

# 'For Such a Time as This'

## URGENCY – Our Crisis

In the United Kingdom, right now, we are facing a battle for the soul of our nation. Our children are the casualties and future generations are at the greatest risk.

The Judaeo-Christian foundations of our country, which have provided stability, security and justice for all over many centuries, have now been seriously undermined. This has been a subtle and gradual process, unseen by many, and we are now seeing the consequences manifest in a crisis of economy, social disorder and instability. The crisis is fundamentally spiritual - as a nation we have turned away from and denied the God who chose to use this nation as a model for the world. As a result we now have a crisis of national identity and purpose.

We believe that the future decline of this nation can be halted and reversed by a united, repentant, Spirit-filled Church of Christ.

## OPPORTUNITY for God's Glory

The chasm of uncertainty which has now opened up across our national life, provides a window of opportunity, which must be seized by the people of God. The Gospel compels us to move from being reactive to being proactive for the Kingdom.

- At this time of widespread insecurity, we are called to demonstrate and proclaim the Gospel of Jesus, the Rock; to express conviction and faith, not doubt and unbelief.
- At this time of brokenness in individual lives, families and communities, we are called to demonstrate and proclaim the healing love of Christ by *being* the Family of God.
- At this time of disintegration, we are called to *be* the Body of Christ who holds all things together.
- At this time of searching for the meaning of life, identity and purpose, we are called to reach out in love to the lost and hopeless.
- At this time when nearly one million children have no contact with their natural father, we are called to reveal the loving and faithful God who is our Father.
- At this time when trust is compromised, in personal relationships and with those in authority, we are called to show the certainty of God's faithfulness and promises.
- At this time when love is debased and trivialised, we are called to pray, live in and demonstrate the power of God's Spirit who is Love.

## GOD'S CALL

- Be a loving community.
- Be a faithful community.
- Be a hopeful community.
- Be servants.
- Be humble.
- Be obedient.
- Bring unity to My people.
- Bring healing to My people. Bring renewal to My people.
- Listen.
- Respond.
- Move.
- Identify My servants.
- Disciple My servants.
- Anoint and appoint My servants.
- Receive My Word.
- Live My Word.
- Proclaim My Word.
- Act with authority.
- Speak with clarity.
- Reveal My Love.
- Do it now.
- Do not drift.
- Keep everything simple.
- Be constant.
- Be dependable.
- Be obedient.

# A PROPHETIC SIGN

The Maranatha Community was formed through a deep desire to be united in the prayer of Jesus that all believers be one. From the beginning there has been no agenda other than to be obedient to His call. We are little brothers and sisters of Jesus, no more, no less. We have learnt that our journey together is dependent upon our listening to the One who has called us. We have learnt to listen to His voice through His Word and also through the signs of the times. He has called us to be 'a watchman' and to break the silence.

The Maranatha Community is a servant ministry to the Church of Christ. It is the Lord who has bound us together in Him as a Community of faith, hope and love.

- He has called us to *live* in **unity, renewal and healing**, whilst praying and working for unity, renewal and healing in the Church and in the Nation.
- He has called us to *live* in the **balance** of the Gospel, which calls us to personal holiness and social righteousness, and to affirm that **prayer and action** are inseparable.
- He has called us to *live* the Truth in Love.
- He has called us to **sit, sit, sit** and **run, run, run**.
- He is now calling us to *live* in **alignment, allegiance and submission** to Him whilst praying and working for this to be effected in the whole Body of Christ.

## ARE WE READY?

As we look back over 30 years, we see that the Lord has been establishing a foundation in this Community upon which we believe He wants to build. He has united individuals from across many traditions and nationalities with gifts which are for the building of His Church. The Lord is now calling us to **mobilisation** as a part of His army, members of His Body. In order to respond to this, we believe that the following steps need to be taken in prayer by the whole Community:

### 1. Co-ordination

We need a stronger team to look after the day-to-day management of the Community, throughout all the regions of the UK and overseas.

*Therefore, the present National Co-ordinators team, will be strengthened by increasing the membership to meet the emerging needs.*

### 2. Service

We need to more effectively use the gifts of those who have committed themselves to the life of the Community.

*Therefore, a team of National Servers, drawn from the widest possible geographical and interest areas, will be established to work with the National Co-ordinators. Servers will have specific giftings and tasks and will have access to the National Co-ordinators meetings.*

### 3. Discernment

We need to have a more dynamic process of listening and discerning the will of God for our Community.

*Therefore, the Reference Group will be expanded with the addition of three or four more members and will from time-to-time have meetings with the National Co-ordinators and the Leadership Team.*

### 4. Representation

We need to have an identified Maranatha presence in every region across the United Kingdom, recognised as such.

*Therefore, a national group of Pillars to act as Community ambassadors will be formed, with representation in every geographical region in the United Kingdom and Ireland. Their responsibility will be to be contact points for the Maranatha Community and to keep us in touch with important current developments in their areas.*

## **5. Prophecy**

We need to have a stronger link between the leadership of the Community and those with prophetic gifts and insights.

*Therefore, a number of people will be appointed to fulfil a national 'watchman' role. They will have the specific responsibility of praying and watching in the context of the Church, the Nation and our Community, passing prophetic words to the Reference Group and Leadership Team. They may also make suggestions for Trumpet Call initiatives.*

## **6. Communication**

We need to review and develop new means of communication for the Community – using multi-media, Skype, and other tools - which will strengthen the Community itself and more effectively communicate the vision to those beyond.

*Therefore, we will form a Communications Group which will take full responsibility for both internal and external communications, including printing, publishing etc.*

*We will also establish a Spearhead Working Group to review all our currently published material.*

## **7. Groups and Gatherings**

There is a need to more regularly and effectively strengthen and encourage existing groups and to extend our work into new areas, encouraging broader participation and input from individual members.

*Therefore, the regional structure of the Community will be further developed by those responsible for Support and Development alongside Regional Co-ordinators.*

## **8. Initiatives**

We need to be in a stronger position to respond more effectively to special invitations, enquiries, opportunities and potential initiatives which are regularly presented to us.

*Therefore, steps will be taken to establish new dedicated Spearhead Groups to deal with new specific issues.*

## **9. Training**

We need to supplement the ongoing programme of gatherings, residential courses, retreats & training courses, with a particular emphasis upon healing and discipleship.

*Therefore, an initial three month pilot programme of teaching will be arranged at 'The Ark' in Flixton with the possibility of taking this to other selected locations.*

## **10. Prayer**

We need to extend, develop and strengthen our existing Prayer Cells & Prayer Network alongside the 24/7 worship initiative in the Community, developing our links with other movements.

*Therefore, a Transcontinental Prayer Network will be developed alongside a commitment to form more Prayer Cells throughout the UK.*

## **11. CredoNet**

We need to find ways of communicating the Maranatha vision to young Christians and to explore the Lord's ways of extending and developing the Community for future generations.

*Therefore, a team will be drawn together, in the coming weeks, to establish CredoNet using social networking and other means of communication.*

# A NEW STEP FORWARD

Throughout the life of the Maranatha Community we have affirmed that the Church of Christ is an organism, a living body, not an organisation. However, we also affirm that organisms are highly organised, according to the purpose for which they are made. Our desire is to respond to the Lord's call at this time as effectively as possible.

We are asking all Maranatha members to earnestly pray and consider how we can all serve God's purposes for this Community *'for such a time as this'*. Our response to our corporate call as a Community depends upon the response of every individual member. As we pray *'Maranatha – Come Lord Jesus'*, we continue to pray that He will shape us and empower us to be the people He has called us to be. All He wants from us is our **YES!**

## OUR PURPOSE

- To enable and help believers to have a deeper experience of God in their lives.
- To allow Christ to guide us, to reveal Himself and His purposes for us.
- To encourage people to receive and to use the gifts of the Spirit.
- To help people to grow in faith and to explore the challenge of the Gospel.
- To help people to believe and live the Gospel.
- To lead people into a fuller understanding of the radical demands of the Gospel.
- To help those whose faith has grown cold.
- To encourage those who are finding life hard.
- To help believers to have a closer walk with God and with each other.
- To help seekers to encounter the living God.
- To help believers to walk more closely with God.
- To help believers to be more effective Christians where they live, worship and work.
- To help to bring new life and vitality to churches.
- To encourage those who feel they have failed or fallen.
- To challenge those who resist the call of Christ.
- To strengthen the weak and protect the vulnerable.
- To warn of dangers.
- To bring joy, peace and comfort where there is sadness and distress.
- To bring hope, confidence and faith where there is doubt.
- To bring clarity where there is confusion.
- To release Christ's healing in hurting lives and in a hurting world.
- To bring food where there is hunger.
- To bring light where there is darkness.
- To strengthen those who are weak.
- To protect those who are vulnerable from corruption and attack.
- To ensure the Christian voice is heard clearly in the land.
- To expose challenges and resist the forces of darkness.
- To help set people free from oppression – spiritually and socially.
- To bring hope where there is no hope.
- To help people listen to God and to pray more effectively.
- To be light and salt in the churches and in the world.
- To spell out in simple language the central truths of the Christian faith.
- To speak out for the weak, abused and persecuted.
- To be a servant ministry to the churches and individual Christians.
- To train and disciple believers.
- To identify charisms and opportunities.
- To speak prophetically to God's people and to the nations.