

# maranatha newsletter

Our prayer is, 'Come, Lord Jesus!'

Issue: 129 JANUARY 2013  
Internet Edition

## 'The Big Question - What on Earth are we Doing to our Children?'

The message of this new book, launched by the Maranatha Community in December, is a direct challenge to the conscience of our nation. Since the Community produced 'What on earth are we doing to our children?' in 1995, countless initiatives and billions of pounds have been targeted at children and young people. However, the evidence presented in this book clearly shows that their situation is now worse.

The political and lifestyle choices made by us in the UK, over the last 50 years, have created a legacy of catastrophic debt for future generations. More seriously, vast numbers of children and young people are growing up without any sense of identity or purpose. Our lack of investment in them is akin to leaving them to build their own future on shifting sand.

- 48% of all children born today will experience the breakdown of their parents' relationship.
- 938,000 of 16-24 year olds in England are not in education, employment or training.
- 30% of teenagers binge drink weekly.
- 23,528 under 18's (155 under 13's) in England use specialist substance misuse services.
- There are 83,000 looked-after children in the UK.
- 50,552 children in the UK were on child-protection registers or plans at end March 2011 - up by 32,492 since 2006.
- 16,864 sexual crimes were committed against children under 16 years from 2009-10.
- By 2030 there will be a 50% increase in the number of people over the age of 65. Today there are 5.3 people of working age to help pay for every citizen who is 70-plus. By 2030 that will have dropped to 3.7.

This book is a call to all who care about the future generations of our nation. We strongly believe that unless the Judeo-Christian foundations of our national life are restored, our national situation will continue to get worse with disastrous results. Pray that this warning will be heard and acted upon by the decision-makers of our nation.

The book is available at £5 + p&p from the Maranatha office or online bookshop [www.maranathacommunity.org.uk/bookshop](http://www.maranathacommunity.org.uk/bookshop) Please consider purchasing a copy for your MP, church leader or any other person who may influence the decisions being made about the future of our children.

*"The test of the morality of a society is what it does for its children".*  
Dietrich Bonhoeffer



*"A nation's greatness is measured by how it treats its weakest members"*  
Mahatma Gandhi

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# God's Word on children

Jesus makes it clear by His teaching and His actions that **children are of the utmost importance to God and to His Kingdom**. He says, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." (Matt 19.14)

The Bible clearly teaches that:

**Children are a gift from God** - "Behold, children are a gift of the LORD, the fruit of the womb is a reward" (Ps 127.3)

**Children are a blessing from God and bring joy to their parents** - "God blessed them and said to them, 'Be fruitful and increase in number'" (Gen 1.28)

**Children are conceived and formed by God in an amazing and mysterious way in the womb** - "For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made;" (Ps 139.13-14)

**God Himself has come to earth as a child** - "Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: you will find a baby..." (Luke 2.11-12)

**Jesus, as a child, was recognised as having understanding** - "Everyone who heard him was amazed at how much he understood. They also were amazed at his answers." (Luke 2.47)

**God reveals His mysteries to children** - "...you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children." (Matt 11.25)

**Children are the means by which God's ways and blessings are passed to future generations** - "For I have chosen him, so that he will direct his children and his household after him to keep the way of the LORD by doing what is right and just..." (Gen 18.19)

**Children and grandchildren are to be taught about what God has done** - "Do not forget the things your eyes have seen... Teach them to your children and to their children after them." (Deut 4.9) and **what He has commanded** - "These commandments... are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up." (Deut 6.6-7)

**Children are affected by the choices of their parents** - "Now choose life, so that you and your children may live." (Deut 30.19)

**The way we treat children indicates our attitude to Jesus** - "whoever welcomes a little child like this in my name welcomes me." (Matt 18.5)

**Child abuse is akin to abusing God** - "Any Israelite or any foreigner residing in Israel... by sacrificing his children to Molech, he has defiled my sanctuary and profaned my holy name." (Lev 20.2-3)

**God's judgment is on anyone who causes harm to a child** - "if anyone causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a large millstone hung around his neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea." (Matt 18.6)

**It is only as little children that we will enter the Kingdom of Heaven** - "Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven." (Matt 18.3)

## What can we do?

This was the question asked by Veronica Williams and Sandra, her sister-in-law, in 1995 on seeing Maranatha's first book 'What on Earth are we Doing to our Children?'. The Lord spoke a simple word to her, 'Pray for your children'. As a result of her obedience 'Mothers' Prayers' ([www.mothersprayers.org](http://www.mothersprayers.org)) is now a worldwide movement of thousands of mothers who pray with hope for their children.

## What will you do?

**Firstly**, you can **listen** to what children and young people are saying - those in your family, those in your neighbourhood. They are longing to be heard.

**Secondly**, we can **express** sorrow and guilt for what we have individually and collectively done and failed to do. We need to repent.

**Thirdly**, we can **commit** ourselves to action. Speak out and challenge the influences which are damaging and harming children and young people across the world, and/or find out ways to become more involved in work for children.

## A KAIROS CALL

The Lord is asking  
Is it stop  
Or is it go?  
Is it yes  
Or is it no?  
Is it death  
Or is it life?  
Is it peace  
Or is it strife?  
Is it moving as one  
Or is it falling apart?  
Is it warmth of the Spirit  
Or is it hardness of heart?  
Is it zeal for the Kingdom  
Or is it drift and decay?  
Is it the gloom of the night  
Or God's glorious new day?  
Is it muting the trumpet  
Or wielding the sword?  
Is it forward  
Or back?  
Is it defence  
Or attack?  
Is it moving  
Or staying?  
Is it striving  
Or being?  
Is it watching  
Or seeing?  
Is it fluttering  
Or flying?  
Is it living  
Or dying?  
Is it a temple  
Or a tent?  
Is it in ownership  
Or rent?  
Is it here  
Or is it there?  
And if not here  
Where oh where?  
Is it now  
Or is it then?  
And if not now  
When oh when?

DW -December 2012

*Ideal parenting  
is modelled  
after the  
relationship  
between  
God and man.*

*James C. Dobson*

# Community News

## Parliamentary Consultation 'The Big Question - What on Earth are we Doing to our Children?'

Following the launch of the new Maranatha book, a consultation was held in Committee Room 12 of the House of Commons on this theme on 4th December. Chaired by Fiona Bruce MP, it was jointly sponsored by Rt. Hon Sir Alan Beith MP; Jim Dobbin MP; Rt. Hon. Jeffrey Donaldson MP; Rt. Rev. Peter Forster, Bishop of Chester; Rt. Hon. Lord Anderson of Swansea and Lord Hylton. Our youngest speaker, Adam Wisdich (17 yr), gave a powerful statement from the younger generation. Other speakers included Dr. Trevor Stammers on sexualisation of children and young people; Dr. Tani Omideyi responded to the question 'Are our young people unemployable?'; Annmarie Moran, the main author of the book, spoke about obstacles to education; Sheldon Thomas, a former gang leader, challenged those present to recognise that the growth of gang culture in the UK is directly related to the disintegration of families. Dennis Wrigley, Linda Stalley and Juan Fernandez-Arias also spoke.

A sound recording of the whole consultation is available on the Maranatha web site.

The purpose of this well-attended meeting was to sound the alarm regarding the situation for our children and young people, with particular concern about the insecurity of their future. We believe that the issue of children should be driven to the top of our national political agenda.

- 34% of children and young people say they are always worried about something.
- 100,000 children run away from home each year.
- 1 in 4 women in prison spent time in 'care' as a child.

*"We think sometimes that poverty is only being hungry, naked and homeless. The poverty of being unwanted, unloved and uncared for is the greatest poverty. We must start in our own homes to remedy this kind of poverty"*  
Mother Teresa

## Maranatha Gathering in Anglesey

The first Maranatha day gathering on Anglesey was held on Saturday, 24th November. We were delighted that the Mayor of Llangefni was present and opened for us in prayer. There has been an exciting development of a variety of prayer groups across the island and this gathering was an opportunity to bring people together. Information Christine Garbutt 01407 840374.

### Startling yet Consoling

*God yet man  
Divine yet human  
King yet subject  
Master yet servant  
Conqueror yet victim  
Shepherd yet lamb  
Demanding yet loving  
Hidden yet revealed  
Eternal yet present  
Mysterious yet familiar  
Distant yet close by  
Puzzling yet straightforward  
Awesome yet homely  
Powerful yet humble  
Disturbing yet peaceful  
Regal yet approachable  
Uncompromising yet  
understanding  
Limitless yet restricted  
Beloved yet rejected  
Liberated yet captive  
Esteemed yet reviled  
Honoured yet scorned  
Enshrined yet vilified  
Omnipotent yet crucified*

Sue O'Donnell  
(An extract from her book 'In Short')

## Maranatha Training day 'Effective Christian Witness'

A special training day was held at 'The Ark', Flixton on Saturday, 17th November. The course included sessions on our national inheritance, dominant influences in the UK today, Biblical models of Christian witness, listening to God and effective prayer. 'We are called to be contemplatives in action.' A video recording of the course will soon be available on the Maranatha web site. If you would like a course in your area contact the office.

## Maranatha Regional Day Gatherings 2013

In addition to our Annual Maranatha weekend gathering in January at Quinta Hall, there will be a number of Maranatha day gatherings in different regions throughout the country during the coming year. These are a opportunities for fellowship, news sharing, united prayer and worship. The following dates have been booked so far:-

North East, Durham 16 March  
South East, London 13 April  
South Midlands, Banbury 4 May  
North West, Wirral 8 June  
National, Birmingham 13 July  
South West, Taunton 21 Sept  
Yorkshire, Sheffield 12 Oct  
E. Midlands, M. Harborough 16 Nov

If you would like a Maranatha day gathering in your region please contact the Maranatha office.

## First Maranatha Lecture

We are still receiving very positive feedback from this new venture. The event was held in the impressive concert hall of the Royal Northern College of Music on 3rd October. A Christian chamber orchestra - Epiphany - provided a beautiful accompaniment at the beginning and end, and the meeting was stewarded by Greater Manchester Street Pastors.

David Alton's lecture 'Why Britain urgently needs the sharp compassion of the healer's art' was a powerful statement on the state of Britain today.

A video recording and full transcript can be viewed on the Maranatha web site.

## Maranatha on Facebook

We have extended our Community communication to Facebook! Search for 'The Maranatha Community' and 'Like' the page to keep up-to-date. We pray that this Facebook page will serve to widen awareness of the vision of the Community and bring a new dimension of fellowship through sharing 'online'.

## CredoNet

The CredoNet Facebook page has been created. We are inviting a small group of young people to pioneer this. Further information: [juan@maranathacommunity.org.uk](mailto:juan@maranathacommunity.org.uk)

# Maranatha Events Calendar

Have you considered sponsoring someone for a Maranatha weekend or retreat? Please contact the Maranatha office.

## Weekends of teaching, fellowship & healing in 2013

LLANDUDNO, Loreto Centre, 22-24 March - *An offering of Worship*

PLYMOUTH, (non-residential) 21-23 June - *Equipping the Saints*

DONCASTER, Bawtry Hall, 26-28 July - *Rising up as Eagles*

CONWY, Beechwood Court, 13-15 September - *Rise up Men of Faith*

OXFORD, Carmalite Priory, 25-27 October - *Alone with God* (Silent Retreat)



## Retreats in 2013 - 2014

**Light out of Darkness - 'Stepping out in Faith'**

WOOLHAMPTON, Douai Abbey, 22-26 April 2013

LLANDUDNO, Loreto Centre, 9-13 September 2013

**Light out of Darkness (2) - 'Building with the Spirit'**

OXFORD, Boars Hill, 3-7 June 2013

LLANDUDNO, Loreto Centre, 30 Sept- 4th October 2013

**Waiting with God in the Desert**

OXFORD, Boars Hill, 3-7 June 2013

**Out of the Courtroom**

FLIXTON, MANCHESTER, 'The Ark', 5-8 February 2014

**Living in the Father's House**

FLIXTON, MANCHESTER, 'The Ark', 12-15 February 2014



# New books by Maranatha members

Books by 5 Maranatha members have recently been published.

Three are based around personal testimony:

*'The Call, The Cost, The Choice'* by Rhona Marshall

*'The World's Most Successful Failure'* by Dave Bullock

*'Journey of a Soul'* by Lin Bacus.

The fourth is an in depth study of the history of our nation *'Redeeming a Nation'* by Phil Quenby.

The fifth by Sue O'Donnell entitled *'In Short'* is a collection of short but profound and insightful poems.

All are available from the Maranatha Bookshop, or online at [www.maranathacommunity.org.uk/bookshop](http://www.maranathacommunity.org.uk/bookshop)

## Maranatha Groups & Contacts

*Maranatha Community members pray for one another daily, especially at 10pm.*

*Many of the Maranatha Groups meet in a number of different venues. They welcome visitors but please check the time and place of the meeting with the contact person.*

### England

AYLESBURY 1st Mon. monthly, 8pm

BEDFORD

BICESTER 1st Tues. monthly, 7.45pm

BIRMINGHAM NORTH

BIRMINGHAM SOUTH

BODMIN

BRIGG, 3rd Tues. monthly, 7.30pm

BURY ST. EDMUND, 1st Sat. monthly, 7.30pm

CHISWICK 2nd Mon. monthly, 7.30pm

CLIFFE, KENT

EASTLEIGH / SOUTHAMPTON, Quarterly

ECKINGTON, PERSHORE 3rd Thurs. monthly, 7.30pm

FALMOUTH Ian Adams 01326 211128

GRAVESEND 3rd Tues. monthly.

GRIMSBY

HALIFAX / HUDDERSFIELD 4th Wed. monthly, 8pm

HARROGATE 1st Friday monthly, 7.30pm

HAYWARDS HEATH 1st Tues. monthly, 8pm

LEEDS 1st Tues. monthly, 7.30pm

LEICESTER 4th Fri. monthly, 7.30pm

LINCOLN 1st Mon. monthly, 7pm

LONDON

MACCLESFIELD 2nd Wed. monthly, 7.45pm

MANCHESTER - DAVYHULME 'First Sunday' monthly, 8pm. 0161 748 4858.

MANCHESTER - FLIXTON 3rd Fri. monthly, 8pm  
The Ark, 0161 748 4858

MANCHESTER - CENTRAL bi-monthly, 0161 748 4858

MARKET HARBOROUGH last Fri. monthly, 10am

MATLOCK

NOTTINGHAM 3rd Mon. monthly, 7.30pm

PLYMOUTH 3rd Tues. monthly, 7.30pm

PORTSMOUTH

SCUNTHORPE 3rd Thurs. monthly, 7pm

SHEFFIELD 2nd Sat. monthly, 4pm

TAUNTON 3rd Fri. monthly, 7.30pm

THE MARCHES, SHROPSHIRE, bi-monthly, 3rd  
Saturday 12.30-4.30pm

TWICKENHAM 3rd Tues. monthly, 8pm

WAKEFIELD 1st Fri. monthly, 7.30pm

WALLASEY Prayer Group.

WEST DARTMOOR 2nd Sat. monthly

WEST WILTSHIRE (WESTBURY) 1st Mon. monthly  
7.45pm

WIRRAL bi-monthly, 10am-1pm

### Scotland

HELMSDALE Fri. evenings, 7pm

MAYBOLE Ayrshire, every Tuesday morning.

### Wales

ANGLESEY Tuesday evenings, 7:15pm

CONWY 1st Wed. bi-monthly 10.30-2pm  
Llandudno

MOLD

### Northern Ireland

BELFAST 1st Fri. monthly, 7.30pm

### Southern Ireland

FERMOY

### Uganda

ENTEBBE Asher Kalema:  
[lifegospelchurch@yahoo.com](mailto:lifegospelchurch@yahoo.com)

## Quiet Days 2013

*A time for teaching & fellowship*

Held on the first Saturday of alternate months:

**2nd March, 4th May, 6th July,**

**7th Sept, 2nd Nov.** 10am-4pm

Presentation Convent, 41 Ashbrow Rd,  
Sheepridge, Huddersfield, HD2 1DX.

Info: 0161 748 4858

If you would prefer to receive your newsletter via email, saving the Community some money, please send an email to [charles@maranathacommunity.org.uk](mailto:charles@maranathacommunity.org.uk)

maranatha community

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