

THE MARANATHA COMMUNITY PRESENTS:

SPOTLIGHT

News & Views for Local Groups, by Local Groups!



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ISLAM – WHO IS MY NEIGHBOUR?



On Saturday 19th April, there was a Maranatha Teaching Module. it was very well attended and Gordon Hickson leader of Mahabba contributed to the teaching.

Mahabba is a prayer based national network which equips local churches with mentoring and training materials helping church leaders to train other members of their churches to relate to Muslims in love and be able to explain the Gospel clearly,

Muhabba have seen an opportunity for Christians around the globe to recognise that God has brought into their country many Muslims who are earnestly seeking a deeper life in God, desperate to find a sense of belonging in alien lives and find a purpose for their lives:-

“As God speaks, ordinary Christians listen and the local churches reach out. Muslims have been impacted by God’s love for them. However, our greatest impact has been in the lives of many everyday Christians and Muslims, as they have grown together in various ways---- what is most revealing is that as individuals have reached out , God has been at work just as much in their lives as in their Muslim neighbours”.

Maranatha’s partnership with Muhabba is in this event proved a fruitful one as is shown by the following email:-

“I came to my first Maranatha meeting at St. John The Evangelist New Ferry.....The meeting was about dealing with Muslims. Just one circle in a largish room, Christian people of various denominations came from all over including the USA and Manchester, Hoyle... including ministers and leaders all Christians. There was some very powerful community prayer and singing (enough to feel expression of the fear of the Power of Almighty Lord, if you know what I mean). I learned a lot... I learned about the history of Islam and Mohammed. The solution being proposed is of course love.”

Perhaps others within the Maranatha Community might be encouraged to host an event.

The Mahabba website is: <http://www.mahabbanetwork.com>

NO LIMIT
by Mike Doherty

It never ceases to amaze me how God uses seemingly insignificant activities for His purposes.

Readers of Spotlight may recall there is a link between our Broughton (formerly Brigg) group and a Gospel Puppet Team. All but one of the seven adults who are members of the team attend Maranatha Group meetings.

On the Sunday evening before Christmas the team gave a presentation from a long trailer to an all-age audience of about 350 at a local village green. In between the puppetry, the Gospel was uncompromisingly proclaimed, the churches in that village have invited us to return this Christmas.

In recent weeks, we have also contributed to a St George's Day event (for the Scouting movement) at a thousand seater theatre in Scunthorpe (Baths Hall).

Whilst rejoicing in the opportunities given to us on the "big stage" we know that the more personal presentations we give at care homes (and the like) are at least as important. They are not always easy, as there can be many distractions e.g. resident needing to go to the toilet, staff bringing cups of tea etc. Nonetheless we have every reason to believe the work is having an impact. At the very least, the residents receive mental stimulation. Moreover we are communicating with even the most fragile residents spirit to spirit. And this could be the last time they ever hear the Gospel.

What especially prompted this article is that a few days after the St Georges Day event, we visited a local care home and our visit was mightily blessed. When we prepared the days programme, we were prompted by the spirit to introduce a new feature, namely a meditation from the Shalom CD. This was the seventh track **No Limit**, the words of which are set out opposite. We opened with a puppet song "He loves you" (based on the Beatles song) and then gave our introduction. The meditation was next, followed by "Love on the Cross" (based on the old Neil Diamond Song; a visual presentation of the Gospel story of the three crosses and of the empty tomb; "Where you there when they crucified my Lord?"; an opportunity for the residents (and staff) to join us in "Put your hand in the hand of the man who stilled the waters"; an account of the man who called himself "The old African blasphemer" John Newton; a joyous version of "Amazing Grace"; another visual presentation as to how Jesus had defeated sin and death; and finally "I will follow Him" (Sister Act).

When we played the meditation there was a silence (and peace) which was beyond human understanding. This sense of God's presence remained with us throughout the whole programme. There were no distractions. Residents hung onto every word. Untypically, members of staff came over to us at the end to indicate how they had been touched. This was an unforgettable experience. Who knows what revelation, what healing, what deliverance from fear and anxiety took place!

During the introduction, the hope was expressed that every single person in the room would experience, how long, how wide, how high, how deep is the love of God. God so graciously responded. Thanks be to God!

(Editor: I wonder if anyone else has used the Maranatha meditation CD'S in unusual circumstances).

NO LIMIT

Betrayed
He Loved
Forsaken
He Loved
Arrested
He Loved
Despised
He Loved
Mocked
He Loved
Scourged
He Loved
Spat upon
He Loved
Vilified
He Loved
Crucified
He Loved

Christ's love and forgiveness know no limit.

PAUSE FOR THOUGHT
by Robert Wilson

Healing in Jesus'
Incomparable Name.



Immediately after the Spirits outpouring at Pentecost, it is, stated:-

"The Apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders"

(Acts Ch 3 vs 16)

"Through faith in the name of Jesus this man was healed— and you know How crippled he was before. Faith in Jesus name has healed him before your very eyes".

An invitation

MARANATHA TEACHING MODULE

Anglicans, Methodists, Roman Catholics, Baptists, Pentecostals, Salvationists, members of
United Reformed and Independent Churches – all ONE in Christ.

KINGDOM CONFLICT



*Being
Light
in the
World*

**Saturday, 30th May 2015
10am – 1pm**

**Wrenthorpe Methodist Church, Wrenthorpe
Road, Wrenthorpe, Wakefield WF2 0JS**

(map on reverse side)

From the moment we accept Jesus' invitation to follow Him and make Him Lord of our lives, we enter into a spiritual battle – the conflict between the kingdom of this world and the Kingdom of God. We are called to be light in the midst of darkness and to live and proclaim Truth in a world of lies. As Christians, it is important to be aware of areas of spiritual conflict in our modern day society, such as Mindfulness, Yoga, Reiki, the advance of psychology and the influence of secular humanism. What does it mean to be Jesus' disciples in 21st century Britain? This and other important questions will be addressed in this special teaching module.

We welcome you and encourage you to bring friends from your church to join us.

ALL WELCOME - JUST TURN UP - NO CHARGE!

Arranged by the Maranatha Community

a movement of Christians committed to unity, renewal and healing
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