



Chatham Chatter



Chatham Citadel Corps
Corps Officer Major Ian F Payne

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17TH JANUARY 2021

Hello Friends and welcome to this week's Chatham Chatter.

For those who joined us on Sunday, we did experience a Power Surge, twice in about 30 seconds, which caused the Wifi to be switched off but we did get back very quickly, thanks to David and Anthony - therefore last Sunday's meeting on YouTube is in two parts. This week we have recommenced some of our community work at the hall with Bags of Hope and Life Project meal for the homeless and vulnerable on Tuesday evenings. We carry out all these activities with strict adherence to the Covid guidelines issued by the government. It is a challenging time as there are many families who are struggling day to day, and, whilst I do want to keep all safe and even postpone our engagement with the public, if we do not care, who will? So it is important that we continue with crucial work, in the constant awareness of keeping each other safe and the members of the public, reminding them of the importance of keeping safe.

Also, I am trying to stay at home as much as possible, in compliance with the 'Stay at Home' rule, especially as this new variant is spreading at such a rate. I thank God daily for those who are putting themselves on the very front line of service to keep each one of us safe, emergency services, our NHS staff, Volunteers, those at Vaccine centres etc.

Can I ask that we pray for **Adam & Jenny Collins**, Jenny is in hospital for observations, baby is fine and due between now and 29th. Please keep them in your prayers and the wider family who will be naturally, concerned

This Sunday I am looking at 'Power Surge' – quite apt after last Sunday's challenge. In particular 2 Corinthians 5:17, *'Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: the old has gone, the new is here!'*

That thought of being 'In Christ'. What does that look like to you and how does a new creation affect me? Am I a new creation In Christ? Thoughts to ponder as we continue our journey through these turbulent times.

Monday 18th commences the week of Christian Unity when churches all over the UK will be praying for each other, our ministries, wisdom and understanding. We are a very privileged people as there are many around the world who do not have this freedom in Christian worship. So each week we will be highlighting a country and, in particular, the Christian community that is suffering and being persecuted because of their faith. Thanks to Rosemary for this initiative.

God bless you as you seek Him and His direction with all your lives.

Ian F Payne Major

PRAYER REMINDERS



Please pray this prayer:

Father God, I pray for my church today, that you will fill each of us with your joy and peace, and that, in our worship online and at home, our fellowship and mission will overflow with hope, by the power of your Holy Spirit, in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

- Pray for our Corps, each section whether it be the children's work, Mummy & Me, the BP sections and Youth, as well as the musical sections and community work.

- Pray for any of our Corps members who are unwell with Covid19 and for their families. Pray also for those who are suffering with other health conditions, particularly those awaiting treatments which have been delayed.

- Pray for all those working in positions where they are vulnerable to infection but each day put themselves at risk for our benefit.

- Pray for families that are struggling to keep themselves fed through loss of earnings and for the children who are missing their friends at school.

- Pray for those who have been bereaved that God will comfort them at this difficult time.

Please let Jean know of any urgent prayer requests for the supportive prayers of the Prayer Chain. Email her on jeanm1938@gmail.com or text on 07787718273.

PROMOTION TO GLORY

A soldier of Chatham Citadel and former Songster, Frankie Kember, was Promoted to Glory on 10th January. Please remember her husband, Derek and family in your prayers, also she was the sister of Audrey Holder.



Territorial Envoy Tony McClure Mateship

I stumbled across a surprisingly interesting programme on the telly last night (10 January 2021). It was on BBC2 and it was about the actress, Miriam Margolyes, who was doing a sort of drive about in Australia.

Last night's episode was on the subject of 'mateship'. This is an officially recognised aspect of Australian culture. Miriam was seeking to find out if the concept did exist and, if it did, how 'mateship' manifests itself. She met an eclectic group of people ranging from a pub landlord to a group of aboriginal transgender folk. Miriam was accepting of all and the programme was an interesting watch.

The reason I am sharing this with you is that I found my reaction to some of the people Miriam met quite interesting. To say I was judgemental was to say the least.

I feel I had one of those moments when God used a secular event to speak truth into my life. I was challenged to consider how I react to people who are different from me.

As I was walking along Chatham High Street this morning I found myself looking at people in a new light.

It is important that we allow God to speak into our hearts and minds that there are those areas where we may have fallen short of the standards He sets for us.

Jesus said that the greatest commandment was 'that we shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' The second one being: 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself.'

God bless each of you.

BIBLE READING SUNDAY 17th

2 Corinthians Chapter 5 verses 17 - 21

BIBLE STUDY

Bible Study this Wednesday is under the leadership of TE Tony McClure titled 'Unexpected Jesus' Isaiah 9:1-7. Come and join us on Zoom. We start at 8pm for one hour. The Zoom Link is:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5972909541?pwd=MzFIWUpEUDd0K0ErQOZSTWM0Z0J3Zz09>

Meeting ID: 597 290 9541 Passcode: Hope2020

FUNERAL SERVICE

The funeral service of Eileen Burns, Martin Castle's aunt will be on Monday 25th January 11:15am and the Service for his Father Vernon Castle will be on Wednesday 27th January at 3pm - both at Medway Crematorium.

Please continue to pray for Martin, Gina and the family, especially Margaret, Martin's mother. God bless the family in this sad time that is extremely challenging. Please take time out on Monday and Wednesday, 25th & 27th, to pray.

CORPS TREASURER

All personal cartridges, collections, donations etc: please send a cheque (cheques should be made payable to The Salvation Army and posted to the hall (Church Street, Chatham, ME4 4BT). Please remember to write your cartridge number on the reverse of the cheque. Or you can pay by BACS ask the CT for details.

CORPS FUNDRAISING DONATIONS

Don't forget the Just-Giving page is available to enable members of the public to give donations.

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/chatham-citadel>

If members of the public, your neighbours, friends etc. wish to donate to the Corps please direct them to this link or they can send in donations using a cheque and posting to the Hall for the attention of the CO.

SOUTH EAST DIVISIONAL INFO

EBBSFLEET

In Ebbsfleet near Gravesend there is huge development of housing emerging. God has laid it on the Division's heart to pray for this area. We are in contact with churches that are already establishing themselves on the estates and we have asked them to share with us the prayer requests and needs specific to Ebbsfleet. Our aim is also to seek God's heart for any Salvation Army involvement in the area.

A team from the Division were originally planning to prayer walk in Ebbsfleet this month. However due to lockdown restrictions we are unable to physically be on the estates and pray in this way.

Therefore a zoom prayer meeting has been set up on Fri, 29 Jan from 10.30 – 11.30 to pray for Ebbsfleet, the people that live there and the churches that are emerging. It would be great to have as many as can to join together to pray at this time. An invitation has been also been extended to the church leaders to join with us.

Fri 29/01/2021 10:30am - 11:30am

Zoom 481 071 8023 Code K587vQ

The South East Division
"in conversation"
 Wednesday 20 January 2021 – 7:30pm
 Zoom meeting id: 827 0502 7154
 Passcode: 881446

"Its time to sing your song again!"

Shaping together mission possibilities for 2021

THE SALVATION ARMY

A Christian Church and registered charity - No. 214779 and in Scotland SC009359

THQ

To keep up with The Salvation Army throughout the territory - click the link;

<https://www.youtube.com/user/salvationarmyvideo>

[The Salvation Army Youtube Channel](https://youtu.be/Nv4OsGF8Ah4)

<https://youtu.be/Nv4OsGF8Ah4>



TERRITORIAL LEADER VIDEO MESSAGE

Watch the New Year Message from

Commissioner Gillian. Watch now on youtube: <https://youtu.be/sQKkv0Y9OKo>

also

Commissioner Anthony's latest message can be found at

<https://youtu.be/Mt-QxhIqa98>

FREE WILL WRITING SERVICE

If you've put off writing or updating your Will, why not make it a New Year resolution to have it written for free by the Legacy team. Find more details email

Beatrice.Heintz@salvationarmy.org

or call 020 7601 7009.



GENERAL BRIAN PEDDLE

General Brian Peddle is on Facebook and Twitter and gives very encouraging updates

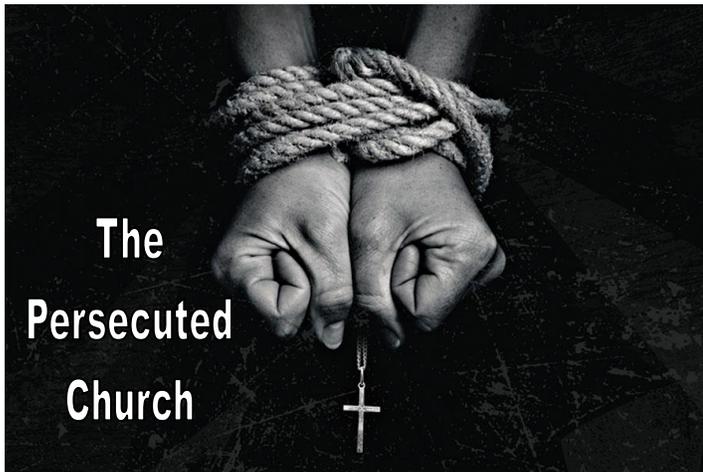
daily of what is going on around the SA world including thoughts and prayers. Facebook & Twitter @GeneralBPeddle. Also Twitter @SalvArmyIHQ

GENERAL'S BIBLE MESSAGE

International leader General Brian Peddle asks 'What's Next?' in an online Bible message view here on Youtube

https://youtu.be/IA_OvQc0R5o

As mentioned in my letter, we are commencing a weekly column with facts and information so that we can pray for the Persecuted Church. Here is an introductory article explaining and giving information on the subject



God is working in his world. Do you believe it? The church is alive, the church is active, the church is growing, and that is why the church is persecuted. In the UK we are relatively free to have a Christian faith and to live it openly and most of the time we take it for granted, worried about minutiae and critical of the way other Christians worship. But what if the opportunity to worship was taken away? We have experienced that in the last year. But, again, what if our livelihoods and homes and families were threatened just for identifying with Jesus and his people? How brave would we be then? It would focus us on what really matters.

Over 300 million Christians face high or extreme levels of persecution; 1 in 8 Christians worldwide. Churches are being attacked and technology aids the process of persecution by oppressive regimes. These

persecuted people are not strangers, they are our family. What can we do?

Tennyson wrote "More things are wrought by prayer than this world dreams of". Our God not only loves his world and everyone in it passionately, but can do more than we ask or imagine (Eph. 3:20).

Despite Covid restrictions, this year can be a year when we commit to praying for our persecuted family. Open doors (<https://www.opendoorsuk.org/resources/prayer/>) lists the top 50 countries in their 'world watch' list. In this newsletter we will be highlighting a country each week for us to pray about as a Corps family and in our individual prayers. At the end of the year this will culminate in having a 24-7 virtual prayer room. Please join with me; I believe that God listens to our prayers and that they make a difference, even when we are unaware of what the impact is.

Another helpful website is <https://barnabasfund.org/>

From the Open Doors website:

Imagine a place where you could come close to all your brothers and sisters in the Lord.

Imagine a time when you could express your hope that they could be made strong. Imagine a way to ask for their protection, for wrongs to be righted, for the world to be redeemed... That place is here.

The time is now. The way is prayer

Sovereign God, we worship You and we acknowledge that You know all those who suffer in Your name.

We remember those who are imprisoned for their faith and ask that, like Paul, they would see that even though they are captive, their chains can further the gospel, not frustrate it.

May they inspire and encourage their fellow believers to speak your word.

For those who are tortured both in body and mind, give them the grace to endure...

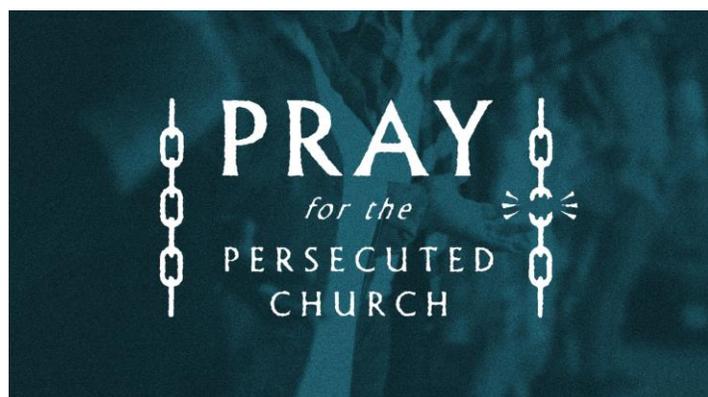
For those asked to pay the ultimate price; who are martyred because of their love for You, may they truly know the presence of the Holy Spirit within them and the power of Christ's resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in His sufferings, becoming like Him in His death.

For those who are widowed and orphaned may they know the comfort that comes from Your promises to provide for them.

May they all be strengthened by Your Spirit, and enable them to rejoice with the psalmist as they proclaim that you will not abandon them.

Make us ever mindful of our brothers and sisters around the world who need us to stand with them as they suffer in Your name.

Amen.



ON YOUR DAILY JOURNEY

As part of your daily devotions let's pray the A to Z prayer.

Each day I will give you a letter from the alphabet. Please use this letter to pray for members of the Corps with this initial, friends, family and neighbours and why not let them know that they have been prayed for, an email, note through the door or letter. Let's make a difference by praying for each other. Can you imagine the difference that will make.

MONDAY 1 JOHN 4:20-21

If anyone says, "I love God," yet hates his brother, he is a liar. For anyone who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen. And he has given us this command: Whoever loves God must also love his brother."

THOUGHTS ABOUT TODAY'S VERSE...

Love! The word can mean anything. Many in the Christian community have tried to define it by a dictionary or lexicon, not realizing the key word for love, agape, is defined by action. Before Christians got a hold of agape, it meant the same thing our word today does: just about anything! But if you read 1 John, you see what love is by what God does. God demonstrates his love. He asks us to do the same for our brothers and sisters. Love must be more than talk, it must be genuinely demonstrated in action!

O - MY PRAYER...

Precious Father, you have so graciously shared your love with me. I must confess, in my heart I intend to love others as you do, but my intentions often get washed away

with "busy-ness" or timidity. Father, through your Spirit, prompt me to show my love to others in actions rather than just thought and talk. Through Jesus, your greatest demonstration of love I pray. Amen.

TUESDAY JOHN 8:31-32

Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

THOUGHTS ABOUT TODAY'S VERSE...

There are few things more coveted than freedom. People die for it. People pray for it. People strive for it. True freedom comes from knowing truth. Knowing truth only comes by living in obedience to Jesus. Truth is not something you merely think about or believe. Truth is something you do, you live. Jesus' teaching always ends with the exclamation: Blessed are you who do these things! Only by doing will we ever know the truth that liberates us.

P,Q - MY PRAYER...

To the only true God be glory, honour, power, and praise. Father, I seek not only your presence in my daily life, but also your pleasure in the choices I make. Please teach me more of your truth as I pledge to live today in obedience to your word and your will. Through Jesus the living Word I pray. Amen.

WEDNESDAY GALATIANS 5:16

Live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature

THOUGHTS ABOUT TODAY'S VERSE...

I want you to think about an orange rhinoceros flying with blue wings. Now quit, I don't want you to think about it anymore. You know there is no such thing as an orange

rhino that flies, much less one that flies on blue wings. Of course the point is simple: the more we try to not do something, the more we focus on it and ensure we do what we are not supposed to do. That's why the gift of the Holy Spirit is so important. He enables and empowers us to move beyond our sin -- not by focusing on it and refusing it, but by enriching us and "distracting" us with the important things of God.

R - MY PRAYER...

Abba Father, I thank you so much for your Holy Spirit that lives in me and is now interceding with you for me. Please fill me with your Spirit so that my life more nearly reflects your will and focuses on your concerns. Through Jesus, who poured out your Spirit upon me at my [baptism](#), I pray. Amen.

THURSDAY PHILIPPIANS 2:14-16

Do everything without complaining or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe as you hold out the word of life.

THOUGHTS ABOUT TODAY'S VERSE...

Stars. They've always been a source of constant hope for God's people. "Your descendants will be like the stars," God told Abraham. "When I see the stars, what is man that you are mindful of him?" the Psalms ask. The Wise men from the East followed a star to Jesus. Luke reminds us that Jesus was a bright star come to us from heaven to shine God's light to those in darkness. And now, we're stars. God's points of light in the dark sky of the universe. So let's make today a day when our light shines God's glory to a dark world around us.

S - MY PRAYER...

Almighty God, the incredible expanse of your universe, with its billions of stars, exceeds my limited comprehension. But I thank you for calling me to be a light in the dark world around me and I pledge to shine your light today in the lives of all those I can. Through the name of the Bright and Morning Star I pray. Amen.

FRIDAY 1 CORINTHIANS 10:13

No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it

THOUGHTS ABOUT TODAY'S VERSE...

TEMPTATION... We've all been there. Satan's silver bullet designed just for our heart. "No one will ever know, besides it won't hurt anybody!" some mysterious voice sounding like our own whispers inside our head. Even if those two statements were true, and they never really are, it would matter because something inside of us caved in to what we knew was wrong. One line of defence is to simply remind ourselves we are not alone in this temptation -- others have faced it and conquered it, so we can too, by God's help and the power of his Holy Spirit.

T - MY PRAYER...

Most Holy Father, guard my heart from temptation and my life from sin. I want to serve you with wholehearted devotion. Forgive me for my past sin, and by your grace and through your word, strengthen me with your Holy Spirit so that I may overcome the temptations that Satan uses to separate me

from you. Through my Protector and Redeemer I pray. Amen.

SATURDAY MATTHEW 7:12

In everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the prophets.

THOUGHTS ABOUT TODAY'S VERSE...

The Golden Rule -- golden because it's genuine, lasting, and valuable. Imagine how different our world would be if we practiced this principle -- not just in our "church life" but in our daily life with our family, with our co-workers and employer, with the people we manage, with the folks on the freeway and in the neighbourhoods where we drive, toward the waiters and waitresses who serve us. What a wonderfully different world it would be if the Golden Rule were to be practiced. I think I'll start changing my world with it today! How about you?

U, V, W - MY PRAYER...

Generous Father, you have blessed me with so many rich and wonderful gifts. I can never repay you. One thing I want you to know, dear Father, is that I especially appreciate the way you have treated me with grace and not with justice or judgment. Give me the power to do the same with the people my life touches this week. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

SUNDAY JAMES 1:2-3

Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your [faith](#) develops perseverance.

THOUGHTS ABOUT TODAY'S VERSE...

"Hang in there!" There are few traits more important than perseverance. Most important accomplishments in life hap-

pen because of perseverance. Most luck occurs when we've persevered long enough for the "magical moment" to come along. Edison said it best, life's greatest feats, the world's greatest discoveries, his own most fantastic inventions were "1% inspiration and 99% perspiration." "Hang in there!" and see the glory of God come through in you!

X,Y,Z - MY PRAYER...

Unchangeable and Unshakeable God, through the friends you have sent into my life and by the power of your gift, the Holy Spirit, help me to stand up under trial and prove my character true with perseverance when under fire. Give my faith courage and endurance so that my life shows forth your enduring strength. Through him who remained faithful unto death, I pray. Amen.



Chatham



Only Enter this Building...



with a face cover or mask



Scan NHS Track & Trace App



Use Hand Gel



Social Distancing



Wear gloves