

## COMMUNITY TRANSFORMATION

### A Call to Action – Paper Four

*Fed-Up With Declining Morals; Binge Drinking, Crime and Violence?*  
Want to see a change in the nation?

*There is something Christians can do!!* Now read on –

There is still time for Christians to rouse from their apathy, to step aside from their differences, to mobilise the resources that God has given us and, call the faithful ones to prayer, to repentance and to **action**. Prayer and repentance are the essential preliminaries that will allow the Holy Spirit to direct a new movement to bring new life into the dry bones of the Church and to touch the hearts of the multitude who were once believers, but have lost their faith. There is a large residue in Britain today who used to be believers and have retained something of the teaching they received in Sunday School and Day School. Many ordinary people - the silent majority - most of whom don't go to church, are appalled at the Godlessness of the nation and are fearful of the future for their children and grandchildren. With the right leadership and the right kind of campaign they could be reached and mobilised into a force to bring influence to bear upon political leaders that could bring about a turning point in the nation.

The Lord is pointing to a new day and calling for a fresh response from the faithful remnant of his people. It is time to mobilise the people of God to rebuild the house of the Lord in this land!! The battle for Britain has begun!! It is raging in the heavenlies as well as on earth. It is happening now because the Enlightenment has run its course. The ordinary people known as 'middle Britain' have seen through the pretentiousness of Enlightenment philosophy. They can see the consequences of blatant individualism and the libertarian moral sewer that has resulted and is now engulfing the children and young people of this once great nation. The ordinary people of the land are leaderless; they are like sheep without a shepherd. They represent most of the 72 percent of the nation who registered as Christians in the 2001 National Census.

The greatest danger is that in their fear and spiritual confusion people could easily turn to Islam with its strong authoritarian message and morality. There is a moral and spiritual vacuum in this land that Islam aims to fill. Make no mistake! If we remain in apathy it will happen!! If the Lord's people do not respond to his call now he will allow Islam to rise as he used the Assyrians in ancient Israel as 'the rod of his anger'.

#### Watchmen

This is probably the last opportunity to save the nation from the judgment it richly deserves. If we, the Lord's people, the faithful remnant, do not respond to the call of the Lord, he will hold us primarily responsible for the disaster that will fall upon this nation. The 'watchman principle' is deeply embedded in Scripture (Ezekiel 33) whereby if the watchman receives a message of warning and does not blow the trumpet to warn the people he is held responsible for the fall of the city and the blood of the people.

#### Response

God is looking to his people for a response. He is giving a fresh vision and strategy for reaching all those who will respond in the nation. In the Spring of this year, 2005, a new movement will be launched for changing the moral and spiritual values of the nation. It is to be called **transform-uk** and owes much to the vision and strategy given by God to Wilberforce and the group of action oriented evangelicals in the 18th century who later became known as the 'Clapham Sect'. What Wilberforce and the Clapham Group of committed Christians did to change the nation in the 18th century can be done in the 21st century. The new movement to change the nation has the backing of major Christian leaders of all denominations and many different ministries.

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But **transform-uk** is not just a leadership movement. Its success depends upon its ability to mobilise the grassroots, the Christians in the workplace and in the community; in local churches, fellowships and prayer groups. To find out more of how you can be involved in the movement to change the nation, contact **Clapham Connections at Moggerhanger Park (01767 641 005)**; see other papers on this web site; read the paper, **The Global Concept of a Movement of Change** that can be downloaded free of charge. If you are concerned about the world your children and grandchildren will inherit, don't delay; respond today! Tomorrow may be too late!

*Remember the challenge of Joshua, 'Choose yourselves this day whom you will serve... But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord!'*

## STATE OF THE NATION

### Marriage Breakdown

Since 1971 the number of divorces has nearly doubled from 80,000 in 1971, to 157,000 in 2003  
13 percent of divorces in 2001 occurred within three years of marriage  
The number of single parent families increased from 8 percent in 1971 to 23 percent in 2003

### Fragmented Families

Births outside marriage increased from 12 percent in 1980 to 41 percent in 2000  
Up to 40 percent of fathers lose contact with their children within two years of separation.  
One in three (4.4 million) children are living in poverty, compared with one in ten in 1979.  
Over 60,000 children live in care; 96 percent are admitted due to family breakdown.  
Family breakdown costs the nation £15 billion a year

### Behavioural Problems

There were 82,400 exclusions of children from schools in England and Wales in the summer term 2003; 14 percent due to violence against another pupil.  
More than 50,000 pupils play truant everyday in England and Wales.  
98 percent of persistent juvenile offenders come from broken homes.  
On average two schools suffer arson fire attacks every day in the UK at an annual cost of £73 million  
100,000 children run away from home every year.

### Sex and Drugs

The number of 11 to 15-year-olds taking drugs in England doubled between 1998 and 2003.  
17 percent of 15-year-olds and six percent of 13 to 14-year-olds in England attended NHS family planning clinics in 2003/4.  
The UK has the highest rate of teenage pregnancy in Europe, 40 percent higher than Portugal in second place.  
Nearly a quarter (23 percent) of conceptions in the UK ended in legal abortions in 2000.

### Child Abuse and Pornography

57 percent of 9 to 19-year-olds have come into contact with online pornography.  
Five million images of child abuse are in circulation on the Internet featuring 400,000 children.  
Commercial pornographic sites on the Internet have increased by 1,800 percent in the last five years. Over 260 million pages are classified as pornography.  
Every day 4,000 children call ChildLine.

### Debt and Stress in Family Life

British household debt has reached one trillion pounds, equivalent to £17,000 for every individual. Personal debt is now greater than the UK's annual income and is rising by £1 million every four minutes.  
In 2003 Samaritans answered 4.6 million calls from people in despair - **Do we Christians really care for the lonely and the lost with the love of Jesus???**

*Clapham Connections is part of a group of organisations seeking to set up a forum for promoting a 'Movement for Community Transformation'. Further information is available from Clapham Connections, Moggerhanger Park, Park Road, Moggerhanger, Bedford MK44 3RW*

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*This paper is also a part of a series of concept papers under the heading **Community Transformation** – see website or request separate list*

*A **Position Paper** on the work of Clapham Connections appears on the website as well as a **Mission and Strategy** paper outlining a strategy for a movement of social transformation.*