

THE MARANATHA COMMUNITY PRESENTS:

SPOTLIGHT

News & Views for Local Groups, by Local Groups!



Issue 18- JUNE 2010 – Editor: Matthew Doherty, Address: 1 Clover Court, Brigg, North Lincolnshire. DN20 8FE Telephone: 01652:655408 E:MAIL:dohertys@talktalk.net



CONNECTIONS

By Mike Doherty

It is wonderful to see how many connections/alignments the Community has at national and international level. Let us not overlook, however, the many opportunities that exist in the regions for Christians of different traditions to come together before our Lord, to encourage each other and to pray, learn and work together.

This was highlighted by the experience of the Yorkshire Regional Meeting held in March at the Presentation Sisters Convent., Huddersfield (hosted by Sister Elisabeth Tuttle). Brigg is not, of course, in Yorkshire but it's a great privilege to receive a regular invitation. We are all blessed by the hospitality and deep sense of peace which we encounter at these meetings. As reports were given in relation to each of the Yorkshire groups, it was so good to be able to share each other's blessings and burdens.

Before the September meeting, those who attended will be considering prayerfully whether there is a need to renew the vision for Yorkshire as a whole. There is a sense that there need to be more connections, alignments – possibly extending into areas of Yorkshire with which there is currently little (if any) contact.

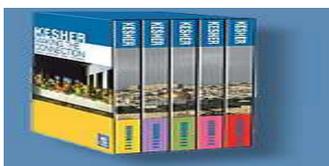
Already, there are many connections within the Community itself. Reference was made at the meeting of the National Representatives meeting held in Sheffield in March; the Manchester Brunswick meetings; First Sunday; Mothers' Prayers; the Maranatha retreats; Spotlight. Regularly Members from other Groups attend the Wakefield and Sheffield Groups meetings. Moreover at the February meeting of the Brigg Group 5 groups were represented. Later in the year (9th October) there will be the annual Yorkshire rally; all possible steps will be taken to enable and encourage Group members to attend.

These connections inevitably extend beyond membership of the Community. Many members are involved with other organisations (e.g. SPUC) as well as, of course, their local churches. Even here, new opportunities may arise.....

For Instance



.....The Brigg Group was moved to host a “**Keshar Course**” on the Hebraic roots of the Bible. We are currently undertaking a ten week pilot course, before extending the invitation more widely. The first thing we learned on the course was the meaning of the word “**Keshar**” – connections, tie, link. As we get closer to Jesus, strengthen our faith and increase our understanding of His Word, we experience a unity which is clearly not man made but a gift of God. From this unity, many more connections will flow. Hallelujah!





Maranatha Weekend

26-28 March 2010.

Beechwood Court Hotel,

Conwy, North Wales.



BEING FORMED IN THE IMAGE OF CHRIST .

God has chosen to reveal himself in the person of Jesus.

Followers of Jesus are called not only to do what he did but to be his body, bearing fruit of his spirit – Love, Joy , Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness and Self control - in the world.

My good friend Peter Haughey was arranging the set up for the weekend. We left on the Friday morning full of excitement and expectation, and we certainly were not disappointed. We knew that our faithful God was preparing a banquet for us all.

Driving over to Manchester we called to visit Peter's friend Michelle, who is a very special lady and we were able to share in the experiences of life. Then we visited the Ark, a wonderful haven of peace. Our next port of call was the Taste And See – to collect all the equipment for the weekend. We arrived in Conwy at midday.

Beechwood court is run by Christian endeavour. It is situated on the lower slopes of Conwy Mountain – a place of peace and rest.

The teaching was arranged by Rev Jim Dainty and his team. Jim shared with us the agenda that God had placed on his heart for the weekend. The agenda was for us to see God as the potter and us as the clay.

Referring to 2 Corinthians.4 – he stated that the reason Gods people go on trusting despite the pain and circumstances, was the love of Christ that compels us, and holds all things together. Jesus constrains us, he holds us securely in his mighty grip.

Referring to Romans 8. 38-39 – he stated may we all discover the compelling love of Jesus, guarding, guiding, gripping our lives and applying the medicine of the gospel as he holds us in his love.

God has given great forethought to each of us and how we are formed.

The whole weekend in one word was Fantastic.

We all made new friends and enjoyed marvellous food served up by a great team. The prayers and worship were very special with a wonderful feeling of the presence of the Holy Spirit binding us together as one.

The Lord even arranged a power cut so that we could worship him by candlelight.

Setting off for home we were aware that God had touched each one in his special way.

By Robert Wilson

Testimony From Uganda

This is testimony from Uganda. I want to thank God for Maranatha in Uganda especially in Entebbe. Last year as a Maranatha group in Entebbe, we had a prayer walk moving from our church (Life Gospel Church) to the whole village of Mpala singing some songs and praying for people to get saved. We called it **MARANATHA PRAYER WALK**. Now we are seeing the fruits, many are turning back from other religion to Christianity. People are coming in our church to take Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour. Accepting Jesus Christ as their Saviour, so many lives have been changed. **Hallelujah**. Because of prayers from the Maranatha group! May the glory be to the Lord. Let's continue praying for God to touch and change the hearts of the people in our country Uganda, in Europe, and in the whole world. May the Lord bless you.

Pastor Asher Kalema. Entebbe Uganda E. Africa



Eastleigh call to prayer and vote!

We generally believe we have been given a great opportunity in Eastleigh to co-ordinate the churches' response in this new day of opportunity. We have been particularly assisted by the joint initiative between Dennis Wrigley and Clifford Hill of Moggerhanger House in the State of Nation debates, in particular the meeting on 25 March 2010 where, for the first time, some of the solutions the Lord is providing to the society were pronounced.

On 25 April 2010, together with the other churches in our Eastleigh Ward, we arranged through St. Thomas' Church, Fair Oak and Horton Heath, an event where the 3 main prospective Parliamentary candidates were invited to come and share their vision for the Eastleigh region and the Nation generally. This meeting was in the context of a Service of Worship where the local church response to the invitation to voluntary service was also presented through the new Ark Initiative (Acts of Random Kindness!) The question and response section was very well received and it played its part in preparing the local area for the General Election.

On 9 May, we had invited Yemi Adedeji from The Centre for Contemporary Ministry and Jesus House, Brent Cross, to come and share his vision for black churches in white space.

The General Election then took place on 6 May 2010 and with the new Lib-Con Coalition Government in power, it was with great anticipation that we met for our latest Trumpet Call gathering on 14 May 2010. We were able to lay before the Lord the names of all the new government personnel and the new Coalition Agreement was put to the Lord. We experienced a powerful outpouring of the Holy Spirit as we sought to bless everyone in Government and ask for good implementation of policy.

Indeed exciting times to be praying for a great transition in our Nation.

Danny Stupple
Co-ordinator for Eastleigh Maranatha Trumpet Call



HARROGATE GROUP

by Peter & Janet Miles

We were shocked and saddened at the unexpected death of our dear friend Kath Alexander on the 23rd March. She was taken ill whilst visiting her family in Sheffield on Mothering Sunday.

Kath was a very active member of St. Andrew's Church for well over 40 years and a great prayer warrior. Her life revolved around Starbeck - half way between Harrogate and Knaresborough - and the Community, more especially during these latter years. Every Saturday morning she prayed in Church whilst the "Healing on the Streets" team were outside ministering. With another person she had visited all the shops on the High Street asking if they had any prayer requests. Also, every Sunday she let herself into church early in the morning to pray for all the services, those who would attend, those taking part and the area itself.

Yet, Kath's life and vision were not purely local – they involved the whole world. She was associated with many causes and organisations including Debt Relief, Barnabas, CMS, Persecuted Christians, Palestine, Women's Rights, Against the Apostasy Law, Towards Justice, Peace and Freedom from Poverty, etc. There were not many weeks when she wasn't about after services encouraging us all to sign petitions and to educate people regarding these causes. The cause of the 24/7 World Prayer Centre at Birmingham was very much on her heart. She was widely read on current world affairs and gifted with a retentive memory. In former years she had joined protest marches up and down the country. She was very kind and sought to be there for all in need of a friend. She went monthly with a team to take a service at an elderly persons' complex.

Kath had held various positions within the Mothers' Union, both locally and nationally, for many years; latterly serving as the Indoor Prayer Members' representative for the Diocese. Many members from Ripon and Leeds attended with us at the funeral service as we gave our thanksgiving for her life and work. She was a very special lady and will be greatly missed.

In autumn of 2006 when it was proposed for us to start a Maranatha group at Harrogate Kath was in complete agreement from the outset. She had previously heard Dennis Wrigley speak and she was already on the Churches Together committee. She became our Leader.

We also lost our dear friend John Boddy in December. He was a retired missionary, having spent over 30 years in Nigeria. He hardly missed a meeting and was an admirer of the "Trumpet Call" and all the prayer pointers we were being given. He, also, was very active in making people aware of the great many world-wide problems and urging the Government to take action against the injustices taking place.

Our group is now only small and, for the time being, will meet monthly in one of our homes. We have been given an idea that may lead to more friends joining from a wider area of Harrogate.

We meet on the first Friday of the month at 7.30 pm. For further information please contact Elizabeth Crewe on 01423-886705.

Maybole Group

(Received Mid-April)

The Maybole small group meets on Tuesdays to intercede, and we are still faithful to the 12 o'clock prayer call. **We see the forthcoming election as a great prayer opportunity** - to break down the strongholds against Christianity that Satan has built up over the decades and to pray that men and women of integrity stand and are elected as representatives. **It's a wake up call to the Christian Church** to get busy praying and we are praying that all Church ministers and priests do call their congregations to pray earnestly. Thanks for the Westminster Declaration sign up opportunity. We have e-mailed it to our clergy to encourage them to publicize it.

By Ellen Hawkes

