



Malvern Mashal Makon 91

Armenian Conference

First of all, I would like to thank everyone who prayed last week for the Armenian Conference at High Leigh Conference Centre. It was a hugely joyous and fruitful experience. The Lord had given me strong thrusts in teaching (on Growing in the life of prayer; studying the example of Nehemiah for developing spiritual discernment, grasping the importance of music in the corporate expression of our worship and finally a big push on developing the spiritual authority the Lord Jesus has given us. I was ably served by my interpreter, which makes all the difference on these occasions!

There was plenty of time to pray for people too, and it was a great blessing to see people opening up parts of their lives that needed to come into the light of the Lord's healing love. Two people gave their lives to the Lord over the weekend too.

You may remember I mentioned the violinist who emerged out of nowhere to take the place of the first violinist in our recent recording project. Grace Lee came along for the Saturday at High Leigh, along with her Malaysian boyfriend, who also plays with the Royal Philharmonic. They have had limited experience of improvising, but when I chucked them in the deep end at a strategic moment in the conference they played beautifully. It felt like a ministry developing in front of our eyes! They were enormously loved and appreciated, and have already been snaffled up by someone there for another event.

Then it was back up to Kidderminster for Keith and Linda's wedding on Sunday afternoon. The Lord has knit their hearts beautifully together, and that came across in so many ways. As you can imagine, there were Christian musicians there in force and Guy Rothwell and I ministered together. Our friends Michael and Esther Ross Watson had been due to share too, but were unable in the event to join us. The Lord is using them greatly as ever, and Michael has some exciting writing projects to be getting his teeth into.

The Royal Wedding

It certainly was a weekend for weddings! I think many of us were encouraged to see 'so much of God' in William and Catherine's service: the prayer that they wrote was moving, the opening quotation from Catherine of Siena that if we 'become who we are meant to be in God we will set the world on fire;' the reading from Romans 12 and even the timely reminder from the Bishop of London (quoting Chaucer) that wherever 'mastery' (control and domination) comes into a relationship, the Lord beats His wings and is gone.

<http://www.officialroyalwedding2011.org/blog/2011/April/29/The-Bishop-of-London-s-Sermon>

A lot of people feel that not only for the couple themselves but the monarchy itself, the institution of marriage and the Christian cause in the land have all received a timely boost from their service.

Speaking as a Watchman . . . Rumbblings bleeping on the Radar Screen

For the past few weeks we have been aware of unusually strong 'rumbblings' bleeping on the radar screen. Given their intensity, it was not in the least surprising to hear about the events surrounding Osama bin Laden. Making sense of what the prophets are sharing is a challenging task.

Some who receive these Malvern Mashals are most interested in our personal pilgrimage. Others benefit most from the teaching, participating in an unofficial home Bible study school. Others enjoy and take on board the insights we share concerning wider trends in a bid to focus prayer. If you are interested in keeping your finger on a wider pulse, we hope that you will find the resume we have compiled in this edition helpful. While we have been enjoying Barbecue type weather here, there are seriously intense situations developing around the world.

We wrote a few editions ago about the 'suddenlies' of God. Surely no one can be in any doubt now concerning the scale of the shaking of the nations that is underway. Ever since New Orleans, it has been affecting First World countries as well as the ones more commonly affected by disasters. For Japan, as for Christchurch, there came an unexpected 'suddenly' moment that has led to extremely serious long term consequences. Parts of Christchurch are not expected to be able to be rebuilt.

<http://rebuildchristchurch.co.nz/some-parts-of-chriurch-will-not-be-rebuilt>

The last thing we want to do is to end up jumping to 'Goliath's shouts', but equally we cannot afford not to set the watchman's trumpet to our lips when danger is threatening. Even here at home the threat level against the UK has risen to the second highest possible. It is not always easy to discern when something is an Internet fuelled rumour and when there is real substance behind it, but well before bin Laden's death we millions of Muslims were being urged to make a concerted push against Israel (and indeed the West) on 15th May. It is important to take that day seriously in prayer.

Do continue to pray for our government, too, after all the aggro and the drama of the last few days electioneering. David Cameron feels somehow 'more accessible' after Dominic's recent experience at Number Ten – <http://www.ruachministries.org/The%20Westminster%20Collection.htm> but the ungracious tactics of the AV campaign have caused real and unnecessary damage.

Music Offering

After pondering such heavy topics, we hope these tracks from Spirit of Prayer will prove a blessing: Abundant God (music by Linda Louisa)

<http://www.ruachministries.org/Multimedia/spiritofprayer/tracks/cd1track7spiritofprayer.mp3> and Selfless prayer.

<http://www.ruachministries.org/Multimedia/spiritofprayer/tracks/cd2track10selflessprayer.mp3>

A Message for our Times

Back in 1980 the Lord catapulted me into the prophetic ministry. We had been busy holding meetings and working for Him when He 'arrested' me one day and asked me to look in detail at the book of Amos. From it He gave a clear warning of the perils facing us both as a nation and a church in this land

because of the unfaithfulness of so many parts of the Church, that was taken up by trivia and so lacking in clarity in its presentation of the gospel.

As a result of that word the whole course of my ministry changed. Intercession for wider affairs became established at the heart of my calling, and calling the body of Christ to intercession and repentance became the norm for many years – and we have seen an incredible number of very good things come about as a result.

In a sense we were punching above our weight; the Lord giving us beginner's grace to pray for wider issues, but ever since then we have found it as relatively easy to pray for national affairs as for personal ones – or rather to have the same level of heart concern for wider things as we do for personal ones.

The Lord never keeps us indefinitely in one phase. There have been many seasons of intense activity (as when I led two nationwide days of prayer back in 2001 along with dozens of worship and intercession conferences), and then other times when it has been right to focus on other emphases. The Lord looks for lovers as well as workers, and developing the contemplative ministry is an extremely precious and important part of our ministry, not least in finding ways to blend music, teaching and prayer.

At the moment, however, we are aware of a whole raft of prophetic words that are circulating with urgent four star labels attached to them. It is challenging to hold them in tension, as they range from those who are convinced that God has an exceedingly good future for us here in the United Kingdom to those who feel that His patience with us is running out altogether.

In one sense it will help if we can keep these emphases in a right and creative tension rather than nailing our colours too firmly to either camp. At another level there are particular things it is important to respond to in prayer straight away. To be a 'balanced' Christian is never something mediocre: it means to be 'as radical as possible in as many emphases as are truly of God and compatible with his leading. Before coming to specifics, let me take you back to Jesus's last days on Earth.

The final emphasis in Jesus' teaching on Earth

When people think of the themes Jesus covered in the final days of His ministry on Earth, they normally look at the great teaching chapters of John 14-17. It has been brought to my attention, however, that in the days before His death, most especially between Palm Sunday and Good Friday, there is a significant shift in His teaching ministry.

You cannot miss the emphasis on the immense trouble that will come on the nation of Israel as a result of missing the hour of their visitation. (e.g. Luke 19:42-44). Jesus also warned about the consequences of not caring properly for His vineyard (20:16-18); something which ties in with His earlier teaching that judgement is always according to opportunity. (see Matt. 11:20-25)

Jesus' warnings against the religious hypocrisy of the Scribes and Pharisees reach an all time high, showing that God hates the sin of hypocrisy more

than almost any other (see Luke 20:45-47 and the astonishingly hard hitting Matthew 23).

The destruction of the Temple is foretold, (think what a shock that would have been to His hearers!) along with a whole raft of warnings about the turmoil that lies ahead for the nations – something that will be accompanied by a time of special persecution against believers (Luke 21:5-28). The call is to keep a constant watch, and to pray that if at all possible we ourselves can be spared such horrors (yes please, Lord! Luke 21:34-36).

Overview 1: The Middle East

As best I have been able to judge it, the prophetic consensus is that the changes in the so called Arab Spring are not likely to bring about anything approaching what we would regard as democracy, but are actually going to greatly strengthen the hand of radical Islam in a more united form, with a view to seeking to overthrow first Israel and then the West.

(Keep praying for Libya, Syria and Morocco from this point of view too).

Lance Lambert has long been a key observer of the situation in the Middle East. Back in October he voiced a major concern over a pact between Turkey and Iran, agreeing to support each other: Iran recognising Turkey as leader of the Sunnis in the region, and Turkey recognising Iran's leadership of the Shia.

www.lancelambert.org/middle-east-update.php

Iran is greatly disliked in the region by the other nations. Its own people inside are desperately hungry. The hunger they have for spiritual things is so utterly unlike our own in the West: we live as it were with the hands folded across our arms in a 'bless us if you can attitude'; whereas Jesus said if anyone *hunger* and if anyone *thirst*, let him come to Me.

The president of Iran is completely committed (as are all appointed to Cabinet level) to the return of the Mahdi.' It is important to have a clear understanding of what this entails: wikipedia.org/wiki/Mahdi It is in so many ways a counterfeit of how it will be when the Lord Jesus returns.

This remains an important time to pray for Iran, where so many are so hungry for God: that the Lord will meet that need, and show Himself to many.

Melanie Phillips

At the start of this century, David Pawson brought out what is widely regarded as his most significant and sobering book: *The Challenge of Islam* (Hodder), in which he argues that our present moral vacuum as a nation is paving the way for Islam.

Certain secular commentators have also woken up to where Islam could lead to on the home front. See for example [Melanie Phillips recent article](#) in the Daily Mail.

Melanie has also [written an article](#) in the rather less tabloidy *Spectator*, concerning the way Hamas have bitterly opposed the killing of Osama bin

Laden, who they regard as a holy Arab warrior. She is deeply concerned at the rapprochement between Hamas and Fatah, as well as the way the West is bending over backwards to endorse the nation state of Palestine. We are told that this will be unilaterally declared in September, but since Hamas is already in a close relationship with both al Qaeda and Iran, many see it as being highly likely to prove to be a terror state.

Concerning the Hamas Fatah link, see aljazeera.net/news/middleeast/ and www.presstv.ir/ See also washingtontimes.com/news/

Overview 2 The build up of pressure against Israel

There is a widespread understanding that the Palestinian conflict will effectively prove impossible for the world to solve, with a result that there will be a great upsurge of nations calling for the liquidation of Israel. It feels as though we are getting closer and closer to that point now. The verse that has been quoted so extensively in the context of the Holocaust is likely to have a latter day interpretation too: *"It will be a time of trouble for Jacob, but he will be saved out of it."* (Jer 30:7)

The picture is of a major assault on Israel by combined forces, which will cause enormous loss of life, but will ultimately result in Israel calling out to God in great distress and coming to recognise their Messiah. God's promises will not fail.

They will look up and see the One that was pierced for them. Mourning bitterly for him in repentance they will finally cry out "Blessed is He who comes in the Name of the LORD!" Read Zechariah 12:8-12 as well as chapter 14 for a clearer understanding of where human events are leading to, and perhaps Revelation 11:1-13 in this context too, where we see the Lord raising up specially anointed witnesses in the darkest hour of Israel's abandonment to help reveal the Messiah to them.

We know that in the final outcome the Lord Himself will intervene to protect Israel. See Isaiah 59:16 bible.cc/isaiah/59-16 (See also Isaiah 29:5-8)

God bless and keep you all, and make you effective gatekeepers and watchmen for Him!

www.ruachministries.org