



maranatha newsletter

Our prayer is, 'Come, Lord Jesus!'

Issue: 130 MAY 2013
Internet Edition

'What Do You See?'



"I am watching to see that My word is fulfilled" (Jer. 1.12)

This was God's question to Old Testament Prophets as He gave them foresight and insight into what He was doing. God speaks to His people, through what is visible, about the realities of the heavenly realms. The ultimate example is His revelation of Himself in the person of Jesus Christ. As the writer to the Hebrews wrote, *"In the past God spoke...through the prophets...but in these last days He has spoken by His Son...the Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of His being..."* (Heb. 1.1-3)

Central to Jesus' ministry was the giving of sight to the blind - a physical manifestation of the new revelation that He was bringing into the world - the announcing of the Kingdom of God! So what are we seeing today? As the Western world boasts the 'enlightenment' of human reason, it fails to recognise that *"the god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the Gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God"* (2 Cor. 4.4).

Unless we see the reality of the spiritual battle that is taking place right now for the soul of our nation and especially the souls of our children, then we can offer no hope. However, when we, like Paul, declare that *"Our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms."* (Eph 6.12), we also proclaim our confidence in Jesus Christ who has already conquered all powers of darkness on the Cross. As the evidence of our national crisis mounts up, it equally becomes more apparent that only God's Mercy and Grace can save our nation from total collapse.

Jesus urges His followers *"Keep watch"*; Paul warns *"Be alert"*. We live in times of great deception which is manifest in the closing of eyes to the truth - the reality of the spiritual battle and reality of Christ's victory over darkness.

Right now, within the Church in the UK, there are watchmen who are seeing the signs of the judgement of God upon our nation. At the same time, there are those who are seeing signs of revival - great manifestations of God's Spirit moving in power. There is no contradiction. We serve the God who manifests His glory in the midst of crisis. This is the message of the Cross - the only place of forgiveness and redemption.

Can marriage be redefined?

The debate taking place around the Marriage Bill, which is currently before Parliament, is an example of the way in which the enemy causes confusion by deception. Our individualistic and self-preoccupied society is particularly vulnerable to the persuasion that this Bill is about equal rights. It is not only those of religious faith that recognise that this is not the real issue at stake.

This is not an issue of individual rights. It is, rather, a matter of the wellbeing and stability of society, especially for future generations. Marriage is not simply about the recognition of an emotional bonds between individuals; it is, in fact, an emotional, spiritual and bodily union of a man and a woman who, by their complementary give birth to a new generation. Monogamy, exclusivity and permanence are the characteristics of real marriage, providing the best environment for the health and security of children.

PRAY FOR THE REAFFIRMATION OF MARRIAGE BY THE DEFEAT OF THE BILL CURRENTLY BEFORE PARLIAMENT.

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BROKENNESS

We bring our broken hearts
To Him
We bring our broken bodies
To Him
We bring our broken minds
To Him
We bring our broken communities
To Him.
We bring our broken nations
To Him
We bring our broken world
To Him
We lay our brokenness
Before Him.
As he draws near
He shares with us
We feel His breath upon us.
He gives us His Spirit
- the Spirit of Life.
Our broken ruins
Are repaired,
Our deserts
Blossom
Our dry bones
Spring to life
Sorrow and sighing
Flee away
-our blind eyes
- are opened
- our deaf ears
are unstopped
we turn
from death
to life.
(DW)

Maranatha members join with Christians across the UK in praying the Lord's prayer at 12 noon daily

About Prayer

Over the years, our journey together in the Maranatha Community has essentially been a continuing learning experience of the true dynamic of prayer. One of the early prophetic words to the Community was *“Equip the Saints”*. This equipping has come in the measure that we have asked ‘Lord teach us how to pray’.

A new Maranatha booklet ‘About Prayer’ will be a further resource for all those wanting to deepen their prayer life. The following are some quotations taken from it.

When we pray we discover our true humanity. When we pray we are drawn into the family of God. When we pray we open our eyes to see his glory. When we pray our turmoil is transformed into peace, our confusion into stillness. Prayer is food, without it we starve.

“God shapes the world by prayer”
E M Bounds

“Prayer unites the soul to God”
Julian of Norwich

“Prayer is the open admission that without Christ we can do nothing”
John Piper

“Prayer is the rope that pulls God and man together”
Billy Graham

“Prayer is a steering wheel not a spare tyre”
Corrie ten Boom

“Prayer is the breath of your life”
Henri J. Nouwen

“Prayer is the climbing up of the heart into the heart of God”
Martin Luther

“Prayer is abandonment to God”
Sadhu Sundar Singh

“To clasp the hands in prayer is the beginning of an uprising against the disorder of the world”
Karl Barth

“Satan trembles when he sees the weakest saint on his knees”
William Cowper

“There is something much greater than human action - prayer”
Carlo Coretto

“Prayer is the key of heaven”
Augustine of Hippo

“Prayer is an adventure”
Anthony Bloom

“Prayer is the pulse of life”
Andrew Murray

Eyes of the Heart

Lord, forgive me,
I've been slow, dim, so blinkered!
By Your grace, Lord,
I am just beginning to see -
See You -
Really see You in each person.

Oh, it's easy to see You
In the ones who know that they
are Yours -
Who can praise,
Worship and love You
Without restraint -
With certainty.

The ones who are unsure -
Who carry the hidden Christ,
Are the ones
For whom You prompt my attention
And grant me new vision.

Those who deny You
You place on my heart:
“Plead for them” You say,
“Plead for them with
unceasing prayer” -
That is Your earnest request.

Lord, help me to be obedient,
Ever steadfast and consistent,
And to see with and through
The eyes of my heart -
A gift

That You alone can give.
Please Lord,
Allow me to cultivate that
precious gift and make it grow.

by Karin Castle from her new e-book
‘Prayer for my Thoughts’ available
through Amazon.



A Day to Pray for Our Nation
12th October 10am-4pm

**St. Helens Rugby Stadium,
Langtree Park, McManus Drive,
Peasley Cross, St. Helens WA9 3AL**

Following the gathering of over 30,000 people in Wembley Stadium last September, Christians of all traditions are gathering together again to pray for our nation. This time it will be in the North.

Maranatha strongly supports this initiative.

BE ONE!

If you listen together AS ONE
you will hear my words.

If you pray together AS ONE you will
see signs, miracles and wonders.

If you praise together AS ONE great
spiritual power will be released

If you act together AS ONE in My
name walls of obstruction will be
demolished.

If you speak together AS ONE My voice
will be heard in the land.

Your calling is to listen, pray, praise,
act and speak AS ONE.

(DW)

FOR OUR NATION

This declaration and prayer, which came from a historic hour of listening to God in Parliament by church and political leaders last June was read at Wembley Stadium. It remains our prayer.

“As we continue to pray for our nation, let us stand before God in humility and repentance, as we represent the Church, the Body of Christ across our nation.

We confess and are sorry that the break-up of family is as prevalent in the church as outside the church and that so often the church family is itself divided.

We confess that because of our unbelief and disunity the truths concerning our Christian faith, both in word and action have at best been misunderstood and at worst ignored.

We confess that as the body of Christ we have not encouraged the entrepreneurs and wealth creators, we have rarely prayed for and supported the business community and at times abandoned the market place

We confess that we have believed the lie that our Christian faith and secular society must be kept separate. We have been silent when laws have been passed that destroy the very fabric of society and when we have spoken we have often been more critical than constructive.

We confess that we have remained silent when our children are taught that they have evolved and not made in the image of God and when the boundary lines that have kept children secure in society are being removed.

We confess we have ignored God's word and allowed a spirit of unbelief, cynicism and religion to destroy the Godly foundations our nation was built on.

We confess that both in the arts and the media we have often ignored the wonderful gifts that God the creator has given us to be like Him, to create, to design, to envision, to imagine, and to explore.

We declare today as we stand as part of our broken society, in the midst of this crisis, that there is hope. There is hope for broken families, there is hope and healing for abused children, there is hope for corrupt financial institutions, there is hope for wayward lawmakers, there is hope for a divided church.

The Christian message to our nation today is that as we turn from our sin and unbelief, as we put God first and love Him with all our hearts, as we declare the Lordship of Jesus and follow His teachings through the enabling of His Spirit, God will have mercy, He will forgive, He will heal our land.”

Community News

Maranatha in Ireland

A team of 8, including Maranatha members living in England, Northern Ireland and the Republic recently stayed, for the first time, in Enniskillen and Londonderry. This Maranatha visit was different! We prayed, at **Warrenpoint, Belleek, Lifford** and **Muff** - all border towns - that the blessing which flows from our God-given unity will bring renewal, healing and unity to all the people of Ireland.

Maranatha is currently preparing a supplement to *'The Big Question - What on Earth are We Doing to our Children?'* on the situation for the younger generation in Northern Ireland. So our visit also included meetings with Christian ministries and statutory authorities which serve the needs of children and young people in the Province.

Throughout our trip we received the same 'word' from different people: *"See, I am doing a new thing!"* (Is. 43.19). Pray with us, that the Lord will be glorified again through this wonderful land of saints & scholars.

A Maranatha visit to **County Cork** will take place from **27th June to 2nd July**. We look forward to meetings in **Castlemartyr, Macroom, Mallow** and a Regional Gathering in **Fermoy** on **Saturday 29th June**. Further information: Sylvia Middlemist 0161 748 4858 or 0161 755 3422.

"There is a God-shaped vacuum in the heart of every man" - Pascal

"Our hearts are restless until they rest in You" - Augustine

"If Jesus Christ is not the Lord of your life, someone else will be" - Donald Coggan

Christian Healing UK

Maranatha is an active member of the fellowship of Christian healing organisations, which has recently been renamed **'Christian Healing UK'**. This body is developing regional branches with the aim of providing a means of connecting people involved in Christian healing ministry in different areas. There will be three regional day events in the autumn:

28th September - Durham

12th October - London

26th October - Dewsbury

Further information at www.christianhealinguk.org or from the Maranatha office.

A Deeper Prayer Life

Maranatha continues to run Retreats and Quiet Days which lead individuals into a deeper relationship with God. The teaching helps people to live in the certainty of God's indwelling presence by developing their prayer life in the midst of daily pressures.

This testimony was written by a recent participant (a mature Christian) on the **'Light out of Darkness'** retreat at Douai Abbey. *"I have never been on a guided, silent retreat before... I am really glad I went...Excellent teaching... Very challenging and stimulating... Powerful silent fellowship... We were genuinely aware of the presence of God and His love... I would definitely recommend this..."*

Places are available for **'Light of Darkness'** at

3-7 June, Boars Hill, Oxford

9-13 September, Llandudno

30 Sept-4 Oct, Llandudno

*"Oh, the hands of Jesus.
Hands of incarnation at His birth.
Hands of liberation as He healed.
Hands of inspiration as He taught.
Hands of dedication as He served.
And hands of salvation as He died.
May the Lord touch your body
And your heart
In a special way today"
(Max Lucado)*

Prophecy

Two prophetic words have been received by the Community in the last few weeks. Both of them speak about the Lord doing 'a new thing'. Excerpts from these prophecies are below.

"My people, you ask me for new life. I have new life ready and waiting for you, but first you must choose to come out to the place where you can receive it".

"Root yourself not in a ministry, not in a mission, but me. Root yourself not in a vocation, not in a profession, but in me. Root yourself not in affirmation, but in obedience to me...I am going to do a new thing. Step out in faith...do not be contained but be open to My Spirit..."

Maranatha Day Gatherings 2013

Throughout the year there is opportunity to meet with other Maranatha members in different parts of the country. Already we have had gatherings in **Durham, London, Randalstown & Banbury**. These have all been great times of worship, fellowship and prayer with opportunity to hear what God is saying on the theme **'The PEOPLE of God, The POWER of Jesus Christ the Saviour'**.

National Maranatha Gathering Birmingham, Saturday 13th July 10.30 - 4pm.

This day is a great opportunity to meet with Maranatha members and friends and to invite others who may be interested. All are welcome! Further information from the Maranatha office.

'Mindfulness'

A Maranatha working group is currently considering the practice of **'Mindfulness'**. This technique, which is rooted in Buddhism, is already widely practised within mental health services and wide use in schools is being proposed. A report will be available soon. Further information from the Maranatha office.

Pornography and Children

There is now vast evidence that children are widely exposed to pornography from a young age. Maranatha has facilitated the setting up of a group, drawing together people from different Christian ministries, to pray and consider how we should tackle this destructive influence in our land. Further information from the Maranatha office.

Greater Manchester Prayer Breakfast



**19th June
7.45 - 9.15am
Manchester
Town Hall**

North West Launch of Maranatha's *'The Big Question - What on Earth are we Doing to our Children?'* Book now at the Maranatha office.

Maranatha Calendar

Weekends of teaching, fellowship & healing in 2013

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

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



Retreats in 2013 - 2014

Light out of Darkness - 'Stepping out in Faith'

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



Maranatha Day Gatherings 2013

'The PEOPLE of God, The POWER of Jesus Christ the Saviour'

Lincolnshire/Humberside 1 June

North West, Wirral 8 June

Ireland, Fermoy 29 June

National, Birmingham 13 July

Yorkshire, Sheffield 14 Sept

South West, Taunton 21 Sept

E. Midlands, M. Harborough 16 Nov

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

"Anyone who is not burning will not be able to set anyone else on fire" - Peter of Rheims

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. There is also a national network of Maranatha Prayer Cells usually meeting weekly.

England

AYLESBURY monthly

BEDFORD

BIRMINGHAM NORTH

BIRMINGHAM SOUTH

BODMIN

BRIGG, 3rd Tues. monthly, 7.30pm

CHISWICK 2nd Mon. monthly, 7.30pm

CLIFFE, KENT 4th Thurs. monthly

EASTLEIGH / SOUTHAMPTON, Monthly

ECKINGTON, PERSHORE 3rd Thurs. monthly, 7.30pm

FALMOUTH

GRAVESEND 4th Tues. monthly.

GRIMSBY

HALIFAX / HUDDERSFIELD 4th Wed. monthly, 8pm

HARROGATE 1st Friday monthly, 7.30pm

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, Ellen McCaig 0161 748 4858

MANCHESTER - CENTRAL bi-monthly, 0161 748 4858

MARKET HARBOUROUGH 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

WIRRAL bi-monthly, 10am-1pm

Wales

ANGLESEY Tuesday evenings, 7:15pm

CONWY 1st Wednesday. Bi-monthly April, June, August etc. 10.30-2pm REVERB, Madoc St, Llandudno.

MOLD 1st Mon. monthly, 7.30pm.

Scotland

HELMSDALE Fri. evenings, 7pm

MAYBOLE, Ayrshire. every Mon. am.

Northern Ireland

BELFAST 1st Fri. monthly, 7.30pm

Southern Ireland

FERMOY

Uganda

ENTEBBE

Quiet Days 2013

A time for teaching & fellowship

Held on the first Saturday of alternate months:

6th July, 7th September,

2nd November. 10am-4pm

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

Info: Peter Jackson 0161 748 4858

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'.

maranatha community

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