

maranatha community

Annual Conference 'A COMMUNITY OF LOVE' Actively serving the Body of Christ

**Quinta Hall
January 14th – 16th January 2011**

Over a 100 Maranatha members gathered for a weekend together in January. It was the first time that we had invited all those who had expressed a desire to be committed members of the Community as well as those who have a specific role or responsibility. This was a wonderful opportunity to embrace new people attending our Annual Gathering for the first time.

The weekend opened with a call to praise and service in the form of a liturgy written by Juan Fernandez-Arias (attached).

Many people contributed to our time together over the weekend and as always our emphasis was on listening to what the Lord has to say to us as a Community in 2011. Several prophetic words and many other contributions were offered during our time of listening together. Below is a summary of the key points that were made over the course of the weekend.

- **Reaffirmation of three words – unity, renewal and healing**
These words remain foundational to the life of the Community. The Lord is renewing our vision and commitment to pray and work for unity, renewal and healing in the Church and the nation. We still have a long way to go!
- **Prayer and action must be held in balance**
We are all called to deepen our prayer lives and to progress in our walk with the Lord. This, in turn, should give rise to a deeper commitment to witness for the Gospel. Prayer Cells and Trumpet Call are key in the life and work of the Community.
- **The healing ministry is central to the life of the Community**
- **Maranatha is a servant ministry to the Church of Christ**
This way of life has been endorsed by Pastor William Kumuyi of Deeper Life Christian Ministry who brought to us the teaching on '**Servant Leadership**'. This is a confirmation of our desire to be no more and no less than 'little brothers and sisters of Jesus'.
- **Our starting point is to be with people where they are**
This is how Jesus comes to us and it has been the basis for our work over all the years in Northern Ireland. It is also the starting point of Dennis's latest book '**From Darkness in to Light**'. Already there are many testimonies from people who have been helped by these meditations.

SPECIFIC WORDS GIVEN AT QUINTA FOR THE COMMUNITY

- Through the account of the dry bones (Ez. 37.1-14) we were brought the message **the spiritual battle that we are in will be won by the mouth** (speaking out the Word of God).

- **We, the Church, have been silent** in the face of lies, injustice and the dishonouring of the name of Jesus.
- **The unity that we have is not theological, it is CHRIST.**
- It is a **desperate** time for the UK. We must pray and act with **urgency**. It is a **Kairos** time of **(God's appoint time)** of opportunity.
- Through the book of Esther we recognised that two things are required: Esther had **influence**, Mordecai had **information**.
- The unusual situation that we are now in requires an **uncommon wisdom**. It is not the wisdom that we needed 20 years ago.
- Through the account of Gideon (Judges 6-7) we recognised that **God does not need great numbers to achieve his purposes, He wants the few who will be obedient**. Less than 1% of the available army was used for Gideon to win the battle.
- As for Gideon, the new situation that we are in requires us to use **new weapons and new ways**.
- The three hundred in Gideon's army were **disciplined and united**. They all waited for the right moment to blow their horns, smash their clay jars and shout – not too soon, not too late.

MARANATHA GROUPS AND PRAYER CELLS ACROSS THE UK

Since our Annual Gathering in 2010, Ros Dodd has been mapping the distribution of Maranatha members. She presented her findings (summary attached) which showed that there is a wide distribution of Maranatha members, Prayer Cells and Groups throughout England & Northern Ireland with a cluster in North Wales. It was noted that there is poor coverage in the North East of England and scanty representation in Scotland, mid & South Wales and the Republic of Ireland.

WHERE TO DO WE GO FROM HERE?

1. For some time Dennis has stated that the Church in the UK will be renewed by three groups of people:
 - (i) Christians in churches with roots from overseas,
 - (ii) the youth,
 - (iii) those who have found faith through brokenness.

Maranatha members are urged to pray for and build relationships with individuals in these three people groups. There is also a need to pray for and build relationships with the persecuted (both in the UK and abroad) and with Jewish people.
2. As a Community we need to pray that our unity will be extended to Christians who would not, at present, want to unite with other parts of the Church of Christ. They might be described as:
 - (i) 'non-charismatics',
 - (ii) those who belong to the 'liberal' part of the church, and
 - (iii) those who would describe themselves as 'reformed' or Calvinist.
3. There is still a need to extend responsibility for different areas of Community life to groups of '3' (see attached diagrams).
4. In the light of rapid developments in communications technology there is an urgent need for us to review our methods of communication within the Community.

Anyone willing to be part of one of the 'groups of 3', and anyone prompted to be part of a new Communications Team, should write to or email Linda Stalley at the Maranatha office (lindas@maranathacommunity.org.uk)

PROPOSED NATIONAL PROGRAMME OF VISION MEETINGS FOR 2011/2012

We believe that the Lord who have us present the vision that He has given to the Maranatha Community throughout the UK. A programme of dates and venues will be drawn up and circulated.

Notes by Linda Stalley 24.3.11