



Chatham Chatter



Chatham Citadel Corps

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24th JANUARY 2021

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

We come into a different week and, with so much that is changing, it made me think: nearly 5 million people in the UK have received the vaccine and a President is inaugurated in the USA. These things alone will make a difference in people's lives. What are we doing that will make a difference, not just in our lives but in the lives of those around us? Faith (Christianity is more than just a theory) and Thesis - it is a reality. Many more people could experience a difference in their lives and community because we do not keep this truth to ourselves. I am so often asked in these days, 'Where is God in all of this?' and, of course, my response is always, 'Standing closer to you than you are to yourself'. In all that we are going through we do need to believe in that truth for ourselves.

On Sunday we will be looking at 'Prayer', that vital component to our Christian life. I will be giving time for prayer with various subjects and music. Also, we commence our prayer focus on 'The Persecuted Church', this week looking at North Korea.

May we find a new invigorated prayer life as we seek him with all our hearts this week.

God bless you

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. Continue to pray for Jenny and Adam. Jenny is home from hospital and they are awaiting the birth of their new baby.
- 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 thinking especially of Martin Castle's family.

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.



Territorial Envoy
Tony McClure
Mateship

Someone sent me the following version of Psalm 139. It challenged me as I read it and I share it with you.

'I'm never out of your sight...
I look behind me and you're there,
Then up ahead and you're there, too-

Your reassuring presence,
Coming and going.
This is too much, too wonderful-
I can't take it all in!

Is there any place I can go to avoid your Spirit?
To be out of your sight?
If I climb to the sky, you're there.
If I go underground, you're there!

You know me inside and out.
You know every bone in my body;
You know exactly how I was made, bit by bit,
How I was sculpted from
Nothing into the something.
Like an open book, you watched me grow
from conception to birth;
All the stages of my life were spread out be-
fore you,
The days of my life were all prepared before
I'd even lived one day.'

God bless you.

BIBLE READING SUNDAY 24th

Matthew 6: 5-15

The Lords Prayer

BIBLE STUDY

Bible Study this Wednesday is under the leadership of TE Tony McClure entitled 'Unexpected Encounters'. Come and join us on Zoom. We start at 8pm for one hour. The Zoom Link is:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5972909541?pwd=MzFIWUpEUDDd0K0ErQ0ZSTWM0Z0J3Zz09>

Meeting ID: 597 290 9541 Passcode: Hope2020

FUNERAL SERVICE

The funeral service of Eileen Burns, Martin Castle's aunt will be tomorrow 25th 11:15am at Medway Crematorium

The Service for his Father, Vernon Castle will be on Wednesday 27th at 3pm – again, 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 to pray.

God bless them all at this time.

FUNERAL SERVICE OF FRANKIE KEMBER

The service will take place on 9 February at 10.00 am at Thamesview Crematorium. Immediate family members only will be attending but the service will be broadcast on a web cast. The details for this (available from 5 mins prior to commencement of the service):

www.obitus.com Login name Wiyi9781, Password 363484. Everyone is welcome to access the web cast.

A Justgiving Fundraising page has been set up 'In memory of Frankie Kember' where donations will be received by The Rotary Club of Rochester Trust Fund and directed towards the Dementia Service run at Rochester Delce a local dementia service which Frankie had attended on several occasions.

SELF-DENIAL 2021



This year's theme is 'Rebuilding Hope and resilience together' based on John 4 verses 7-21. **Watch out for more Information.**

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/chartham-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

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

Commissioner Anthony bring us his latest message – looking at songs and the challenge & confusion – Thinking about the Darkened Paths we are walking and how to Brighten them - also Being the Light at the end of the Tunnel - Watch it here

<https://youtu.be/Ptc7QiYH47o>

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.

We commence our column with facts and information so that we can pray for the Persecuted Church. Here is the first article explaining and giving information on the subject - North Korea

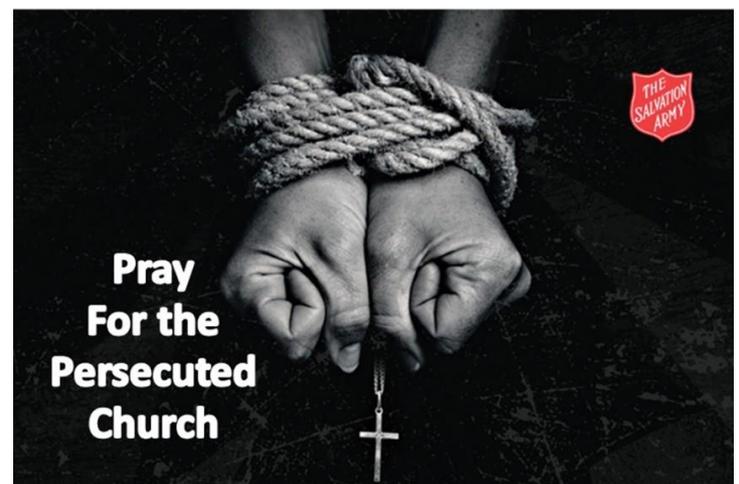


No 1 in the world watch list (of persecuted Christians) is North Korea. It's hard to know exactly how many Christians there are in North Korea, because they must keep their faith so well hidden, but it is estimated to be 400,000 (1.5% of the population). About 50-70,000 of these Christians are in horrendous prisons and labour camps. Being discovered as a Christian is a death sentence in North Korea. People are taken to a labour camp as a political criminal, if not killed instantly. These inhumane prisons have horrific conditions, and few believers make it out alive. And everyone in the family shares the same punishment. Many have to keep their faith entirely hidden and there are stories of husbands and wives not knowing, for many years, that their spouse was also a Christian. Secret police carry out raids to identify Christians, and children are encouraged

to tell their teachers about any sign of faith in their parents' home. A Christian is never safe.

2021 is the 20th year in a row that North Korea has been the country where Christians face the most extreme persecution. Please keep praying for your brothers and sisters in North Korea. Open Doors secret workers are keeping 90,000 North Korean believers alive with vital food and aid through networks in China, as well as providing shelter and training for North Korean refugees in China.

Lord God, it is hard for us to imagine life in North Korea for Christians. But thank You that You will never abandon Your children, and that You are with them whatever they suffer. Please help North Korean believers not just to survive but to be joyful, despite everything – prepare a banquet for them in the presence of their enemies. Tear down the strongholds of the Kim family and replace them with prayer and praise. 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 GALATIANS 6:7-8

Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit will reap eternal life."

THOUGHTS ABOUT TODAY'S VERSE...

Isn't it incredible how huge trees grow out of tiny seeds! This principle runs throughout all of life. We can never completely get away from the seeds we sow. So, let's not fool ourselves while we're trying to do a "sow job" on God. Let's make sure the seeds we sow are the ones we want sprouting up!

A - MY PRAYER...

O Eternal God, who lived before time began and who will be the Great I AM when time is no more, bless the seeds my life sows so they may bear fruit and bless those I love. Through Jesus, the grain of wheat who died and was buried so that life may flower forth. Amen.

TUESDAY MATTHEW 7:7-8

"Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened."

THOUGHTS ABOUT TODAY'S VERSE...

Ask! So often we're afraid to ask for help because we have to admit we don't have the answers. Seek! Effort and interest and perseverance are necessary and that's sometimes hard. Knock! But God wants us to use the A.S.K. principle and bring our hearts before him. So let's not whine, complain, desire, and want. Let's A.S.K. our Father and seek his glory.

B - MY PRAYER...

Waiting Father, I am sorry that so often you hear only my whines, complaints, and concerns. You have been so generous with your love. Help me to keep my heart set on you and your will today as I ask you to minister to the things on my heart. Through Jesus I pray. Amen.

WEDNESDAY JAMES 1:5

If any of you lacks wisdom he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him.

THOUGHTS ABOUT TODAY'S VERSE...

Wisdom is that illusive quality we respect in others and find so difficult to develop in ourselves. Yet God promises it to those who really ask. But remember the secret of ASKING --asking, seeking, and knocking. Or better yet, check out [Proverbs 2](#). Wisdom is ours only if we seek it above all other possessions and value it above

all other diversions. God longs to impart it, but there is something about wisdom that demands we value it before we can receive it.

C - MY PRAYER...

Gracious giver of all good gifts, please bless me with wisdom today. Let me reflect your will and live for your glory in all my decisions. Let your Kingdom guide my heart as I make my choices and have your Spirit lead me in your ways. I confess, Father, that I cannot guide my own steps without your help. So grant me wisdom this day. I pray in Jesus name. Amen.

THURSDAY GALATIANS 6:1

If someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gently. But watch yourself, or you also may be tempted.

THOUGHTS ABOUT TODAY'S VERSE...

In a day when intervening in someone's life is no longer politically and socially correct, these verses ring out like a gunshot on a still night. Sin is still real and is just as deadly as ever. Yet because we fear being branded judgmental, we let many who are trapped by sin go to their spiritual death. The call is for non-judgmental intervention -- we recognize the gravity of the sin and the need of the sinner, without feeling arrogant in our righteousness. "There but for the grace of God go I."

D - MY PRAYER...

Father, forgive my sins as I forgive those who have sinned against me. But Father,

also help my heart to be gripped by the gravity of sin's effects and to be stirred into action by those whom it has trapped. Through Jesus, who came to rescue me from my sin, I pray. Amen

FRIDAY PHILIPPIANS 4:8

Whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable --if anything is excellent or praiseworthy -- think about such things.

THOUGHTS ABOUT TODAY'S VERSE...

Our actions follow our thoughts like a heat-seeking missile follows the exhaust of a jet fighter's engine. So in a day when so much around us trains us to find the negative in life, we must aggressively think and pursue the character, the qualities, and the things of God's goodness.

E - MY PRAYER...

Holy and Magnificent God, thank you for being better than anything my world can offer me. Thank you for calling me to a higher standard than the world accepts. Thank you for giving me the promise of a better future than any human can imagine. Thank you for giving me a high calling. In Jesus' holy name I pray. Amen.

SATURDAY JAMES 4:10

Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.

THOUGHTS ABOUT TODAY'S VERSE...

Humble yourselves. That sounds obscene. At least to the culture of self-

promotion and "get ahead at all cost" and "don't look back, the competition is gaining on you" it sounds obscene. Humility is a forgotten virtue. Often confused with weakness or timidity, humility is about knowing our proper place in the world without flaunting it. Only God can exalt in a permanent way, so the key is to know our place before him and let him put us in the place he chooses to honour him.

F - MY PRAYER...

Abba Father, Most Holy God, thank you for allowing me into your presence. When I think of all that you have done, the incredible universe you have made and hold together by your word, I am amazed you invite me into your presence and care about my words. Thank you for knowing me and having a plan for my life to please you. Help me this day to glorify you in what I do. Through Jesus I pray. Amen.

SUNDAY EPHESIANS 6:12-13

Our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore put on the full armour of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.

THOUGHTS ABOUT TODAY'S VERSE..

How often do you forget that we are in a spiritual war? Our enemy is deceptively

cunning - take away the immediacy of a threat and the danger appears gone. But he's there, always. But rather than try to guess his plans and counter all of his moves, Paul reminds us to simply take up the tools God has given us and stand up to the evil one.

G - MY PRAYER...

Lord of Hosts, my Great Deliverer, protect me from the evil one by your great power. Give me a sense of urgency as I face Satan and his schemes on a daily basis, but also give me confidence that Jesus has already defeated my foe. Help me to stand against this foe and show myself faithful to you. Through Jesus my Lord and Saviour 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