

SPOTLIGHT

News & Views for Local Groups, by Local Groups!



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MARANATHA

By Annie Warne

MORE: of me - more love, more power!
A WAKE: to the truth around you!
REFRESHED: for the battle.
ALERT: to every need.
NURTURING: the young.
ANOINTING: them for service.
TRUSTING: me above all.
HONOURING: me with your hearts.
ALIVE: in me!



A PRAYER WRITTEN AT THE MARANATHA WEEKEND 'RISING UP AS EAGLES'

- Thank You God our Father for sending us out with everything we need.
- Thank You that through the power of the cross and Your blood shed for us, we can live victoriously!
- Thank You we are strong in You through the power of Your Spirit working in us.
- Thank You that Yours is the name above all names, by which we take authority over the kingdom of darkness, and anything that stands against us.
- We speak Your peace, healing, wholeness, fruitfulness into our lives, that we may be channels of love and blessings, as we perceive Your grace and provision.
- We acknowledge our need of You.
- Please continue to teach us and nurture us.
- Give us divine appointments we pray and open doors of opportunity for God ordained encounters, as we honour You with our gifts and talents to glorify Your name in all we do.

PRAYING FOR OUR TOWNS AND CITIES

By Ann Lynch

We often hear how people pray with the Bible in one hand and the newspaper in the other and that we should bring things to the cross of Jesus. When we were at Quinta this year and meeting others at other places I found that we were sharing how we prayed for the places we came from. As a result of these conversations I have been asked to share how we pray **for our city of Nottingham** so I hope this gives a new encouragement and perhaps some helpful suggestions to continue or to begin this vital work.

Many who can't get to our meetings join us as we pray 'A prayer for each Nation of the United Kingdom' and have adapted the 'Declaration over the United Kingdom' which we say as a Maranatha group at the beginning of many of our meetings, to 'Declaration over Nottingham.' We always pray over the map for the district where we hold our meetings and place the map of the different areas under the cross, but we also pray for those places, people and situations which we feel the Spirit is asking us to pray for in the same way. One or two of our enthusiastic street prayer walkers have prayed along the street using the words of the 'Declaration' given to Pastor Jonathon Oloyede. We follow a similar pattern if and when we have been asked to pray at specific places, which range from schools, churches, hospitals, official buildings, industrial units and open spaces and we always have others from our local group, other Maranatha groups and individuals supporting us in prayer in the same way as those who are involved with Life prayer do whilst we pray. Several of us are also involved with the 24/7 Prayer for Nottingham known as 168 and to help us focus our minds, different aspects of city life have been separated into the following areas of Law and Order, Government, Education, The Church, Health and Care, Media and Arts and Business.

For many years one of our members has been receiving words of prophecy and direction how we are to pray – many of these words have already been shared with the wider Maranatha Community. However another of our members thought it would be helpful to highlight these words by collecting them into three different documents – 'Speak my name', 'Pray', and 'In my name'. The words on the right are from the document 'Speak my name'.

SPEAK MY NAME

I am **Jesus** the Christ
Into those for whom you pray – **Jesus**
Into the spirit of the one you pray for – **Jesus**
Into their will – **Jesus**
Into people's hearts and minds – **Jesus**
Into one who starves for me – **Jesus**
Into the generations – **Jesus**
Into the bloodlines – **Jesus**
Into the hectic in the bloodline – **Jesus**
Within yourselves – **Jesus**
To the spirits – **Jesus**
To rebuke the evil one – **Jesus**
Into the teeth of Satan – **Jesus**
Into the anger of the evil one – **Jesus**
Into the oppression of your nation – **Jesus**
Into the oppression of the young – **Jesus**
Into the oppression of those you encounter – **Jesus**
Into the oppression that you meet – **Jesus**
Into the oppression of yourselves – **Jesus**

Into all evil and suffering – **Jesus**
Into the heart of all illness – **Jesus**
Into the roots of disease, disorder and disruption – **Jesus**

Into the lines that Man draws – **Jesus**
Into the shells that people build around themselves – **Jesus**
Into the integuments of false gods – **Jesus**
In the spaces you enter – **Jesus**
To the walls and to the elements of the spaces – **Jesus**
To testify to the work of God – **Jesus**
To break the hardest rock into good earth – **Jesus**

Restore my name to your lips and to your hearts
Never grow tired of this work
keep speaking My name: **Jesus**

Words taken from prophecies given to Nottingham Maranatha 1989 - 2004

PAUSE FOR THOUGHT.

By Robert Wilson



Rest

The way that God offers to us all is not to fight or a flight,
but a release. For Jesus said,

**“Come unto me all who are weak and heavy laden
And I will give you rest” Matthew Ch 11 vs 28.**

PRAYERS OF BLESSING

By Mike Doherty



Some years ago I was having coffee at Totnes Christian Fellowship when my attention was drawn to a prayer card. This listed prayers of blessing for Totnes which had been extracted from a book entitled "*The Grace Outpouring*" by Ray Godwin and Dave Robert. I acquired a copy of the prayer card and subsequently a copy of the book.



For those who have not read the book, the authors describe the beginnings of a move of God at Ffald-y-Brenin, a Christian House of Prayer and Retreat in North Pembrokeshire. There is inspiring testimony as to how people were being blessed and healed and how increasingly people were making a commitment to follow Jesus Christ. My understanding is that God's blessing continues to flow out into the local community and beyond. I wholeheartedly recommend this book. **Further details of this Christian Centre can be found on: www.Ffald-y-brenin.org**

As for the prayer list, our local (Brigg) Maranatha Group has produced its own version. A copy is included on page 4. In practice, we pray for Northern Lincolnshire as not all members of the group are Brigg-based. Also we have included one for the Food Bank (which may well now be included in the Totnes version).

We find it helpful to go around the room each praying a single prayer which is then affirmed by the whole gathering. This not only helps and encourages those who for any reason might find it difficult to pray aloud but also there is a tangible sense of blessing upon the meeting. We are not, of course, restricted to what is written.

Likewise, on occasions, we use the Maranatha Office of Compline. Although the section "*Prayers for the Maranatha Community*" is very slightly out of date, it is also thoroughly recommended. Copies can be obtained through the Maranatha Office.

WHY THIS PERSON KEEPS COMING TO THE MONTHLY MARANATHA PRAYER MEETING

By Ruth Purton

- Because Christ says, Come.
- Because the group is tiny, and a little person can feel at ease and with friends.
- Because backgrounds, secular or church, don't matter, and individual insights are respected.
- Because each can bring their own worlds with them, and all join in laying them before the Lord.
- Because well loved hymns are sung, the Bible read, and the Lord's prayer offered, to sum up and complete the personal prayers.
- Because on leaving, a sense of calm and trust in God is found to have been renewed.
- And, oh yes because the group keeps to time and purpose, without pressure: and we have a gracious co-ordinator.

Thank you Jesus



PRAYERS OF BLESSING
(Based on "THE GRACE OUTPOURING")



FATHER GOD

I bring before You the whole community of and ask that You to bless believers, unbelievers, those seeking – that all might really get to know You, Your purposes for their lives, Your blessings on them, their families and the situations of their lives.

I ask that you speak to the hearts of all people here in that they might be more responsive to the Voice of God.

I ask You to bless those in authority, especially local Councillors and the Police. Please fill them with wisdom, compassion, a sense of fairness and justice, and I ask that might enjoy a significant reduction in crime.

I ask You to bless every household and each person in each household.

I ask You to bless every marriage.

I ask You to bless every child born or unborn.

I ask You to bless relationships between every family and especially between generations.

I ask You to bless the health of everyone.

I ask You to bless the wealth of everyone.

I ask You to bless the work of their hands and intellect.

I ask You to bless every wholesome business enterprise in that all might prosper.

Under Your influence, I ask that unemployment might reduce, that new business might start up, that all might be profitable and that profits might be fairly distributed amongst those creating them.

I ask that debt might decrease and savings increase.

I ask that You bless all supportive networks of friendship that run through the community of that they might be a sign of Your Kingdom.

I ask that You bless pupils of schools in and their learning.

I ask You to bless teachers in and pray that every school might be a safe and wholesome place, where trust and belief in God, and Jesus, can be comfortably maintained.

I ask You to bless all Christian Churches here in, that the Word of God and the Spirit of God might flow from them.

I ask You to bless all involved in Foodbanks as they provide and minister to those in need, bringing hope where there has been despair.

Lastly, I ask that You cause something to happen, something extraordinary, something truly mind-boggling – that everyone in the whole Community of will know beyond doubt has been brought about by God and by no-one else and that everyone in the whole Community of might give praise and glory to God for it!



I ask all these things in the Name of Jesus, Your Son, our Saviour and our Friend.

AMEN

