

SPOTLIGHT

News & Views for Local Groups, by Local Groups!



Issue 14 - May 2009 - Editor: Mary Pendleton, Carew Cottage, Justice Hall Lane, Crowle, Scunthorpe DN14 4NQ t: 01724 711553 e: gandmpendleton@hotmail.com

IMPORTANT WORDS FROM NOTTINGHAM

Our group is functioning much as before, meeting in different churches in and around our city for our main third Monday gatherings, and for smaller groups in different homes on the other Mondays of the month.

I was very interested to hear Jonathan's talk at Quinta in January as he was calling us to pray for the nation, to hear the word of God and then to pray out the prophetic words to go ahead of our thinking and planning. This must be an important part of God's word for us as we were given the following words of prophecy on 11th November 2008 and which were shared at the next Nat Reps meeting. Perhaps now would be a good time to bring them before more of our Community members to encourage us to persevere in our prayer.

'God asks us to pray for Him to come in His power and authority into the situations for which we pray. He says that we are victims of a deception practised by the enemy whereby we take the view that, because God has given us free will and because so much damage is caused by misuse of free will, God is the passive victim of our free will. This is not so, and God is willing - now - to take authority in power where, by our actions, we can achieve little. He does not leave us alone to clean up the mess by our own choice and efforts. How could this be when He loves His children and when so many of the real decisions are made by people who deny Jesus, people who will never change unless God takes action?

God asks that this prayer be constant - not just a one-off. He asks us to "pray in your hundreds and in your thousands and in the communities of life in which I place you" for Him to come in power into all the situations for which we pray, and that we maintain this prayer across the world. God alone is the One who can change hearts and minds.

He asks us to consider His holy words in Scripture and to take instances of God coming in power in the Bible and to pray with any example we choose for half an hour - praying the example for all our communities and needs - family, town, country, continent, the world, creation; for rulers, for the media, into spiritual powers. While Moses' hands are held aloft, his people win their battle; when they accept God's provision, they are led out of slavery; the demons leave the demoniac under the authority of Jesus; the chains fall off Peter and he is led to safety out of the prison. These are biblical examples of God taking authority and acting in power - and it is these kinds of biblical expressions of God's authority that we are asked now to pray into our world and for our world.

He says, "My people, in this way you pray My Word into being and pray My authority into the world. And I will hear you, My people, as you pray in faithful obedience, and I will honour your prayer - and you will see the power of the living God taking authority and human wills being re-shaped by God's hand."

Do please join us in this way of prayer; since praying this way we have felt very blessed.

Ann Lynch

FLIXTON—3rd FRIDAY

During 2008 we joined with the other local churches in the area for 'Hope 08'. This took the form of a community event. All the local Churches were involved and local community groups joined together with a school choir, dancing, local history society and quilting group activities along with exhibitions from each church and from Maranatha. This was a very good event, which brought the churches and the community together.

We were blessed by the Bishop of Manchester attending and joining in with the dancing, and he also led the service in the evening.

Throughout the year we held joint services monthly. The young people also joined in a big event 'Hope Unleashed', which was an evangelical event in the city. For our young people we held local fund days.

In the beginning of 2009 we moved our meetings to 'The Ark' and since then more people have attended. We have been led to a deeper level in our focus. During the first 3 months we have looked at how the Lord can open doors to a greater depth of healing in our lives.

Over the next few months we will be looking at the 'I am' passages in John's gospel: 'I am the resurrection', 'I am the good shepherd', 'I am the bread of Life'. We have found that running with a theme is very beneficial in our spiritual growth.

We would like to give our peace, love and joy in Christ to all the other Maranatha groups.

Ellen Mc Caig

FROM SHEFFIELD MARANATHA

Isn't it wonderful how Maranatha gatherings, being interdenominational, draw us all together as brothers and sisters in Christ? Isn't that just what Jesus prayed for when he asked, "That they all may be one Father as you and I are one."

Here in Sheffield we feel just like that as we draw closer and closer together more and more of the love of Jesus is shared among us. As the Bible says, a neighbour near by is better than a brother far away and so when trouble comes help is at hand.

We are always ready to welcome new members and also visitors with prayer needs. It is just such a privilege to gather round each one, minister healing to them as well as to one another.

This week two very young men, barely in their teens, arrived. Their beloved young uncle had recently died and they came seeking to find God and some comfort in their emotional pain. They were very absorbed in the spiritual atmosphere as the Holy Spirit moved gently among us. They went away with the light of hope in their eyes and then appeared in church on Sunday evening and the older one was prompted to give his life to the Lord. The younger boy wanted to do this too but was advised to think it over so that it would be his own decision, un influenced by his brother. We pray he will return to do this. After all they are the church of tomorrow.

Val Brock

WAKEFIELD

Whilst I was at a Maranatha meeting I heard someone say that they were storing up food in case of famine. My ears pricked up as a friend, two years ago, said that God had told her that famine was on the way and to get prepared. Recently programmes on the God Channel have been advising this also, so I decided I too must make a start.

A few weeks later I felt God was speaking to me again about famine only this time it wasn't perishable food but everlasting food God's word. Isaiah 55. "Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come buy and eat! Come buy wine and milk without money and without cost! Why spend money on what is not bread and your labour on what does not satisfy? Listen, listen to me, and eat what is good, and your soul will delight in the richest of fare. Give ear and come to me; hear me, that your soul may live."

Did He mean that we would have our access to God's word taken away from us?!! (The Bible) What I did know for certain was that God wanted me, us (His children) to begin collecting and storing deep within our hearts and minds like never before His precious Words, His promises, so that we will survive any future conditions.

I was lead to Matthew 24; 37-39 "Jesus Himself compared this end-time age to the generation of Noah and the Ark. 'But as the days of Noah were so shall also the coming of the Son of Man be. For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark, and knew not until the flood came, and took them all away".



I felt that the Holy Spirit was saying just like he did to Noah, build yourself an ark, not an ark made of wood, but an ark made of the Word of God. Gloria Copeland said "Do you realize that what you know from the Word of God will save your life. If you build God's promises of protection and deliverance into your heart and life, you can live in this crazy world with all of its danger and still feel secure. You don't have to be frightened by the things that are happening around you because even in the worst of time, God has proven He has the wonderful ability to deliver **HIS** people from danger." I am so grateful I am one of HIS people.

Noah took many, many years to build the ark and I feel that we need to learn from him this one thing; don't wait until trouble hits to start building your ark, because you want to have it finished before trouble comes. Collect your pieces of wood (God's word) start building your ark, not in the future but right NOW before it's too late. Gloria Copeland also said in her book "Your promise of Protection" 'Thank God, we are living in the day of grace and mercy and it's never too late to call upon the Lord. But if you haven't been abiding in the Word (God's wisdom revealed to us), it's going to be difficult for you to call on Him in faith when calamity comes. If you've been living every day by the world's standards, at the moment of crisis it will be hard for you to take your dependence off the world and put it on to God. So what you need to do is start abiding in the Word of God now! If you don't it will eventually cost you more than you want to pay".

Whatever the future may hold for us whether it be famine, floods, war, global financial breakdown, or whatever, I thank God that He lives on the inside of me and has given me His word to deliver me from every situation. I so need to hear it more, memorise it more and apply it to my life more so that it will be written permanently in my heart which no man could ever take away.

Happy reading (Listening)

Chris Saville

CHISWICK MARANATHA MIRACLE

A group of 3 to 4 of us continues to meet regularly once a month. We usually take it in turns to lead, and usually the Lord gives the person leading a passage of Scripture that we then pray through.

This month, the Lord decided to deal with us differently and instead told Phil to lead us in praying about His love. We had the most wonderful, blessed time of worship and thanksgiving for the Lord's love for each of us, repentance at the way both we as individuals and the church as a whole have denied or forgotten His love, and praying for His love to be seen in our community and nation. There was a real sense of the Lord's loving presence with us in the room.

At the end Jenny shared an experience she'd had that day of the Lord's love and protection. She's a garden designer and is working on a garden that the client wants to turn into a vegetable and fruit garden. When she went to visit the client all the plants and trees had been taken out with the exception of a large laburnum tree, and the landscape team were starting their work. Five minutes after leaving the client, Jenny received a phone call from her landscaper to say that this huge tree had just fallen over completely without any warning, narrowly missing him and his 2 workmen. If it had fallen 5 minutes earlier it would have crushed Jenny, her partner and the client, but instead nobody was hurt at all and there was no damage - the only casualty being a sandwich that was knocked out of the hand of the youngest workman! Shaken as Jenny was by this close brush with death, we could only marvel and praise the Lord with her for His wonderful loving protection and provision for her and for all involved. Our God is an awesome God!

Cathryn Fergie

SCOTLAND'S MARANATHA PRAYER GROUPS

Maybole and Largs Prayer Groups keep in touch with one another regularly.

Ellen Hawkes leader of the Maybole Group says, 'We meet on a Tuesday morning from 10.30 to 11.30 am and think the 12 noon prayer call a great idea, We are still preparing to get a spiritual warfare group off the ground but are aware that there must be careful prayer and discernment before any activity'.

"FEED MY SHEEP WEEKEND" - THE MARCHES

It was a wonderful weekend of love, healing, renewal and unity; knowing that we were being shepherded by the Great Shepherd of the Sheep - the Good Shepherd Himself. The testimonies at the end were a tribute not only to Him but to the blessing of the Maranatha Community in this nation. We all felt so bound together in His love through being part of the Body of Christ in Maranatha.

I had a real sense, in my own heart, that the Lord was moving to heal hearts from spiritual, emotional and physical sickness. Jesus binds up the broken-hearted. Psalm 23 was a great blessing to us at the weekend. **Kate Stanway**

Ros Dodd says, 'The sheep were well fed in the Marches weekend and returned to their own folds restored and renewed. For all involved, comfort zones became a thing of the past as people did things for the first time or realised that they could still do them! Many thanks to Jim Dainty who shepherded us, and to the great Shepherd whose presence was so real with us.'

More news in the next Spotlight

NEW GROUPS

Welcome to West Dartmoor Maranatha Group, led by Angela and Mark Smith and Taunton Maranatha Group, led by Richard and Heather Sampson. Good to have you as part of the family and looking forward to hearing all about you in the next 'Spotlight'

WIRRAL GROUP

The last two Maranatha meetings went well and our sisters from Mold, North Wales, joined us in May for our "Here I am, send me" gathering. **John Isherwood**