

SPOTLIGHT

News & Views for Local Groups, by Local Groups!



Issue 33–Spring 2014 (March, April and May)

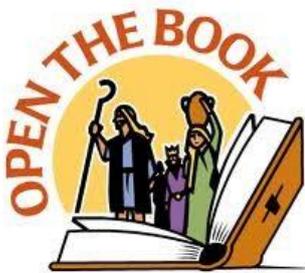
Editor: Matthew Doherty, Address: 1 Clover Court, Brigg North Lincolnshire DN20 8FE Telephone: 01652:655408 E- MAIL: matthewdoherty@talktalk.net

BREAKING NEW GROUNDS

Has your local Maranatha groups or have members of your groups broken new ground lately? At Quinta we considered , among other things, the important strategic position of local groups, not only for prayer but also for action.

Kate Stanway’s testimony (Clun Valley, Shropshire) had a particular resonance for me as I have in the past been challenged by **Psalm 78**:

“We will tell the next generation..... and they in turn would tell their children. Then they would put their trust in God.....”



In contrast, there are so many these days who go through their entire school life without ever learning about Adam and Eve, Noah, David, Jonah or even the life of Jesus and the stories of the New Testament. In response “*Open the Book*”. See www.openthebook.net/home.php - which is associated with the Bible Society – offers a programme of themed and dramatised Bible stories at no charge to the schools. Each session is led by volunteers and lasts about ten minutes, comfortably fitting into assembly times. The team will use drama, mime, props, costumes – even the children and staff themselves - to present Bible stories in lively, engaging and informative ways.

Kate and her husband Roger are involved in such a mission (Clun Valley). Children and teachers are responding very positively indeed. Their OTB team has been welcomed into the local schools and the children say that they **love** these assemblies!

This has been followed up with another initiative - monthly meetings to pray for local schools: See www.prayforschools.org . Twelve people of all denominations from their local community have been attending regularly for 1½ hours, and “*prayers have been answered so quickly we can hardly believe it!*”.



One door that has recently been opened through prayer is the introduction of a “*prayer space*” into a local, very secular, secondary school. The Head Teacher is fully supportive and has actually invited this on a permanent basis, even though the school currently has no RE teacher and only one member of staff is openly Christian. See www.prayerspacesinschools.com/home .

The areas in a “*prayer space*” are “*very visual*”. For instance, forgiveness or letting go can be demonstrated by dropping stones or fizzy tablets into a container of water. Also, prayers can be pegged on a prayer line. There are many creative ideas to engage the children and young people in prayer concepts. Have a look at the website.

We also looked at an example of what, for want a better expression, might be called “*Church without God!*” For example, John Manwell (Liverpool) is involved with the management of a “*non-religious, non-political*” community centre. If we are to break down strongholds, we may need to take a long view. The important point is we are there!

As the Maranatha Community we are not representatives of a particular denomination. We are not seen as “*one church flogging one line*” We have an unique opportunity to serve.

amifilm

Readers may recall a Spotlight report (Issue 26) on the Praise Bus which went ahead of the Olympic Torch , taking live praise worship across the nation. A member of Maranatha's Llandudno group Allison Humphries travelled with the bus along with her husband Arthur, for the complete journey around the U.K.

Hundreds of churches participated providing live praise bands, solo singers and choirs. Not to forget the wonderful hospitality. Travelling 8500 miles in 64 days, it is thought that well over a million people will have seen the bus. The message on the bus was:

“From the rising of there sun to its going down, the Lords Name is to be praised.”

The Llandudno group has now drawn attention to the fact that the flame across the nation is to be fanned higher!

Christine Bonfield (see website for background information) commented on the fact that it is clear that many younger people have had very little input regarding the things of God. It has been revealed, through prayer, a plan to give those who have neither the time nor the inclination to go to church a glimpse of God's love and grace, en masse. The instrument is to be a 20/25 minute cutting edge film presentation called **“I AM”**

The presentation portrays key moments in the Bible using diverse imaging, songs, story and dance. It has been professionally produced. The intention is for it to be shown in pop up shops, work places, schools, prisons, village halls, secular festivals and clubs.

This is indeed a new exciting and imaginative way to introduce all people to the reality of Jesus and the hope He brings. It is so important, however to have the support of local churches.

Arthur and Allison's friend – Christine Bonfield of Cornwall – was the first to receive this vision. Christine says that the Lord *“is calling His people to rise, in wisdom, across this nation once again.”*

There are to be a number of Road Shows at which Christians/churches may preview the film and then consider the possibility of using it in their area. A list of dates for the Road Shows is set out on the following page.

Please contact Christine (am.i@btinternet.com) if you would like to attend one of the Road shows or if you would like your church/area to be included on the list.

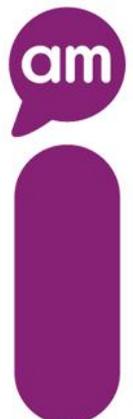
Christine says:

“We are happy to stop at villages along the way. Please do not be put off because you think your church or community is too small. It is important to God and we have left enough flexibility to do this. We will be available morning, afternoons or evening”

Further information can be found on www.amifilm.co.uk You do not have to be on Facebook to view this page, please just click on the icon and you will be taken directly to it, where up to date information and photographs will appear.

Amifilm request:

“When meeting with other Christians in your communities, please pray into this vision that God will direct you and us in planning and carrying out His will for everything you and amifilm are doing”



AMIFILM ROADSHOW DATES

“TO SATURATE THE LAND WITH A BEAM OF LIGHT FROM GOD”

North Wales.	Week beginning 18 th March
Penzance	To be arranged March/April
Truro	To be arranged March/April
Macclesfield	24 th and 25 th March
Blackpool	27 th March
Fleetwood	28 th March
Lancaster	31 st March and 1 st April
Ayr	3 rd and 4 th April
Thurso	7 th and 8 th April
York	12 th to 14 th April
Market Weighton	15 th April
Birmingham	24 th April
Worcester	28 th April
Teignmouth	1 st and 2 nd May
Christchurch	7 th and 8 th May
Reading	12 th May
Marlow	13 th May
East Grinstead	15 th and 16 th May
Benfleet	19 th and 20 th May
Haverhill	22 nd and 23 rd May



TAUNTON REGIONAL GROUP

By Richard & Heather Sampson



We really enjoyed Quinta again this year, being with the wider family is like a foretaste of Heaven as we withdraw from the world and all its troubles for a few days!

Nevertheless life is good here in the South West also, very good in fact, as we enjoy God's blessing in so many ways.

Our local Maranatha group continues to grow, if slowly, and of late we have commenced each monthly meeting earlier in the evening than usual, with a bring and share meal to provide an opportunity for fellowship prior to our time of worship and prayer. This has enabled us to invite others who have not attended before, enjoy their company and deepen relationships. We recommend it!

PAUSE FOR THOUGHT.

By Robert Wilson



If everyone would just stop—think and turn their judgement and gossip of others into Prayer, then there would be no more reason for either of these!

Quinta 2014

A Big Thank You to those who organised this event and kept things running smoothly. **A Big Thank You** also to all those who formed part of the worship band.

Most of all, **Thanks and Praise** to God who brought us together, bringing “*great joy and encouragement*” because our brother and sisters in Christ

“Have refreshed the hearts of the Saints”
(Philemon Ch 1 vs 7)

Wherever God takes us, there are chains that cannot be broken.



MARANATHA WEEKEND'S 2014

A TIME AWAY FOR TEACHING FELLOWSHIP REST AND HEALING

RISING UP AS EAGLES

Living in Freedom and Abundance	The House of Bread The Mill Shipston - on - Stour	28 th - 30 th March
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MORE LOVE, MORE POWER

Growing together in likeness of Jesus	Emmaeus Retreat Centre Swords County Dublin	20 th – 22 nd June
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JESUS OUR PERSONAL TRAINER

Discipleship for the 21 st Century Christian	The Oblate Retreat Centre Wistaston Hall Crewe	25 th – 27 th July
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PROPHETS ALIVE!

Seeing and responding to the signs of the times	Beechwood Court Conwy	12 th – 14 th September
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COMMUNITY WITH GOD

Hearing the still small voice in a noisy world	Loreto Convent Llandudno	17 th -19 th October
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CONTEMPLATIVE RETREATS

DEEPEN OUR UNDERSTANDING, KNOWING OUR FATHER'S VOICE

LIGHT OUT OF DARKNESS

Stepping out in faith	Boars Hill Oxford	7 th – 11 th April
Stepping out in faith	Loreto Centre Llandudno	15 th – 19 th September

LIGHT OUT OF DARKNESS 2

Building with the Spirit	Loreto Centre Llandudno	13 th – 17 th October
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WAITING WITH GOD IN THE DESERT

	Loreto Centre Llandudno	15 th -19 th September
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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CALL THE MARANATHA OFFICE ON

T: 0161 748 4858 E: info@maranathacommunity.org.uk

OR VISIT THE WEBSITE www.maranathacommunity.org.uk TO DOWNLOAD A BOOKING FORM.

