

THE MARANATHA COMMUNITY PRESENTS:

# SPOTLIGHT

News & Views for Local Groups, by Local Groups!



Issue 16– NOV/DEC 2009 – Editor: Matthew Doherty, Address: 1 Clover Court, Brigg, North Lincolnshire. DN20 8FE Telephone: 01652:655408 E:MAIL:dohertys@talktalk.net



Hello I am Matthew Doherty 23 years of age and as you can see I am giving Spotlight a go . I started going to Maranatha meetings in 2000 run by Mary and George Pendleton in Crowle with my parents. Years later, September 2005, a new Maranatha group started in Brigg which my Dad, Mike Doherty is leading in our home. **I would like to say a big thank you to Mary for giving me this opportunity and for all her efforts over the years with Spotlight.**

I am a born-again Christian and attend Grace church held in Scotter which is part of the Ground Level Network of churches based in Lincoln. I am also part of the Scotter and District Rainbow Puppet Team (more details of the team later in this edition). I am an Oxfam Volunteer in Brigg and I am involved with Brigg indoor and outdoor bowls.

## EASTLEIGH MARANATHA GATHERING – TRUMPET CALL

We meet in the Eastleigh region to pray for the country once a quarter using the Maranatha Trumpet Call updates and other prophetic materials. In addition, one of the local churches that attends the gathering has been willing to hold evening meetings on Sundays where leaders of the church in London have come to speak about their perspective and vision for the work of God in the UK.

Most recently, on 11 October 2009, the Reverend Ade Omooba came to speak on the sterling work of CCFON. It was truly moving to hear some of the personal testimony of prayer for some of the leaders of our nation who have been powerfully moved by the Holy Spirit. It really was an opportunity to hear the news behind the news!

CCFON, together with Moggerhanger Park, have become really helpful resources alongside Maranatha to help us prepare for our quarterly meetings to engage in intercession for the nation.

We find that the Trumpet Call Gathering really does help us to “pray with understanding” in these critical times.

**Danny Stuppel – Co-ordinator for Eastleigh Maranatha Regional Gathering – Trumpet Call**

## Report on South Midlands Regional Meeting : 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2009

This was the fourth meeting of our region : people came from Birmingham, Nuneaton, Coventry and Warmington. The theme on this occasion was “**The Journey of Forgiveness**”, introduced by Elizabeth Penlington and Karin Castle. Elizabeth spoke from her many years of professional experience as a paediatrician. Most moving were their personal child-hood stories from the war years. They both had wonderful examples of the reconciliation which can follow the process of repentance and forgiveness.

**Our next meeting is being planned for the 24<sup>th</sup> April 2010.**

**Marian + Michael Wayman**



## **BRIGG GROUP**

**Mike Doherty**

We have always been concerned that God sets our agenda and it is exciting where He is taking us. In the process, we've been dedicating a significance portion of meetings to specific topics which local church tends not to address in such detail (if at all). These have included abortion, euthanasia, stem cell research, Israel and Europe.



The group has developed a special burden for life issues (abortion, euthanasia etc). In fact, God has opened doors for discussion with the local Catholic Priest (who attended our October group meeting and intends to come again). This, in turn, has resulted in agreement to establish "Life Matters (North Lincolnshire)." Our Maranatha group and a family group at the Catholic Church are covering this initiative in prayer.

It has not always been possible at group meetings to devote as much time to prayer as we would like. However the weekly prayer cell - now regularly attended by 5 members - is more than filling the gap.

In addition, two members of the group who also attend the prayer cell, Terrence and Diane have for some time been holding monthly praise meetings (surely our greatest weapon of spiritual warfare) at the Angel Suite in Brigg. Maranatha members from Grimsby, Wakefield, Leeds and elsewhere have joined us at different times. In the New Year, these meetings are to be held on the second Friday of every month. If the opportunity arises why not come and join us?

I recently read (Roz Thompson quoted by Stormie Omartian):-

"To be in the will of God requires us to put on the armour of God and go to battle against the enemy. Worship is the greatest weapon. The **B.A.T.T.L.E** "**Bringing Attention To The Lord's Excellence**" that is worship.

## **Rise Up Men of Faith LLANDUDNO 23 - 25 October 2009**

Following last year's special meetings at Minsteracres, a group of men arrived at the Loreto centre full of expectation and definitely were not disappointed.



George Pendleton said

"One day in the Retreat, the Sister looking after me was asked to go on a errand. Her reply was "Its not very often we get a bunch of men together praising God and listening to the Holy Spirit. This lot are great and I'm not leaving them!"

**"As so often is the case, when Christian men get together, something very special happens. The atmosphere was electric."**

Mike Doherty agreed

"Its self- evident that society is in deep moral and spiritual crisis and it was so important we lay our burdens down and sat at God's feet. Whist there is a continuing need for Jesus the Lamb, we also need more of Jesus the Lion - the one who speaks with authority and whose Name is above all others. We were as an army preparing for war. Only the Lord will triumph over the spirit of this age"

Mike also spoke of the solidarity of the group

"How well this was illustrated on Saturday afternoon when some of us walked up the Great Orem in what turned out to be a severe gale. I remember the wind battering us as we negotiated a slippery rock and recall a hand in my back helping me forward"

Dennis confirms that men have been in touch with him to say how clearly they heard God speak to them. they have pointed to "the prayers by candlelight, the consideration of **Jesus as Lion and Lamb**, the presenting of our individual burdens at the table and above all our "**YES**" to God on the Sunday as we stepped forward with the "**AMEN**" of our brothers

It almost goes without saying that they are looking forward to an opportunity to meet up in the new year.





## GOD IS WORKING IT OUT FOR GOOD

The following poem is taken from Derick Bingham's "More Than a Dream" a book about the life of Joseph (Ambassador Productions LTD, 1986) It is inspired by Genesis 50.20 and Romans 8.28

**Just as he was having his toughest day  
And Goliath was coming with a lot to say  
And Israel was silent, come what may  
God was working it out for good!**

**Just as they thought it would never come  
And three walls surrounded Babylon.  
And the people of God were sick for home  
God was working it out for good!**

**Just when the times were dark and dread  
And their Assyrian hosts by a fiend were led  
The angel moved and the foe lay dead.  
God was working it out for good!**

**Just when they thought their case was lost  
They heard a knock and said "It's a ghost"  
But Peter arrived when they needed him most  
God was working it out for good!**

**Just stop today and bow your knee  
Though you're ready to scream and ready to flee  
Lift your heart to Him and say with me.  
God is working it out for good!**



## Brigg Rainbow Puppets

**"I HAVE BECOME ALL THINGS TO ALL MEN SO THAT BY ALL POSSIBLE MEANS I MIGHT SAVE SOME. I DO ALL THIS FOR THE SAKE OF THE GOSPEL. THAT I MAY SHARE IN ITS BLESSINGS**

**1 Corinthians Ch 9 vs 22 and 23**

Some of you know that members of the Brigg Maranatha group formed the "Brigg Rainbow Charity." The object of the charity is "to serve principally in the area of North Lincolnshire people of all ages by bringing the Good News of the Lord Jesus Christ through Puppet Ministry and associated activities."

We are entering the fourth year of the ministry. Apart from puppetry, there is music, tricks and illusions, poems and monologues, humour and reflections; what ever we understand is right for the occasion.

We don't advertise but we get plenty of requests. We don't charge but God provides for all our needs. We visit residential and nursing homes, cubs and brownies events, clubs for adults with special needs, a wide range of other secular venues and events, and churches. We will of course be especially busy during December.

We endeavour to do all we do prayerfully. We thank God for the ways in which He uses us to proclaim His word and praise Him for all He is doing.



if anyone wants to share any news, words of encouragement or concern, write a poem or a joke, outreaches arising from Maranatha or anything you wish to include in Spotlight please e-mail me and I will include it in future Spotlights + any images linking with your article.

Please also ask any of your group members if they have anything to share

This would very much be appreciated

Remember Spotlight is here for you!





## YORKSHIRE REGIONAL MEETING ST. MARKS, SHEFFIELD 10<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2009



Members from around Yorkshire and boundaries look forward to the event. The times of praise and worship are Spirit-led: there are words from the Lord and annointed preaching. There is healing, prayer and a strong sense of family even though some have never met before or hardly ever. There is the most warm and generous hospitality from the host church. This year was no exception.

Connections within the membership of Maranatha are so important. We were reminded by Peter Haughey and Jim Dainty, that we are part of a much bigger community and we prayed for the North West Region which we knew were meeting on the same day. Also we appreciated the way in which Jim was seeking to include us in deliberation regarding the future direction of Maranatha.

As Pam Boocock has pointed out there is blessing simply in coming together

“Even though lots of things happened during the previous week, God reminded me throughout this day that He is bigger than any of our problems. He knows where we are, shows how much he loves us and gives us all the strength we need”

“It’s a time of reconnection. We really experience the True Body of Christ”

How good and pleasant it is when brothers and sisters live in unity together (Psalm133)!



### Reflections on Christmas

- The Brigg puppet team have acquired 3 camels. One is an older gentleman, one is a younger lady and the other is an even younger gentleman. No prizes for guessing what they’ll be used for this Christmas! My Dad has unusual thoughts at times. They reminded him not only of the wise men but also of the Core Team. May we all continue to pray that Dennis, Linda and Juan Carlos - Dad stresses nothing like camels! - will like those men, receive all the guidance and direction they need and also wisdom to discern the motives of those they meet on the way
- Two young boys were spending the night at their grandparent’s house, the week before Christmas. At bedtime, as the two boys knelt beside their beds to say there prayers the youngest one began shouting “I Pray for a new bicycle. I Pray for a Play station 3. I pray for a mobile phone with a camcorder!” The older brother nudged his younger brother and said “why are you shouting your prayers? God isn’t deaf”To which the younger brother replied, “No but grandma is!”
- Grace Noll Crowell  
“Whatever else be lost among the years let us keep Christmas still a shining thing. Whatever debts assail us or what fears, Let us hold close one day remembering its poignant meaning for the hearts of man. Let us get back our childlike faith again.”

