

September 2012

Trumpet Call

Effective Christian action for Truth, Justice and Righteousness

ABOUT 'TRUMPET CALL'

For 17 years 'Trumpet Call' has been an effective Christian witness in our land. As part of the Maranatha Community, the 'Trumpet Call' network now embraces thousands of Christian activists in all the churches. Working with our team of researchers we collaborate with other agencies, with whom we have friendly relationships. 'Trumpet Call' goes to tens of thousands of Christians across the land. Many members including Priests, Pastors and Ministers, copy hundreds to members of their churches. A huge number of issues now call for a Christian response. The Gospel demands that we are salt and light in our nation and in our communities. Your participation in 'Trumpet Call' is greatly appreciated. Do please pass on the contents to others and urge them to get on to our mailing list. Please pray for God's continuing blessing on these endeavours.



The recent enormous increase in postal rates has led to costs of sending hard copy escalating to a level where we must increasingly use email to get the message across. We are endeavouring to make sure that we have the email of all those who use this facility. If you have not provided us with this perhaps you could do so urgently?

If you do not have email we will continue to send 'Trumpet Call', but because of financial constraints this may not be as frequently as in the past and very urgent issues may be limited to email circulation. Maranatha receives no financial aid from any trusts or wealthy benefactors and we do not have subscription rates or engage in money raising events. Quite simply, we live by faith and God has honoured this. Please pray for our witness and for the next stage of our journey together, as we grow. We believe a struggle is now taking place for the soul of our nation.

Major National Event at Wembley – Will you be there?

An historic and extremely important gathering of Christians – the National Day of Prayer and Worship will be held at Wembley Stadium on SATURDAY, 29th SEPTEMBER 2012 from 2pm-6.30pm. Christians from all the churches across the land will come together in unity to worship and pray for healing, forgiveness and transformation in our national life. Already 35,000 seats have been booked for this event. Maranatha is one of the team of sponsors and you are strongly urged to attend. Encourage your church members, neighbours and friends to come. Perhaps you could arrange for a coach. Tickets are £10 per person available from www.ndopwembley.com or via the ticket phone line 0800 756 5451. From 17th September tickets will be priced at £15. Please pray for this event and make every effort to attend.

The Manchester Lecture – Do come to this special event

The first Maranatha Lecture will be held in Manchester on WEDNESDAY, 3rd OCTOBER, 7.30pm at the Royal Northern College of Music, Manchester, in the presence of Church and Civic leaders. The speaker will be Professor Lord Alton of Liverpool and his subject is '*Why Britain urgently needs the 'Sharp compassion of the healer's art'*'. David Alton is a good friend of Maranatha and supports our calling to unity, renewal and healing. We have worked together with him since the formation of the Community. His Christian witness in Parliament and globally has been an inspiration. This event will enable the Christian Gospel to be presented in the public arena and will hopefully establish a precedent for similar public events in the future. Do please attend this lecture if you can. Reservations including refreshments cost £5 and bookings should be made as soon as possible to Kevin McKenna Tel:07504 130749 or email kevin@maranathacommunity.org.uk. Clergy & students may attend free but still need to book.

Special Training Courses – An Invitation

A series of special Training Courses will be held in various parts of the country to equip Christians to be more effective in their social witness. These courses will include practical guidance on campaigning and presenting our case as Christians and help on how to communicate. There will be a number of practical case histories. The first pilot course will be held on SATURDAY, 17th NOVEMBER in Manchester. It will be held at 'The Ark', Flixton, from 10.30am-4.30pm and the registration fee is £5. Drinks will be provided and it suggested that you bring a packed lunch. Alternatively sandwiches are available at the local shops. The theme will be '*Effective Christian Witness in the Public Arena*'. Please let us know by 1st November if you wish to attend and also if you would like to have a briefing in your district. This course will be led by Dennis Wrigley and Linda Stalley.

'The Big Question' – Watch this space!

Maranatha is in the latter stages of producing a major report on children in the UK, entitled '**THE BIG QUESTION – What on earth are we doing to our children?**' This will be laid before Parliament in DECEMBER and arrangements for a consultation are currently being made. If you would like to receive a personal invitation when the date is known, please let us know as soon as possible. 17 years ago Maranatha produced a similar report which sparked off a special debate in the House of Commons, a Briefing in the House of Lords opened by the Lord Chancellor and the National Conference on children at Coventry Cathedral. Today, children's issues need driving to the top of the political agenda.

Protect our children from drugs

Fact

On 27th August a report by an international team showed that young people who smoke cannabis run the risk of a significant and irreversible reduction in their IQ. The researchers writing in the US journal *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*' report that those who use cannabis in adolescence show a considerable decline in IQ averaging 8 points. **The more cannabis smoked the greater was the loss of IQ and memory.**

The project was carried out over 20 years by researchers who have followed the lives of a 1,000 people in New Zealand. They were assessed as children and then re-interviewed over the years. One member of the team, Professor Terrie Moffitt of Kings College, London's Institute of Psychiatry, said the study *"will have a significant impact on our understanding of the dangers of cannabis"*. Professor Robin Murray says this sample *"is probably the most intensively studied cohort in the world and therefore the data are very good"*. He said *"There are a lot of clinical and educational anecdotal reports that cannabis users tend to be less successful in their education achievement, marriages and occupations"*.



This report is bad news for the pro-drug lobby, which is seeking to legalise drug use under the guise of 'harm reduction'. Maranatha has produced a range of briefing papers on cannabis and also arranged three Parliamentary consultations on the subject. Together with others we succeeded in getting it re-classified.

Action

Write to your Member of Parliament c/o House of Commons, Westminster, London SW1A 0AA. Draw his/her attention to this report. Urge your MP to press for a public education campaign, warning children and others of the consequence of using cannabis, which is still being presented as a 'recreational' drug. **Also** write to your local head teachers drawing their attention to this. Our children have the right to know the dangers.

Protect our children from pornography

Fact

Pornography is now a very powerful and destructive influence on our culture. Through Internet and television this pernicious and harmful influence has invaded our homes. It degrades, perverts, corrupts and dehumanises. It glorifies depravity and is destructive of healthy relationships. It was reported six months ago that 25% of all search engine queries are related to pornography. Huge profits are being made by this evil industry. In the name of freedom, successive governments have continued to deny children the protection they need from pornography on the Internet and also TV.



41% of 7-10 year old children and more than 60% of 11-16 year olds now have Internet access in their bedrooms.

Studies have shown that the largest group of consumers of Internet pornography are children between the ages of 12 & 17.

One in three 10 year old children have seen pornography on-line.

81% of 14-16 year olds regularly access explicit photographs and footage in their own homes.

MPs, in a recent cross-part report, warned that a whole generation of children is now growing up with their minds affected by images of depravity, from which most adults would avert their gaze.

The respected commentator Melanie Phillips says, *"A wholesale corruption of childhood has suddenly overtaken us – and with what untold consequence?"*. She says *"Pornography warps and brutalises adult minds. The damage that it can do to immature and still-developing children scarcely bears thinking about"*. She condemns the service providers and says *"The response of the companies making this filth available on-line has been astonishingly irresponsible and even contemptuous"*.

The rights of adults to view hardcore pornography have been put before the rights of children to be protected from it. This is morally wrong. Recently a schoolboy was reported to have raped a 9 year old girl after having 'unfettered access' to hardcore pornography on the Internet. The court was specifically told he was emulating behaviour he had seen on explicit websites. Sean Templeton, a Barrister, warned *"There is a real risk that young people of the current generation of teenagers is growing up with a skewed view of what sex is and sexual activity. This was an emulation of an adult act witnessed by him at this young age"*. Mr. Templeton also warned that some children were now effectively getting their sex education through pornography. The judge, Lady Smith, told the boy *"You should not and must not regard pornography as any guide at all as to how to behave sexually"*.

Action

- Write to your MP c/o House of Commons, Westminster, London SW1A 0AA. Urgently demand that the profit-making service providers (Sky, BT, Virgin Media & TalkTalk) take immediate steps to ensure that those who want to view pornographic sites have to **opt in** rather than the rest us **'opting out'**.
- Add your name today to the national URGENT PETITION to the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport – www.safetynet.org.uk Encourage all your friends to do so. It calls for blocking of pornography by introducing filters at source ensuring that pornography can only be accessed by an adult exercising deliberate choice.
- Write to the Mr. Mark Gracey, Chairman of the Internet Service Providers Association, 1 Castle Lane, London SW1E 6DR Tel: 0203 397 3304 Email: admin@ispa.org.uk Ask him to pass on to his members an urgent request that they take action now to protect innocent children from the corrupting and depraving material which they market. Point out that their industry is in danger of being complicit in child sexual abuse by risking exposing children to hardcore pornography on-line. Point out to them their responsibility for running the risk of enslaving many thousands of British children through addiction to on-line pornography.

Protect Marriage



Fact

The marriage-based family is the foundation of a civilised society. For centuries it has been universally defined as the life-long union between a man and a woman. Secularists have been seeking to destroy it for decades. They insist on calling husbands and wives 'partners' and referring to mothers and fathers as 'responsible adults'. Now they seek to redefine marriage itself against the expressed will of huge numbers of the British people. Sadly, the campaign to redefine marriage appears to be driven by the Liberal Democrats whose Leader has announced that a three-line whip will be imposed upon his MPs forcing them to support this controversial, unpopular and unnecessary proposal. (This is in spite of the fact that Liberals for generations have been opposed to the use of a whip in matters of personal conscience). **There is no widespread public demand for this 'redefinition' and there would be no apparent benefits to society arising from it.** It is totally unnecessary and is even opposed by many gay activists. Marriage is widely seen as the most important unit of any society producing stability and protecting children. It is a covenant relationship and not merely a contract.

Action

Write to Tim Farron MP, President of the Liberal Party, c/o House of Commons, Westminster, London SW1A 0AA expressing your concern. Write to your local Liberal Democrat party. Urge them to oppose this proposal. **In any case write to your local MP** emphasising –

- What is proposed is completely undemocratic – no political party has a mandate for it and the majority of people either oppose the change outright or (at best) think that it is not an issue which should be pursued now.
- To stand up for traditional marriage does not mean being unfair to gays; former Cabinet Minister, Ben Bradshaw (himself homosexual) has conceded that gay marriage is not necessary to give equal rights, since civil partnerships already provide the same rights and duties as marriage. Changing the law is presented as an issue of fairness towards homosexuals, but fairness towards the rest of society, particularly children, also needs to be taken into account. Changing the definition of marriage will deprive children of their right to a father and a mother. Elton John has recently said it will be 'heartbreaking' when the boy being raised by him and his gay partner discovers he has no mummy.
- Countless studies show that children do best with the input of both father and mother. Each brings different things to the role of parent – not matter how good a parent they may be, nor how worthy as individuals – a father cannot be a mother, nor a mother, a father.
- The proposed change is not a small or inconsequential thing. Nobody knows where it might lead. If homosexuals must be allowed to marry for reasons of equality, why should polygamy be disallowed, or any other kind of alternative living arrangement? This change will not strengthen marriage, but weaken it.
- There is serious doubt as to whether legal protection can be put in place to prevent churches being compelled to marry homosexuals. At the very least, churches run the risk of vexatious litigation under discredited Human Rights and Equality laws. We are already seeing administrative penalties imposed on churches and individual Christians (being prevented from hiring government premises or facing loss of jobs) for expressing unacceptable views.

ALSO If you have not already signed the petition in favour of keeping the traditional definition of marriage as being between one man and one woman please do so now. The petition can still be found at www.c4m.org.uk This website also has signature forms available to download. You might also consider drafting a letter for signature by members of your church to your local MP expressing concern on this issue.

Protect our Freedom



Fact

Increasingly the approach of the State to minorities in our land involves a serious erosion of freedom of speech.

More and more, the line between giving offence and expressing legitimate opinion is being drawn in the wrong place. This affects everyone, although Christians have borne much of the brunt. **In the recent past Christians have been investigated by the police under public order laws for: displaying** a placard stating that abortion is wrong; **quoting** bible texts about homosexuality; **projecting** bible verses onto a screen in a café. In each of these cases, the police eventually accepted that no crime had been committed. The cumulative effect of these actions is nevertheless to make many nervous about what they are allowed to do and say. Christians in the NHS are even being inhibited from saying prayers and speaking about their faith.

Christians have also suffered administrative actions which have in some cases affected their lives and livelihood. Recent examples include Christians being **dismissed** from their job for refusing to register a civil partnership; being **sued** and **fined** for refusing to allow two homosexuals to share a bed in a bed and breakfast; being **silenced** by having room bookings for a conference on traditional marriage cancelled at short notice; being **restricted** by deprivation of use of council premises for distributing a leaflet which was critical of Islam. The impression is that no expression of views that go against the prevailing orthodoxy is allowed, even in areas that have traditionally been regarded as matters of conscience. (Note: The Law Society cancelled a conference on family issues due to be addressed by a senior judge in the Family Division of the High Court because the programme disclosed *"an ethos which is opposed to same-sex marriage"*. Also Norwich Council banned a local church from holding their usually weekly bookstall and refused further bookings from them because they distributed a booklet supposedly critical of Islam. The police said it was within the law and that no criminal offence was committed but a council spokesman said *"we have a duty under the Equality Act 2010 to foster good relations between people of all backgrounds and religions"*).

Action

Write to your MP, House of Commons, Westminster, London SW1A 0AA to express concern about these developments. Make clear that, whilst Christians believe that all debate should be conducted politely and with respect for others, our belief is that we must tell the truth in love. Truth can sometimes be painful, but that is no reason why people should be prevented from bringing evidence or expressing views in a measured way. Freedom matters.

A society that penalises truth and freedom of expression has taken a very dangerous turn. It is the duty of Parliament to make sure that traditional freedoms are upheld. Not only must these be reflected in our laws but they must also be reflected in the instructions and guidance given to the police and other administrative bodies. Ask what steps your MP will take to ensure that this is done.

Protect the young from government-funded filth



Fact

The Terrence Higgins Trust receives over **£15 million** from the taxpayer every year – 71% of its operating costs - and is the cause of widespread public concern for promoting unhealthy, depraved and even sadomasochistic sexual practices. Many consider them a harmful influence on our national life, particularly upon the young. **Some of its publications contain material too filthy to reproduce here**, but they can be examined in two of their publications '*Below the Belt*' and '*The Bottom Line*'. Drinking human urine and eating human faeces are just part of these publications' pernicious contents, which also include contact details for sadomasochist organisations. The demand to stop their public funding is growing and many now question whether they should be a registered charity.

Action

Write to the Secretary of State for Health, Andrew Lansley CBE MP, Department of Health, Richmond House, 79 Whitehall, London SW1A 2NS. Ask him whether this 'charity' has his full support and in particular whether his department endorses the content of the two named publications. Point to the corrupting influence of the Terrence Higgins Trust, particularly on the young and the likely damage it can cause to public health.

Persecution of Christians overseas

Fact

A recently published report by the US Commission on International Religious Freedom lists a large number of countries where religious minorities are persecuted. Christians are the only religious minority that is persecuted in every one of these nations. It is estimated that 80% of acts of religious intolerance are directed against Christians, spanning 130 out of the 193 countries in the world. **About 150,000 Christians are killed for their faith every year.**



There are forced conversions, kidnappings, tortures, sexual assault. Thousands of Christians are burned or bombed out of their homes or churches and every day there is evidence of extreme injustice. Worryingly little is done by western governments, the UN or EU to protect Christians or hold perpetrators to account. The media in this country are often deafeningly silent or even complicit - the BBC has in the past described Muslim attacks on Christians as "inter-communal violence", wrongly suggesting that both sides are equally to blame. There is now a desperately urgent need for every Christian and every Church in the UK to speak out and to pray diligently for our brothers and sisters who are in such need.

Action

Write to your MP at the House Commons, Westminster, London SW1A 0AA expressing your extreme concern. Ask him/her what they are prepared to do to raise issues of persecution. Arrange to meet him/her in your constituency to focus on specific issues - we will gladly provide factual information. In particular ask what the Government is doing in terms of giving continuing aid to countries such as Pakistan without real progress being made on religious freedom.

TRUMPET CALL NEWS

Persecution



A comprehensive **Directory** of worldwide organisations and agencies relevant to help the persecuted church has been produced by Maranatha and will be available from the middle of September. Maranatha is currently completing a **Schedule** of persecution of Christians globally over the past 12 years. It is a factual resource and will also be available shortly.

Islam



A Maranatha Spearhead Group is currently working on a document to help Christians to understand the issues of Islam and its report is being prepared. Some time ago, at the invitation of the Foreign Office, Maranatha produced an information document on Apostasy. This is available at the office together with the Maranatha response document – '**An Open Letter**' addressed to world Muslim leaders.

Submissions



Over many years Maranatha has produced a broad range of submissions for public inquiries, government ministries and departments and various investigations. These are available from the office and on our website.

De-Christianising Britain



Increasingly Christians in the United Kingdom are being penalised for their faith. We have taken up countless issues. In 2008 Maranatha produced a detailed and factual review '**Our Christian Identity – the de-Christianising of the United Kingdom**'. Also several years ago we produced the critique '**Western Culture and the Christian Gospel**'. Both these publications are still applicable today and are available from the office.

Factfile



Every day Maranatha reviews journals and newspapers and information is recorded electronically in a 'Factfile'. This is a useful instrument (together with our research) for briefing Parliamentarians and others. If you have any important information do please let us have it, giving the date and the source.