

THE MARANATHA COMMUNITY PRESENTS:

SPOTLIGHT

News & Views for Local Groups, by Local Groups!



Issue 35–Autumn 2014 (September, October and November)

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MARANATHA GATHERING OF PRAISE WORSHIP AND HEALING.

The Yorkshire Maranatha Groups have invited members (and a warm invitation from friends from other areas) to a:

Maranatha Gathering of Praise Worship and Healing.

Sheffield

This will be on:-
Saturday 11th October 2014
11am to 4pm

Leeds

Registration meeting point and Refreshments from 10:30am

Wakefield

At:-
St Marks Church
Dykes Lane
Malin Bridge
Sheffiled
S6 4RH

Huddersfield

Harrogate

Please bring a packed Lunch

Halifax

For More information please contact **Pat Hallam on: 0114 2334477**

QUIET DAYS

**We wait in hope for the Lord. He is our help and shield,
In Him our hearts rejoice, for we trust in His holy name.**

In the final verses of **Psalm 33** we are invited to wait upon the Lord. In this way, we show our trust in God. We lay down our own worries, agendas and preconceptions. From such waiting comes God's revelation, His guidance.

Many wait upon the Lord alone but there is special blessing in coming together for the purpose. Many who have attended **Light Out of Darkness** can give testimony to this. The Quiet Days at the **Presentation Sisters Convent, Huddersfield** provide another opportunity for such an encounter. In addition Spotlight has learned that **Marianne** and **Joy** representing the **Plymouth Group** have made arrangements for a Quiet Day for Plymouth this August.

This raises the question: **Have you considered arranging a Quiet Day in your area?**

In general, the day would include times to be quiet together and space for individuals to be quiet on their own. Within the day, there may well be one or more meditations on a Biblical theme. Even if there is talking at lunch it is possible to regain the silence as the second part of the day proceeds. At the end of the day, there would be an opportunity for sharing and for prayer ministry. Should you follow up this suggestion, it would really helpful for us all to have some feedback.

**May Your unfailing love rest upon us, O Lord,
even as we put our hope in you.**

MARANATHA FIRST INTERN

For many years The Community has acknowledged a special role in supporting young Christians. Earlier this year it was agreed that giving greater priority to the role is part of the new thing which God has for us

Consequently, **Rachel Lee** was appointed as the first Intern. Many of you will know Rachel from Quinta or other Maranatha Meetings.

Here are her comments to Spotlight on her experiences as at 4th July

“My time so far has been absolutely amazing! Whilst I am writing this, I’ve just finished around half of my internship (2 months) and time seems to have been flying. I must admit that I am still not used to the early mornings but apart from that everything else has been superb. Everyday I have been learning something valuable which is not taught in the textbooks I used at school and so I am slowly but surely seeing myself grow in confidence and capability.

It is a wonderful experience, for a younger person, to know that there are adults trusting you and having enough faith in you to give you your own responsibility. At the moment, I am in the midst of creating Maranatha’s own instagram account and working on a new publication for young people. This inevitably means I am making mistakes, squeezing every inch of creativity in me (which is not that much!) and constantly finding new challenges that I have to overcome but doing this all in the warm and loving environment that Maranatha offers has taught me that it is okay! – it is okay to make mistakes, it is okay to find things difficult, it is okay to be inexperienced and shy.

Maybe it is because of this loving approach that I feel confident enough to crawl out of the nest, so to speak, and spread my wings and fly both spiritually and temporally. I know I still have an awful lot to learn in the remainder of my internship and hopefully, during that time, I can also give back as much as I have received. These past few months have been a unique rollercoaster-like learning curve for me which I doubt many other 19 year olds have had!”

You will surely find great encouragement in what she says. Thanks be to God.

“And He will turn the hearts of the fathers to the children. And the hearts of the children to their fathers”
Malachi Ch 4 vs 6a

PAUSE FOR THOUGHT.

By Robert Wilson



We must not only give to God what we have, we must also give him what we are.

The most precious thing we have is ourselves, so we must offer up ourselves.

This is an act of Worship that God will never get tired of receiving.

(Romans Ch 12 vs 1-2)

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Cochin, South India

Spotlight reported (Autumn 2013, Issue 31) on the ministry of Pastor Praise in respect of alcohol and drug addiction. He is concerned to get more training.

“I could not go to Canada because of not getting scholarship. I also get another chance to go for a workshop on drug abuse and alcoholism at Cambodia. That also I want to go but I am not sure. If I get a small sponsorship I will go . Please pray for this also. Maranatha prayer will be a strength for me”.

Uganda

Seven Maranatha members are to fly to Entebe on 23rd October. There they will be met by Pastor Asher and others. The trip will take in a visit to Kampala, Jinja and Masaka (where Rob and Catherine Davies of River of Life are based). They will return to England on 7th November

NEWS AND PRAYER REQUEST FROM KENYA



Rhona Marshall (Macclesfield), has been in correspondence with **Pastor Julius Ogutu** of the **Ebacha Church** in Kisii County, Kenya.

The mission of the church is “*to spread the love of Christ Jesus both in deed and word*”. Their Outreach “*has touched many lives through Open Air Meetings, Prison Ministry, Hospital Ministry in Kisii County and beyond*”. Their Ministry also very much reflects **James Ch 1 vs 27:-**



“Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble and to keep oneself unspotted from the world”

For the past year they have had 60 orphaned and vulnerable children in their care. Pastor Julius explains:



“This has been accomplished through funds raised by the saints in our congregation both monetary and in kind. The need and opportunities for ministries is ever growing and for that reason we request that you may partner with us in the work of ministry in this part of the world and beyond”.

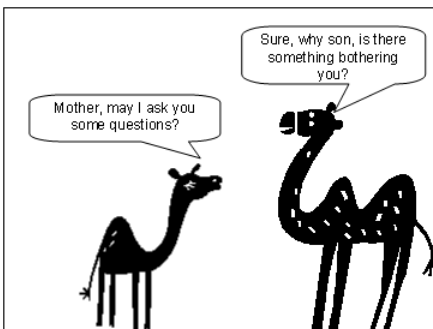
Finally he asks

“Kindly continue praying for me so that God will send a Missionary to come and start working with us and partner with us for the glory of God. My desire is to see the work of God going forward and many souls brought to Jesus”.

Hebrews Ch 13 vs 20-21

“Now may the God of peace who brought up from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make (us) complete in every good work to do His will working in (us) what is well pleasing in His sight. Through Jesus Christ to whom be the glory forever and ever! Amen”.

WHY, MUM ?



YOUNG-CAMEL: Mu.....m, why are my feet so big?

MOTHER: Because God made us to travel long distances. Nobody walks better in the desert than us. Our feet don't sink in the sand.

YOUNG-CAMEL: Mu.....m why do I have this big hump on my back?

MOTHER: Same reason, son, God made you to travel long distances in the desert. The humps are to store water.

MOTHER: (Slightly exasperated) Any more questions?

YOUNG-CAMEL: Mu.....m If God made us to travel long distances, what are we doing here in London Zoo?

Philippians Ch 4 vs 13

Ephesians Ch 3 vs 17 -19

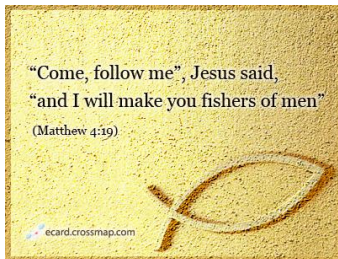
A NOTE OF ENCOURAGEMENT

Many years ago, **John Mercer (Formby)** heard a talk by Dennis Wrigley. Very recently, he was prompted to attend a Third Friday meeting at the Ark and then a meeting at Flixton Maranatha group. Linda Stalley has received a thank you note from John. She says *"I think this attachment is lovely and needs to be shared"*



Ezekiel Ch 47 - the trickle leaving the temple, and becoming a mighty river with all kinds of trees on the banks, fruit for food, leaves for healing, along with the River of Life in **Revelation Ch 22** with the Tree of Life – *"the leaves of the tree for the healing of the nations."* Well I believe the Maranatha Community is a river like this, well on its way, with all kinds of trees on its banks, the Local Groups, the Gatherings, the Retreats, all very much a part of this.

Again Ezekiel 47 - At another level I believe the document, *'A Matter of Life or Death'* is a trickle of water that has left the sanctuary already, on its way to becoming ankle deep, knee deep, waist deep and on. It has started and will be unstoppable, and while now it is small beginnings, through the living water of the Holy Spirit it will grow. And I emphasise it is unstoppable.



And casting the nets, (Peter in **Luke Ch 5 vs 4**, and again later in **John Ch 21 vs 6**) keep on doing it, reaching out into the community, reaching out with *'A Matter of Life or Death'* and with all your teaching.

And then I reflected on **Matthew Ch 11 vs 28 - 29**, *"Come to me all you who labour and are heavy laden and I will give you rest my yoke is easy and my burden light."* - in relation to the leaders of the Maranatha Community. You share the yoke with the Lord Jesus, and in that regard I had the picture of you regarding the starry skies and thinking, *"I am teamed up with the Creator of all this."* The sky at night reminds me so much of the omnipotence of God. I reflected on the lovely hymn.

Ah Lord God Thou has made the heavens and the earth by Thy great power, ... Nothing is too difficult for Thee, nothing is too difficult for Thee.

Nothing is too difficult for the Lord Jesus who is teamed up with you.

**Thank You so much once again for your welcome Hospitality,
God's blessings to you all
John**