

THE MARANATHA COMMUNITY PRESENTS:

SPOTLIGHT

News & Views for Local Groups, by Local Groups!



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Malawi Group News

By Peter Langley



Malawi Pastors with Maranatha material, including the Shalom prayer

Following our last trip to Malawi in 2012 we gave a presentation at a Maranatha ‘First Sunday’ gathering. Following that meeting we received a donation of £300 as a response to the information we shared about a group of pastors in Southern Malawi of whom only a very few had a Bible. Whilst out there we had been able to buy 23 Bibles for those of the group that we had met but there were about 50 others that we did not meet.

Before Christmas we made arrangements with Clapperton Mayuni, the Executive Director of the Bible Society of Malawi for us to send him the £300, less the transfer costs, in order that Moses, our contact in Nchalo, could go to the Bible House in Blantyre and collect them.

Moses has let us know that he was able to collect 54 Chichewa bibles and 10 English ones. However Moses explained that not all the Bibles went to pastors as he felt God had other plans: To place Bibles in police cells!

Moses said *“When the Officer in charge for Ngabu Police Station heard about the Bibles he approached me to request for Bibles which could be used at the police station by people on remand waiting to be taken to court and others who are serving sentences with minor offences and outside custody. Every day they come to do various work at the Police Station until they complete serving the sentence.*

This is another Ministry which MARANATHA could work (You can call it prison ministry.) Criminals are reformed and end up receiving Christ and joining different churches.”

We praise God for Moses’s sensitivity to God’s call and the way that this is enabling the Kingdom to grow. We look forward to visiting Ngabu Police Station when we next visit Malawi and exploring whether this particular ministry should grow.

We are also extremely grateful to those other Maranatha groups and individuals who have helped us continue to support other work in Malawi in recent months.

We Are What We Behold



At **Quinta** we were reminded how art can help us to look above and beyond what is in front of us to a more spiritual reality. The artwork of **Christine Garwood** (Anglesea) was displayed around the meeting room. We saw light shining into the darkness and the Cross in a glorious blaze of God's glory.

Our Community is, of course, also blessed with inspired poets. **Dennis Wrigley's** prophetic words have guided us. The works of **Phil Garrett** (Belfast) and of **Andrea Macrow** (Epworth) have recently featured in Spotlight and have ministered to us in other ways.

In addition, a poem of **Sue O'Donnell** (Shrewsbury) was included in the most recent addition of the Newsletter. It is taken from her recent book and, as so often in the book, is a meditation upon a Scripture (in this case, **Job 22.21** "acquaint yourself with Him") The book may be entitled "**In Short**" but the poems and prayers encourage us to go far deeper.

Sue's task was

"To set alight, ignite the flame of faith. Give voice, witness to all the Father does to abundantly bless us"

As Dennis Wrigley says in his endorsement of the book,

"Those who meditate on Sue's message of hope cannot fail to be blessed."

It is obtainable through the Bookshop £6.99 plus postage

Maranatha Wakefield Group.

By Chris Saville.

Greetings from all at Maranatha Wakefield Group.

Before he sadly passed away, Peter Haughey has asked me if I would write a little about our Monthly Prayer Meetings which are held at my home every third Tuesday in the month. They have been running now for about a year and I so wish that we had started this a long time ago for it is bringing so many blessings to us individually and also to the group itself. To begin, we always have fellowship around a meal, it is so wonderful just to be able to share in a relaxed homely environment, we can talk to each other about anything; and talk we do!!! We practice some of the songs that we hope to sing, at the meeting, usually introducing new ones, we discuss how we feel things can be improved in general and more importantly we pray for all Maranatha Groups, leadership and individuals. We pray for our six groups that are established in Yorkshire and also we remember our Yorkshire Regional responsibilities. Other prayer issues come to mind by using information sent from Maranatha H.Q. and by viewing our Maranatha Web page which can be found at:

www.maranathacommunity.org.uk

We enter into Scripture and hear what the Lord has to say to us, often someone will come with a word, a song or a sacred psalm and we always, always worship the Lord in Praise and thanksgiving. I cannot begin to express how this little meeting has deepened our love for each other and is bringing so many blessings; it's amazing, thank you Lord.

Pause for Thought

By Robert Wilson

Faithfulness.



**Be Faithful and enjoy the little tasks that
God has given you,**

**And the day will come, that you realize they
really were the big ones.**

Lionel Kearney

Lionel's funeral was held in Leeds on 31st January. Linda Stalley comments

"He has been a member of Maranatha since before the beginning of our database, started the Leeds Maranatha group and led it over many years. Lionel's faithfulness to the Lord to his local church congregation and to this Community has been a testament to the love of Jesus to all. We thank God for him and for his life"

Please pray for his wife Christine and their family.

Community Stewards

By Mike Doherty

Behind any charity there is usually a “backroom team” looking after the financial affairs of the charity, the welfare and wellbeing of the staff and the care of the premises.

You may know one or more of the Trustees.

Mike Doherty is the current **Chairman** and the father of the Spotlight Editor, and lives in Brigg in North Lincolnshire

Peter Langley is our **Treasurer** and (when not climbing mountains, visiting Somerset, traveling to Malawi etc) lives in Sale.

Derek Potter from Pershore (Worcestershire) is our **Secretary** and should receive an award for the way he crafts his minutes (a truth universally acknowledged by the Trustees!).

How **Mike Kendrick** manages to fit in his role of Trustee with his extensive professional commitments, the Greater Manchester Street Pastors, Community Warden, preaching and even Castleford Tigers, none of us know!

John Tame was involved with the Community from its beginnings. He now lives in Huddersfield (via Nigeria and Bedford) and we are delighted that he has stayed on the Trust, having stepped down as Chairman.

Heather Williams adds a much needed female perspective. She, too is involved with many other aspects of Community life. (E.g. the Café and links with Ireland).

Last but not least we have **Clive Richardson** from Stockport who very much complements the mix with his own knowledge and experience.

Many will have seen the Trustees Report 2011. This outlines the various issues we have been involved in over the year and the financial challenges which the Community continues to face as new opportunities open up.

Behind this tome is a lively group of believers very much committed to the work of the Community. I admit that I do not always enjoy the cross-country journeying but always look forward to our meetings and never fail to be uplifted when we meet. There is undoubtedly a bond of unity.

We are very grateful of the support of **Charles Parker** at our meetings and indeed for the commitment of all of those who undertake the work of the Community, whether on a paid or a voluntary basis. We are also grateful for our excellent links with the **National Co-ordinators** and **Leadership team**. We are fully appreciative of the **Community at Large** for their support whether through prayer, action or finance.

As we endeavor to keep in touch with you, could you please keep in touch with us. As a Community, we are greatly blessed.

Conwy Group

By Mavis McMutrie

Conwy Group met for the first time at their new venue **REVERB** (the Youth for Christ meeting place) and the YFC worker asked us to pray for him as he went into a Llandudno school that morning.

Our theme was "Lead us on Lord.." Scriptures Proverbs 3.5-6 and Isaiah 26.3

Mark gave some excellent teaching using digital computer - we had a few video clips too which were very enlightening! Lynn was able to be with us again to lead worship - what a joy! A Word was given **"Come to Me often, and LISTEN to ME."**

P.S. What a wonderful Blessing Quinta was this year - Myfanwy, Carol and I came back rejoicing!



Maranatha Weekend in South Devon

Joy Davis wishes to draw attention to the fact that another weekend of teaching, praise, prayer and worship is to take place in **Yealmpton (near Plymouth)**.

This year it is from: **Friday 21st to Sunday 23rd June**

The subject is: **'Equipping the Saints'; an Army of Ordinary People'**

Those attending will examine ways that the Lord trains and equips to disciple others.

This is a non-residential weekend though details of local B&B and guest houses can be provided on request

Please contact **Joy** for booking enquiries at

18 Holtwood Drive, Ivybridge, PL21 9TH

T: 01752 895946

E: jandr@davies379128.plus.com

Booking forms can also be found by visiting

www.maranathacommunity.org.uk/weekends-2.aspx

Maranatha Regional Day Gatherings 2013

There will be a number of Maranatha Day Gatherings in different regions during 2013 (see below). If you're going to any of these gatherings can I encourage you to send testimonies (or a few lines) for Spotlight.

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| • North East | Durham | 16 March |
| • South East | London | 13 April |
| • Northern Ireland | Randalstown | 20 April |
| • South Midlands | Banbury | 4 May |
| • Lincolnshire | Lincoln | 1 June |
| • North West | Wirral | 8 June |
| • Ireland | Fermoy | TBA |
| • National | Birmingham | 13 July |
| • South West | Taunton | 21 September |
| • Yorkshire | Sheffield | 12 October |
| • E. Midlands | M.Harborough | 16 November |

Feedback would also be welcome concerning any "Weekends of Teaching", "Fellowship and Healing", "Retreats" and "Quiet Days"

The main purpose of these Regional Days is to share news of what is going on in the Community and to give opportunity for fellowship for members and friends in the local area. This is also an opportunity to invite others. The Birmingham Gathering is intended to be a national gathering.

More details of these events can be found on the Maranatha Website

www.maranathacommunity.org.uk

The Maranatha office can be contacted by

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