you work to ensure that all women offered abortion are given full information about the possible physical and emotional consequences?

The majority of abortions are funded by the NHS.



Waste of Public Money

What are you prepared to do to halt the outrageous and continuing waste of public funds which is constantly being recorded by the Public Accounts Committee in the House of Commons?

The Chairman of this Committee has recently said that his 10-year experience of the Committee proves that billions of pounds are wasted or deployed inefficiently across the public sector.



Discrimination against Christians

What steps will you take to reverse the present trend towards discrimination against Christians in places of public employment? Are you prepared to speak out against the current imposition of limitations on religious freedom through so-called Equality legislation? Are you prepared to work for the abolition of 'hate' crime legislation which makes innocent people vulnerable to investigation and prosecution for legitimately expressing views?

There have recently been many cases of Christians facing dismissal for speaking about God or offering to pray. Christian symbols have been displaced and Christians forbidden even to wear small crosses.



Euthanasia

Will you oppose any move towards the legalising of euthanasia?

There are now calls for death on demand. Dutch doctor Karel Dunning says "Once you accept killing as a solution for a single problem you will find tomorrow hundreds of problems for which killing can be seen as a solution".



Islam

What will you do to discourage Islamic separatism in our towns and cities? Are you prepared to press for the outlawing of all Islamic groups which condone or encourage violence? Are you prepared to resist the introduction of shari'a law into Britain?

Four out of 10 British Muslims now want shari'a law introduced into parts of the country.



Young people with no future

What are you prepared to do to help the 1.25 million young people between the age of 16-24 who are without education, employment or training?

The number of young people in this category (NEETs) constitute one fifth of all young people in the UK and their numbers have grown by 15% over the past nine years.



The European Union

Will you press for the accounts of the European Union to be audited without any further delay? What are you prepared to do to deal with the waste, corruption and bureaucracy which is so widespread in the European Union?

For 14 consecutive years the European Union has failed to have its accounts approved.



Police

Will you press for a more effective police presence on our streets in view of the rapidly growing public concern about lawlessness? Will you press for an end to unnecessary paperwork imposed on the police by the Government?

Senior police officers have recently complained about the waste of police time on unnecessary bureaucracy and paperwork.



Global Poverty

Do you favour a higher proportion of our national wealth being devoted to aid to poor nations, in view of global poverty, malnutrition and destitution?

1 billion children live in poverty. This is 1 in 2 children in the world.



Hospitals

Will you press for increased cleanliness in our hospitals? Will you seek to bring to an end centralised bureaucracy and the excessive management bill, and put far greater emphasis on patient care?

This year the Care Quality Commission found that many hospitals were assessing themselves wrongly.



Corruption in Parliament

What are you prepared to do to ensure that the British public are never again faced with serious financial misconduct on the part of their representatives? What will you do to ensure that former Ministers of the Crown are prevented from selling their experience and contacts for personal profit?

Former Ministers have recently been offering their services for up to £5,000 per day.



Human Trafficking

What will you do to stop trafficking of women and children for prostitution and abuse? Will you press for the closure of brothels masquerading as massage parlours?

Research shows that thousands of women working in areas of sexual exploitation have been trafficked.



Drugs

Will you support policies aimed at creating a drug-free society rather than so-called 'harm reduction'? Will you press for strenuous efforts to be made to dismantle the national criminal network of drug dealing which now involves most schools?

The number of 11-15 year olds taking drugs has more than doubled in the last ten years.



24 hour Drinking

Will you press for the reversal of the 24-hour drinking rule which has led to so much social disorder in the last year?

More than 8 million people in Britain are now considered problem drinkers.



Arms Trafficking

Will you speak out against the mushrooming international arms trade?

The UK is the second largest exporter of arms in the world.



Immigration

What will you do to ensure the introduction of a fair and properly planned immigration policy? What will you do to deal with gross injustices faced by genuine asylum seekers? What will you do to ensure that legitimate visitors to our country are not faced with unwarranted delay, expense and bureaucracy when seeking to visit this country?

The UK Borders Agency is under much criticism and a recent report confirmed its inefficiencies. Christians who have suffered terrible persecution in certain countries have been sent back while criminals have been allowed to stay.



'Hate' Crime

Do you approve of the imposition of 'thought policing' through recent legislation? What will you do to ensure that the police are not put in impossible positions by having to respond to trivial and irresponsible complaints about the expression of legitimate religious views?

Already innocent people are being harassed for the views they have expressed.



Gambling and Casinos

In view of the huge social problems caused by gambling, will you oppose the establishment of any more casinos in our country?

284,000 people in the UK are addicted to gambling.



Prostitution

Will you oppose any measures to establish legalised prostitution zones in the United Kingdom?

An estimated 80,000 people are involved in prostitution in the United Kingdom.



Television Standards

Will you press for television and radio companies to halt the stream of foul language, sex and violence broadcast? What steps will you take to prevent children from being corrupted by pornographic images on TV?

Recent public opinion polls show that the majority of the public want less swearing on broadcast programmes and are concerned about excessive violence and sex content.



Use of Internet for Corruption

Do you want to protect people and particularly children from corruption on the Internet? What will you do to limit Internet pornography?

Internet pornography in the UK is now worth over £1 billion.

- Heavy drinking costs the country £12 billion a year.
- Family breakdown cost the country £24 billion a year
- Fraud in public and private sectors cost the country £30 billion every year.
- 1.25 million young people aged between 16-24 are not in education, employment or training.
- 2.2 million British children live in households totally dependent on state benefits.
- 800,000 children never see their father.
- 100,000 children run away from home every year.
- A UN survey of 31 rich nations ranked the UK bottom for overall well-being of children and young people.
- 54,000 pupils play truant every day.
- 1.3 million children have parents with serious addiction problems.
- 60,000 needy children live in care in England.
- Youth crime now costs Great Britain £1 billion every year.
- Every year 70,000 school-aged offenders enter the Youth Justice System.
- There are now over 400 knife crimes every week.
- The number of children taking drugs has doubled in the past ten years
- One million people die every ten years due to tobacco related disease.

Christians have a responsibility to pray for all in authority and to speak out for the poor, the hungry, the deprived and the persecuted worldwide. God demands that we stand for justice and peace on a world scale. Our calling is to defend His creation from abuse and pollution. You are strongly urged to sign the WESTMINSTER 2010 DECLARATION OF CHRISTIAN CONSCIENCE in which as believers we commit ourselves to worship, honour and obey God, to exercise social responsibility and to work for the common good. You can do this by following the link <http://www.westminster2010.org.uk/sign/> You can print off copies of the Declaration and pass it on to other Christians for them to sign and return the completed forms to Westminster 2010 Declaration, 6 Marshalsea Road, London, SE1 1HL.