

maranatha

Forming and Running Prayer Cells



Prayer Cells

Steps are currently being taken to extend the Maranatha Prayer Cell network throughout the country and abroad. These notes give guidance to those who are being led to take an initiative.

Forming a Prayer Cell

The first thing to do is to **pray**. Pray and ask God if this is an initiative you are called to take. Pray to be led to potential prayer partners and invite them to meet with you. Pray together to seek confirmation that this is God's will for each person.

Other Prayer Cells will be happy to pray alongside you for guidance if you ask us.

Next Steps

Agree on a regular time and place for the prayers. Agree on the timing - every week or fortnight. Have a meeting place where there is reasonable quietness and you are unlikely to be interrupted. You may find it helpful to have a cross and a candle on a small table, together with a Bible as a focus.

Linking Up

When you become a Prayer Cell, please let the Maranatha Community office (0161 748 4858) know who you all are and who will be the main contact (i.e Prayer Cell Leader). We will then send you, either by post or email, the regular prayer letter and any emergency or special prayer requests.

Commitment

It is very important that meeting together as a Prayer Cell is seen as a strong commitment to God and to each other, in which we apply a high level of spiritual discipline.

Form of Prayer

Prayer Cells vary considerably in size and circumstances, but all seek quietly to listen to God and build up a strong relationship of trust. Each Prayer Cell is under-girded by the Maranatha Community commitment to pray for healing, unity and renewal at a personal, local and national level.

The Pattern

This will vary. It is always good to begin with praise, affirming God's goodness and mercy, exalting the name of Jesus and inviting the Holy Spirit to lead. Quiet music may be helpful, as we wait upon God, asking forgiveness, cleansing and peace, open to hearing His word.

We then pray for people and situations, thanking God that He knows each one, and continue by praying for our own needs and intentions.

Finally, after a short period of silence, we acknowledge our fellowship in Him and finish in an agreed way, maybe saying the 'Grace', the 'Glory Be' or the Maranatha compline.

It is good to agree a time for finishing.

Remember

Keep a list of those for whom you are praying. It is important to pray for one another and to share joys and sadnesses, hopes and fears with one another as openly as possible. It is important to build up strong mutual trust. Holding hands is an outward sign of inward unity. We are part of a very supportive network of prayer. Keep praying patiently and persistently.

Development of Prayer

It will be found that, as the prayer life of the Cell becomes deeper, God will speak in new and perhaps different ways. There may be visions or prophetic words or tongues. On the other hand the Lord may give you a very deep and profound silence in which you hear His still small voice. You may find it helpful to record very briefly what you have heard God say.

If you believe that you have a prophetic word which should be more widely circulated, please send this to the Maranatha Office for further discernment within the Community.

A Final Word

The Lord always honours those who call upon His name. He delights in our prayers and when we ask for bread He will not give a stone. Never underestimate the power of prayer.

About Maranatha

Maranatha is a Community of thousands of Christian believers active in all the churches throughout the country and abroad. We pray and work for UNITY, RENEWAL and HEALING. We share a passion for unity between Christians and the work of reconciliation in the world. We yearn for renewal of faith in our land and in our churches. We believe that the healing ministry should be central to the work and life of the Church. We are not a church. We seek to encourage and strengthen local churches. We seek to be more effective Christians where we live, worship and work.

We have been given three further words - SIMPLICITY, POVERTY and URGENCY. We are called to live and speak the simple Gospel. As pilgrims, travelling light and bound together by the love of Jesus, we walk a path of spiritual poverty. We claim nothing more than to be little brothers and sisters of Jesus. We hold fast to the basic certainties of the Christian faith - the non-negotiables.

We now sense a great urgency in the face of the crisis in the churches and in society. We stand against the powers of darkness which are engulfing our land. We are essentially a praying, listening and loving Community.

When we meet in small prayer groups, as Christians have in all the centuries, it is important that we have prayers which include the following:

INVOCATION: we not only call God to be present to us but remind ourselves that God is always present to us when we call on his name.

CONFESSION: we tell God of our sins of commission and omission.

THANKSGIVING we praise and thank God for his goodness in creation and redemption.

INTERCESSION: we bring the wider needs of the Church and world to God who will provide for them.

PETITION: we ask God for the things we need for our lives.

Help from Maranatha

A Prayer Letter is sent out each week by post or email to all Prayer Cell Leaders and to all members who have given us their details. Prayer requests are welcomed and should be sent to the office, by lunchtime Monday for that week or email: prayer@maranathacommunity.org.uk. Emergency or special requests can also be sent to the office at any time. The Prayer Letter has different sections detailing personal and Community concerns as well as prayers for other ministries, events, and for the nation. Please use it as is most helpful to you.

Publications which you may find of value: 'Christian Prayer', 'Contemplative Prayer', 'Life Prayer', 'A Shalom Prayer', 'About Love Prayer', Micro Prayer Folders & Devotional Sheets 'Awareness', 'Listening' & 'The Voice of God'; 'Spiritual Check-Up' 'Praying the Psalms'. 'Praying the Bible', 'Praying the Gospel', 'About Prayer', 'Adoration & Worship', 'Encounter with God', 'Walking with God', 'Prayers and Meditations for Today'. Both 'Shalom Prayer' & 'About Love' are available on CD.

You may find it helpful to affiliate to Maranatha's International & Nationwide Prayer Network. You may also find it helpful to use material in the Maranatha Newsletter and Trumpet Call. If you would wish to receive any of the above, do please let us know at the Maranatha office. The Community lives by faith.

"To clasp the hands in prayer is the beginning of an uprising against the disorder of the world"

Karl Barth

"Love to pray ...feel often during the day the need for prayer, and take trouble to pray. Prayer enlarges the heart until it is capable of containing God's gift of himself. Ask and seek, and your heart will grow big enough to receive him and keep him as your own". Mother Teresa.

Maranatha Community UK Office,
102 Irlam Road, Flixton, Manchester M41 6JT
Tel: 0161 748 4858 Fax: 0161 747 7379
Bookshop: 0161 747 5672
Email: info@maranathacommunity.org.uk
www.maranathacommunity.org.uk

Maranatha Prayer Cells Registration Form

Please give below the name and address of each person in your group and return this form to the Maranatha office, 102 Irlam Road, Flixton, Manchester M41 6JT.

Name:

Address:

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Postcode:

Telephone No:

Email:

Name:

Address:

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Postcode:

Telephone No:

Email:

Name:

Address:

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Postcode:

Telephone No:

Email:

Please state the name of the person who is to be responsible for receiving mail and special requests.

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Please state if you wish to receive the International and Nationwide Prayer Network folder regularly?

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