

SPOTLIGHT

News & Views for Local Groups, by Local Groups!



Issue 31–Autumn 2013 (September, October and November)

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LINCOLN REGIONAL MARANATHA- 1ST JUNE 2013

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

By Ivy Sharman and Margaret Gordon

People started arriving by 9am. We knew we had prayed for surprises, and by 10am they were arriving by the minute.

Travellers appeared from every direction: Nottingham, Worcester, Brigg, Scunthorpe, Grimsby, Sleaford, Kirton-in-Lindsey, Lincoln and surrounding villages, and Manchester.

Over 40 eager folk, plus two dogs, enjoyed drinks, biscuits and chat. As Dennis pointed out, we are not an ecumenical community – just little brothers and sisters united in the Love of Jesus, yet many denominations were represented. We worshipped as one, in the light of His Presence, knowing a fresh infilling of the Holy Spirit as we prayed for healing, lifting the Name of Jesus high, and giving God all the Glory.

We interceded for our broken world, especially Syria and the persecuted church. We prayed for our own country; Parliament; morality; attitudes to children, same sex marriage and sex trafficking. The Body, Mind and Spirit Fair taking place just three miles down the road, with a Maranatha member helping on the Christian stall, was especially remembered.

Dennis and Linda challenged us to know His Power within us, to **listen** in prayer, to **hear** and **act** urgently to what God is saying, to remember, as Jesus representatives, we are recognized by His love, power and peace in us. We must beware the lies of Satan and not conform to the spirit of this age. We must form more prayer cells, where God's power can be released, **NOW!**

One immediate reaction: *"We must respond to these challenges. We cannot fail to do so!"*

Later comments: *"A really powerful, Holy Spirit filled day"*

"We were bound together in the love and peace of Jesus"

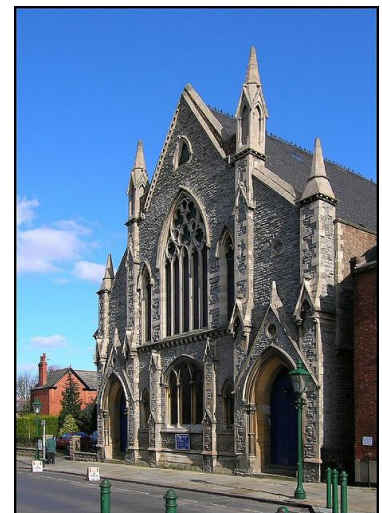
"I got a lot out of this day"

"I heard the urgency of the need to stand against the evil one"

"I know I must praise and praise and praise"

"I came for a short time, but stayed all day"

"Linda's clear message and question about our strategic positioning in the Lord's army gave me cause for serious thought"



Venue:
Bailgate Methodist Church

RECIPE

PEANUT CRISP



One of the delights of the Lincoln Gathering was the peanut crisp biscuits. Ivy and Margaret very kindly provided the recipe. The Brigg Maranatha group has now also sampled them and endorses the Editor's recommendation!

INGREDIENTS

4oz	Margerine	Cream, add egg, beat well
8oz	Sugar	
1	Egg	
4oz	Plain flour	Sift into mixture and fold in
½ tsp	bicarb	
½ tsp	Baking powder	
4oz	Rollod oats	Crush Peanuts/ Cornflakes
2oz	Salted peanuts	Add and mix well
2oz	Cornflakes	

METHOD

1. Place teaspoonfuls on baking parchment on baking trays – allowing space to spread.
2. Bake 10-15 minutes (or till golden brown) at Reg 6 . 120C

TODAY

By Ivy Sharman and Margaret Gordon



A circle of chairs...

In the centre a table with candle flame, Bible and Cross.

We come expectantly, thankfully,

Jesus is here

We are One in Him

He is looking at each of us with overwhelming love

Today He forgives our sins

He will throw them as far as the east is from the west

He will remember them no more

Today He will heal us

Today He will bind up the broken hearted

Today He will set prisoners free.

Today He will give us 'His Peace'

Today we share His amazing Joy

Jesus!

Maranatha!

By Ivy Sharman and Margaret Gordon

We are called to battle.

The Lord against Satan

Enlist with Jesus the King

Make the way for Him, praise and shout.

2 Chronicles 20 tells what that is about

Jehoshaphat trusted, prayed and praised

And God gave the Victory

Pause For Thought.

By Robert Wilson



Self Control.

Self-control is the pathway of purity, which leads to Holiness.

NATIONAL GATHERING-

POINTING TO A NEW SEASON

By Mike Doherty

The Birmingham Gathering (20th July) was a memorable day. Not only because it was extremely hot and because of the severe traffic problems on the M6!

The attendance was particularly impressive covering huge areas of the country. With apologies to anyone missed out, people came from Devon, Somerset, Worcester, Herefordshire, Gloucestershire, Shropshire, North and West Yorkshire, The West Midlands Conurbation, Greater Manchester, North Lincolnshire, Staffordshire, Derbyshire, North Wales, Warwickshire, Bedfordshire, South Tyneside and East Sussex.

There were new faces, as well as existing members from across the age groups. As always, there was a tangible sense of God's presence and blessing as we came together. Under God, everyone was significant.

Our younger people had a special role to play. Thomas talked of God's desire that everyone around us becomes fully mature. Peter talked of the light of faith. We should know what the Lord has accomplished and that He is coming again, in the journey between the two we should be secure in that knowledge. Rachel spoke of how God wants the generations to come together as one generation. With the support of the older generation, the younger generation (however small in number) are to be God's tool in restoring love and in restoring the United Kingdom. We prayed over them, thanking God for their humility and asking that they receive discernment, courage, a spirit of unity, and prophetic vision.

There was a general sense that there must be a reshaping of the Community. God had alerted us, not least through our financial situation to stop and listen. Linda reminded us of Jesus words that he could only do what He saw His Father doing. Juan told us of a picture he had seen of a potter reworking clay; same clay, new form. John talked of the Community going out and being yeast, the yeast which is the kingdom.

Many thanks for the welcome and hospitality afforded by Marian and other Birmingham Maranatha Members.

Many thanks also for the Worship group who gently led us in accordance with the leading of the Spirit. The Group was assembled in Plymouth, with the addition of a Derbyshire flautist. It was really hard to believe that this was not a group which regularly played together. As I saw the Plymouth members drive off at the end of the day, it reinforced just how precious is our Community.

BELFAST (13/6/2013)

By Margaret Walker



In November 2012 our Maranatha Group had a Christmas meal to celebrate many years of meeting together, both at Cluna House and at my home, Hazelwood Avenue. We enjoyed a lunchtime dinner at the hotel, Malone Lodge, there were 12 of us.

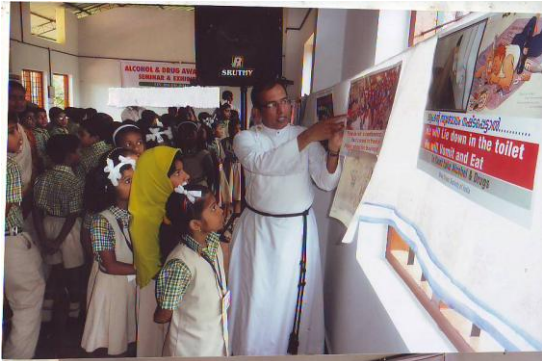
Margaret Lester was able to join us by taxi. We have continued to meet monthly and to keep in touch between time. The June meeting will be held at Margaret Lester's nursing home.

Things have settled down quite well in Belfast and lots of good prayer is happening for everyone.

We are praying for the G8 summit (to be held at Enniskillen) by a Novena of prayer. As the hotel prepares for the guests we pray for the results of the summit.

Thank you for all your prayers. Please continue to Pray.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS



Rhona Marshall (Macclesfield) is a member of the National Co-Ordinators with a special interest in international connections. Rhona has recently had responses from **Zambia (Pastor Terry)** and from **Cochin, South India (Pastor Praise)** Prayer is requested in each case. In both instances there are great community needs.

Pastor Terry writes

“...about the Maranatha programs here, we have major prayer meetings on Tuesday and Thursday every week from 4pm to 6pm and more than a hundred people attend these meetings...”

“On Fridays in five houses in different places we do Bible studies and prayer meetings”

“We are handling requests concerning finance, homes, spiritual growth and numerical growth of Marantha here”



Pastor Praise has sent us some photographs (on this page) and writes

“After 20 years of service as an (Anglican) Pastor, I have met different types of problems in many families and among the poor tribal and downtrodden people in the rural and urban areas due to alcohol and drug problems. I could see many children are not going to school and many drop out from study and because of that poverty and unemployment increase”.

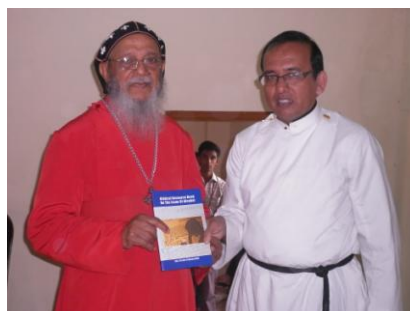
*“Now as a Pastor I am totally committed to work and serve among the poor, alcohol and drug addicted people. I am doing a lot of awareness and study classes and prevention work through exhibitions and showing dangers of this. Also I am doing free counseling for them. I am organizing many classes about the dangers of drugs and substance abuses among the schools, colleges, youth clubs etc. All this work I am doing as a personal work with a strong commitment because of a Word that **“if any thing you do good for these poor people or little ones you are doing it for your Creator”** I strongly believe He has made us watchmen in society.”*

“Nowadays we are also gathering for Maranatha prayer meetings. These gatherings are to pray for all the needs of the people and revival of the people. Once in a month we are doing this”

“We really want to start a rehab centre but for the preliminary stage we need at least \$4000. Then only can we start in a rental building”.

It may be that there are members of the Community who sense a call to respond to the needs other than through prayer, perhaps even to visit. I am sure Rhona would provide further information (rhona-cru@talktalk.net)

Pastor Praise has recently written and published a book named *“Biblical resource book on the issue of Alcohol”* This book was released by Mar Baselios Thomas who is one of the Jacobite bishops in Kerala.



“MY STORY”
By Margaret Walker

It was in 1985 when we all prayed for knowledge of what I was to do after I retired – I was a health visitor in Sheffield. I knew I had to move house – but where? And what work did God want me to do?

We were sitting in a row, my friends from the Prayer Group and myself, in a derelict Church, with graffiti painted all around it. Tin roof! The most unusual Catholic Church I have seen! In a poor housing estate in Yorkshire. Our curate had been called there to be Parish Priest, and he believed that the vandals should clear it up and paint it, not him.

It was a Feast Day, Our Lady's Birthday. We were there for a Celebration Evening with other prayer groups. So I decided my life through the hands of Mary, and asked her to guide me to where God wanted me. I was a committed Christian, a Catholic since birth and First Holy Communion, and had joined a Lay Apostolate in 1964, dedicating my life each year since then to God. I was always trying to bring people to know Him, whatever church they preferred.

After that day, I knew it had to be Northern Ireland. I had profound experience, seeing the mountains behind West Belfast, and knowing that Jesus was there waiting for me! On Songs of Praise they showed that picture, and interviewed Fr. Gerry Reynolds who indicated that the people of West Belfast needed encouragement. I decided to come over for the weekend. When I arrived I stayed in the Columbanus Community, and found out what a beautiful place Belfast was.

As I knew Father Gerry I arranged to meet at the Clonard Novena. I was outside with the mothers and babies, absorbing the spiritual atmosphere, and feeling God saying to me the words of the hymn that was sung

“Who will bear my light to them I have heard my people cry. I will go Lord, if you need me – here I am Lord”

This is how I felt, and have always felt. Next Year 1987 I came for a week, I stayed in the Corner Community. Two Methodists - one a Minister - and myself went to the Holy Trinity Prayer Group. A lady gave words from God as we prayed in a group, and said *“God wants you to come here.”* It was an old hall, bricks were thrown all round the streets, and I thought *“I don't want to come here”* But it was a good prayer group that night so I agreed to whatever of me. So I said *“If so, I need a work to do, somewhere to live, and a group of friends to support me”*. The very next day, I was offered all three. I was taken to an office where a group of people were praying for someone to come from the East, I was that person and they knew it too. They were all there to greet me. One member of their community was ill, but felt called to go to the office and she met me too, they were all there to greet me.

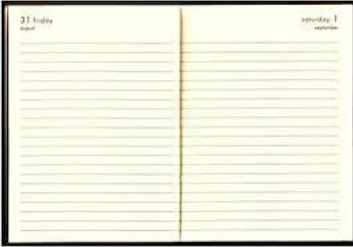
To follow from that day I found that I could arrange a pension, if I retired early, and I had everything confirmed several times. Twice I was given the quote from Jeremiah. He called to go out and *“Speak my words”* Jeremiah was reluctant to go – but God told him that he would speak to the Nations and God would support him and give him words to say.

Eventually, I did leave work, and arrived in Belfast in September 1987, having driven over in my mini, via Liverpool, finding my way from the docks! Life has been eventful, not always, but very joyful and fulfilling and I have many friends. I reckoned that I knew 200 people in the first three months.

I've just been reading a commentary on Jeremiah, on the Feast Day of St. Patrick! There is a similarity – St Patrick came to Ireland, left for England and was called back – drawn back by the Irish People. He was called for a mission, and not without trials. I also worked in Dublin for three years before I left for England; I was drawn back – to Belfast. So I get encouragement from both Patrick and Jeremiah, *“Come I will give you the words.”*

I work mainly in Inter-Church, with ‘Maranatha’ and ‘Divine Healing’, also with my own Parish, following the ideals of unity between us, especially between the Churches, renewal of ourselves and each Church, and praying for healing. We have a prayer group monthly and meet often in-between, to pray for healing and each other. That would make another whole book.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS



There are still three more Regional Gatherings in 2013

- **St Marks Sheffield** (14th September)
- **Cannon Street Christian Centre Taunton** (21st September)
- **Our Lady of Victories, Market Harborough** (16th November)

YORKSHIRE GATHERING OF PRAISE WORSHIP AND HEALING

In addition, **The Yorkshire Pillars** propose to follow up the September Regional Gathering in Sheffield with a special sharing, fellowship praise, worship and healing day on

- **Saturday 12th October** again at St Marks (10.30am with refreshments for 11am to 4pm).

For more information please contact **Pat Hallam** on 0114 2334477. Please bring a packed lunch.

Everyone is welcome

RETREATS AND TEACHING

- **'Rise up men of Faith'** Beechwood Court, Conway (13th to 15th September)
- **'Silent Retreat'** Carmelite Priory, Oxford (25th to 27th October)

There will be **Quiet Days** at

- **Presentation Convent, Huddersfield** (7th September)
(2nd November)

(Please contact Peter Jackson on 0161 748 4858)

The Office can also provide details of the forthcoming **'Light out of Darkness'** and related retreats

- **Loreto Centre, Llandudno** (9th to 13th September)
- **Boars Hill, Oxford** (30 September to 4th October)

The next Allyn Benedict Retreats at The Ark in Flixton are

- **'Out of the Courtroom'** (5th to 8th February 2014)
- **'Living into the Fathers House'** (12th to 15th February 2014)

Further Details from the Maranatha office on

T: 0161 7484858

E: info@maranathacommunity.org.uk

Please can I encourage you to share a testimony from any of above events you may have attended so I can include articles for future Spotlights.