

THE MARANATHA COMMUNITY PRESENTS:

SPOTLIGHT

News & Views for Local Groups, by Local Groups!



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A Request for Prayer by Janet Waithaka

Janet Waithaka will be returning to Kenya and she has asked for the prayers of the Maranatha community for the work in the Thika area. The following is from Janet:

My friends are the leaders of a new college for training ministers and local chaplains, pastoral workers etc. in Thika.

I am repeating the Pastoral Care training with another group and doing some further training in counselling skills with the previous group, a number of whom had been employed by the prison service. They described the conditions of the prisoners when brought in as extremely poor, lack of basic clothing etc. The facilities are lacking, particularly no room for counselling.

The Todmorden group has ceased to function. The remaining two members have been in consultation with a prayer and bible study group in Littleborough (over the border in Lancashire) and continue to go to other Maranatha functions. We are hoping to involve other people from Todmorden if another group arises in the area.



New Media Gallery by Jim Dainty – Wallasey Maranatha Prayer Group

We should like to say “**thank you**” to the Maranatha Leaders who have provided the new short video clips, which are available on the Community’s website. They are very useful on several levels. First, they introduce the Leaders to members of the Community who have not met them in person. Secondly, they allow newer members to understand something of the history and nature of the Community. Thirdly the teaching they contain is really helpful – especially the clarification by Linda Stalley of the issues involved in the healing ministry, and the analysis by Dennis Wrigley of the current State of our Nation.

We have lifted the video clips from the YouTube site and copied them (via a file conversion programme) into a set of six DVD’s. Each lasts about 10 minutes, so we are able to view one at each of our meetings. The first in the series combines the clips on the *Birth and Growth of the Community*, *First Impressions*, *Building Bridges* and *the Life of the Community*.

Other groups may find the clips are helpful to them too. Though it is handy to have them as DVDs it is not essential as they can be played on a laptop computer directly from the Maranatha Website www.maranathacommunity.org.uk



Maranatha Gathering at Llandudno, Emmanuel Christian Centre 9th September 2010 by Ros Dodd

Our trip started in a torrential downpour but as we reached the A55 a brilliant rainbow appeared and we drove into it all the way to Llandudno where we arrived in bright autumn sunshine



The meeting was held in the Emmanuel Christian Centre, which seemed a purpose built shape for a Maranatha meeting and where, as Dennis reminded us, there had been an early meeting of Maranatha in the area.

About 70 people had gathered from the Wirral, Manchester, and North Wales, with a few visitors from further afield for a morning of information sharing about current Community activities and an afternoon of worship, sharing and ministry. Lunch time gave an opportunity to catch up with old friends and meet new ones.

Many thanks to the team from Manchester who had produced as ever an excellent and enlightening display of information leaflets and led us in worship, and the host group who had organized everything so well and gave us such a warm welcome.

Easteigh Maranatha Gathering 10th September 2010

Following our 10 September 2010 meeting, a smaller gathering in one of the churches that attends Maranatha was given over to a presentation of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon culture entitled "God and Nation". The opportunity to use Trumpet Call material for presentation led to a very galvanised evening of discussion, prayer and worship.

The opportunity to give a presentation on the Eastleigh region commitment to national intercession was presented by one of our leaders, who spoke at the **Festival of Life** gathering in East London to the African-British church that gathered for a night of prayer with up to 55,000 joining the meeting. The opportunity to share the Eastleigh perspective in a national context has greatly encouraged the Maranatha gathering.

It has been considered important to attend conferences on the **Big Society** Coalition Government initiative and therefore the Faithworks "**The Big Response**" conference in Bristol on 21 October and the national conference on 30 November 2010 "**Building the Big Society**" have informed the presentation for our next gathering on 10 December 2010.

It is intended to move the meeting to a more central location in Eastleigh Town to confirm the commitment to the region as a whole and we would therefore covet the prayers of the Maranatha community, as we transition to a more united vision of the "*Church of Eastleigh*" arising as an intercessory movement of the Lord's people across a region.

Danny Stupple
Co-ordinator – Trumpet Call Eastleigh Maranatha Gathering

"Tail Wags"
by Sr. Maudof of the Community of All Hallows,
Ditchingham,
Norfolk

"Only the tail end of life is Left", I Said
And into my head
A thought came out of the blue
A Thought from You –
"But that is the cheery end" You Said
"So see
That you use it for Me"
And I said "Amen" and raised my head
"I will GLORIFY GOD WITH A WAG" I said!

Ivy Sharman & Margaret Gordon

QUIET DAYS AT THE PRESENTATION
CONVENT, HUDDERSFIELD

The next meeting will be held between 10am-4pm on **Saturday 15th January 2011**. Thereafter they will be back to normal (First Saturday every odd number month). You are asked to bring your own lunch (tea and coffee provided).

For further information please ring Peter Jackson
on 01282-438964

WISE MEN STILL SEEK HIM

Who are the wise men now, when all is told?
Not men of Science; nor the great and strong?
Not those whose eager hands pile high the gold
But those amid the tumult and the throng
Who follow still the Star of Bethlehem?

B.Y. Williams

Bawtry Hall Doncaster 17th-19th September by Ivy Sharman & Margaret Gordon

“Turning stress into opportunity for Healing”

Thirty tired “Stressed out” Christians gathered at Bawtry Hall. We (The Lincoln group) returned home with lit-up faces, praising the Lord. The well prepared, obedient team of leaders had allowed the Holy Spirit to take over from the word go!



Below are the comments from some of the members of what they thought of the weekend:

1. “A set apart day, where I was with friends I’d never met before. A time to listen and share God’s Love for us. A wondrous re-affirming of the Lord’s presence with us always”
2. “I went for relief of stress. I came away set free. It was a beautiful weekend which gave me even more than I had hoped for.”
3. “It was for me very blessed. I had gone to receive and I did. It was so moving, with a special message in each session and nothing negative anywhere. **AND – THE MUSIC – WOW!** When Sarah did her perfect signing we couldn’t take our eyes off her!”
4. “I was blessed by the generosity of all the sharing- A Maranatha group brought together by the Holy Spirit and led by leaders who allowed Him to have his way among us at all times”
5. “It was really, really what I needed. The Lord put everything into context, lifted me out of the doldrums and gave me back a proper perspective on life.”

From a Phone Call:-

6. “I’m so glad you rung. The Healing is still going **ON AND ON EACH DAY!** Even this morning, 5 days later! I just keep giving thanks to the Lord. I was given **A NEW LIFE** and freedom from **FEAR** at the Bawtry weekend. I know I’m looking better and better, day by day. I want to thank again all who prayed for me.”

The food (physical and spiritual) was first class and the care shown by Bawtry Hall Staff was supportive and joyful. Yet another example of The Body of Christ in action. Praise God

Yorkshire Regional Gathering 9th October St. Marks, Sheffield By Mike Doherty

THE CHURCH IN RECONSTRUCTION

It was a great blessing for those who are not “Yorkshire folk” to be present at the Yorkshire Regional Meeting. It says much about the Community that people came from as far away as Shropshire, Herefordshire and Kintyre – not forgetting Allyn from Virginia! It is indeed good and pleasant when brothers and sisters fellowship in such unity.



Peter (Shropshire) explained the meaning of the Kingdom within our lives, in the Church, in the Community and in our Nation. Allyn reminded us of how the Kingdom is about restored relationships; we should be so transformed by the love in which we dwell that every single decision is affected.

Words were received which among other things, encouraged us to be dipped in the oil and positioned in the special place where God wants us to be. There would be **“Treasure in the Darkness”**.

Be reassured that

“Though you pass through the fire you will not be burned – nor will the waters come over you”

“Overcome evil with good”

We had a strong sense of the Church in reconstruction. How fitting, then, that we should meet at St Marks, Sheffield., where a major re-construction project is being undertaken. During and after the meeting, contributions (totalling in the region of £1,200) were made to the building fund. Reverend Pat wishes to express **“A VERY BIG THANKYOU”** We look forward to the work being finished and to the dedication service.

Sister Elizabeth Tuttle (13th August 1927- 1st September 2010) By Mike Doherty

A LITTLE SISTER IN JESUS; A GIANT OF THE FAITH

A whole issue could be devoted to the Christ-like pilgrimage of Sister Elizabeth Tuttle. She was involved in parish work, spiritual development within the Presentation Sister Order, prison ministry and teaching and also played a crucial role in the leadership, life and work in the Maranatha community. She was a major contributor to Maranatha's prayer development as witnessed by publications in the Maranatha Bookshop.



During the last few years of her life, she was involved with the Lay Apostolate of Jesus Christ, the Returning King. One of her favourite daily prayers was the Allegiance Prayer of the Movement.

“Dear God in Heaven. I pledge my allegiance to you. I give you my life, my work and my heart. In turn give me the grace of obeying your every direction to the fullest possible extent”

When near the end of her life, her patience and endurance was an example to all who knew her. Her heart's desire to be united with the Lord forever was finally granted on 1st September 2010.

Below is the testimony of Karin Castle, her great friend and prayer partner

Sharing Sister Elizabeth's final Journey. By Karin Castle

Thirty-six years have passed since the day that Elizabeth and I met in Banbury at the Blessed George Napier School, where we both became colleagues, friends and prayer partners. At the end of each day during term-time we would spend fifteen minutes in the little sacristy of the school chapel, wrapping the day up in prayer so to speak before returning home. Even when Sister Elizabeth was moved to Convents in other parts of the country we, to our surprise, were each time given the opportunity to remain in close contact. In more recent years we worked together once again giving Retreats and Quiet days for the Maranatha Community, to which our pilgrim journey had firmly led us.

Round about four years ago Sister Elizabeth was found suffering with colon cancer. She underwent a massive operation and recovered remarkably quickly. However, she was made aware that it had not been possible to remove all cancer cells. Inevitably it reappeared. Elizabeth, totally surrendered to the Lord, chose quality of life over treatments and valiantly carried on with her life and duties at the Huddersfield Convent, her home. She seemed wrapped in God's Love and Peace with unceasing prayer. As her physical strength was diminishing, her spiritual being grew in strength. She knew where she wanted to be and she was happy. That is why I felt so unprepared for the unexpected way Elizabeth struggled during the weeks in August and early September this year – the hardest months for Sister Elizabeth as she was dying. She could not describe the desolate darkness except in words such as Gethsemane or Calvary.

Sister Elizabeth went home to her beloved Lord on Sept 1st and was buried in Huddersfield Cemetery on Sept 15th. During those last six weeks of her life we prayed together daily by way of the phone. Her suffering at that time was not physical but that, which some saints called "The dark night of the soul". Every day the Lord seemed to speak a Word for her, which would sustain her for the next 24 hours. God was so gracious! The day before she died He gave her verse 15 from Ps 116: **“Precious in the sight of the Lord are the death of his saints”** in some translations **“his faithful ones”** - the whole Psalm seemed as though written for her - and when I glanced at the foot notes in my Bible, it commented on v 15: **“Precious ...are the death'... Rarely is a death such as this allowed.”** It just blew me away. The following day the only words I managed to pray were: "Father, please receive Elizabeth into Your Kingdom today." Elizabeth died at a quarter to midnight that day, and as the Sisters told me "very peacefully and with a smile on her face". What an amazing God we have!

We, indeed thank God for Elizabeth's life and Ministry

Christian Bikers Association (CMA) By Mue King



I was the only girl in the middle of five brothers, and I can't recall a time when mum didn't have to grumble at the lads to remove engine parts from somewhere in our old country home. My brothers put me on a bike in my teen years, but as I grew older and began to drive a car, I have to confess that bikers passing me on the road were not among my favourite people. God began to change that wrong attitude when Russell, the husband of Margaret, one of our Maranatha prayer group, asked us to pray about a problem he had.

Russell is the Chairman of North Lincolnshire Christian Bikers Association, (CMA) and he invited me to attend one of their meetings. We used to pray for the injured bikers, and for the numerous events they were involved in. Eventually I took on the role of receiving and sending out prayer requests by email, to bikers in the North Lincolnshire Branch and later, to a newly formed group, known as the East Yorkshire Twig. The CMA originated in America, and has now spread into 27 countries, including the UK, Albania, Japan, Bulgaria and even to South Africa .

On Oct. 19th we received a prayer request from South Africa. A youth drove a car the wrong way down a highway, and crashed into three bikers. The two men were killed, and one of the biker's sons was seriously injured and had to have a leg amputated. Although many of the prayer requests are for serious illnesses and accidents we also have some tremendous answers to prayer, when messages of thanks and praises to God are also passed on.

CMA is non-denominational, and while mission is high on the agenda, it is not actually a Mission Organisation in its own right but rather, just a bikers club.

Members are recognizable by their emblem badge, which is surrounded with – **“Christian Motorbike Association “and “Riding for The Son”** Bikers and non-bikers alike, like myself, have a white leather cross sewn onto the back of a jacket or waistcoat. There's a wide selection of metal and linen badges on offer wherever the bikers travel.

The President of CMA is Mike Fritton, who lives at Whitby with his wife Sandy and daughter Emma. Mikes motto is, **“Keep looking up” Hebrews 12:1 1 Cross + 3 Nails = 4 Given**

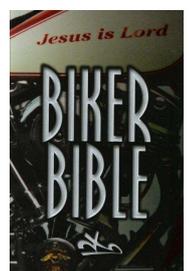
CMA member are very much like the Maranatha-Community. Bikers are far more than a group of men and women in leathers, but rather a large loving caring family, and like all families, they come in a variety of sizes, colours and personalities. Some of the men are huge and have bikes to match, but I've found they are gentle giants, filled with the Holy Spirit and oozing with a love for God and for his people, especially for the unsaved. Converts are often baptised on site in a special water tank. CMA members all have a mission in their heart to serve the Lord Jesus, to take his message of love and forgiveness out into the world to people who may never darken a church door.

Bikers do this in a variety of ways.

- Christian bikers, visit hospitals, churches, prisons, homes and schools by invitation.
- They attend rallies and biker events in this country and also across the world, (not always Christian events) Some are even Satanist groups, but God is always at work!
- At some of the meetings, CMA has a large tent called **“The Holy Joes”** where refreshments are served 24 hours. Those on duty during the night, find that when non - Christian bikers have been drinking alcohol, they are eager for a coffee and more ready to talk about their problems, also more open to listen about the One who can help.
- Copies of New Testament **“Biker Bibles”** which include Bikers Testimonies are given away at every opportunity.
- Small groups of bikers will attend a church and take the full service or just give a talk.
- CMA is a Charity, and there is no charge for anything the bikers do to spread the gospel, but donations are accepted with joy and thanksgiving.
- CMA is eager for churches to become affiliated members.
- If any church is afraid that CMA wants to impinge on their territory, or take away their congregation, that is farthest from their minds. The CMA wants to let the churches know about their work and mission, and help the church to grow, while also hopefully helping to build up the congregation.
- If anyone is interested to hear more about the work of CMA someone is always willing to visit anywhere, to give talks, or show a video or DVD of bikers at work and on the move helping Gods Kingdom to grow here on earth.

You can visit online on www.bike.org.uk

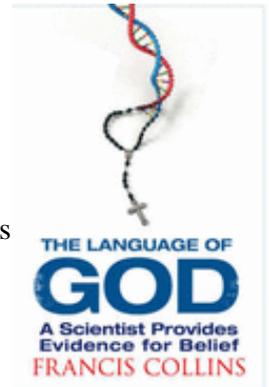
or if anyone wanting further details please ring **0800 0154479 (Free Phone)**



Faith and the Scientist by George Wilkinson

After quoting from “**The Language of God**” by Francis Collins at our local Maranatha meeting, I was asked to write something about it.

The Author is one of America’s leading geneticists long time leader of the human Genome project. This is a profound book that will thrill you and will also stretch your thinking powers especially if you ask a non-scientist. Believe me, it is very worthwhile, so stick with it, as there are appealing insights into this scientist’s personal faith. Along the way it quotes C.S. Lewis profusely and is not too shy to recite from St. Augustine of Hippo, at length, to great effect.



To give you a flavour of the contents of this fascinating book, I will list a few of the chapter headings:

From Atheism to Belief

Deciphering Gods instruction book

Genesis, Galileo, and Darwin

When Faith Trumps Science

Science and Faith in Harmony

The Origins of the Universe

The lessons of the Human Genome

When Science trumps Faith

When Science Needs Divine help

Truth Seekers

This is the Author telling of his faith

“After 28 years as a believer, the Moral Law still stands out for me as the signpost to God. More than that it points to a God who cares about human beings and a God who is infinitely good and holy”

And quoting from the same source

“Life is short. The death rate will be one per person for the foreseeable future. Opening one’s self to life in the Spirit can be indescribably enriching. Don’t put off consideration of these questions of eternal significance until some personal crisis or advancing age forces recognition of spiritual impoverishment”.

This is a good read, hard in parts and exciting in others – but still worthwhile.

CHRISTMAS CHATTER

At a certain monastery, the monks have made a vow of silence. Only at Christmas and only by one monk, and only with one sentence is the vow allowed to be broken. One Christmas, Brother James stands up and says

“I like the mashed potatoes we had with the Christmas turkey!”

And he sits down. Twelve months pass and on the next Christmas Day Brother Matthew stands up and replies

“I think the mash potatoes are lumpy and I don’t really like them!”

Yet another year passes and on Christmas Day Brother James stands up and says

“I am fed up with this constant bickering”

2 Corinthians 8:9

“You know how full of love and kindness our Lord Jesus Christ was. Though he was very rich, yet for our sakes he became so poor so that by his poverty he could make us rich”

St Therese of Liseux

How could anyone be afraid of a God who became a child. A God who became so small could only be love and mercy

