



Chatham Chatter



Chatham Citadel Corps
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7th February 2021

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

This weekend we commence The Salvation Army (TSA) Self Denial Appeal, where we have the opportunity to see what is happening in TSA world and in March give a monetary gift to support that work. In this week's Chatter there is an article that you can use to pray for TSA's work around the world. In the next few weeks I will let you know how you can give, as we normally give in an Altar Service envelope. God bless you as you consider your financial support. Also, this week we are praying for Somalia as we continue our prayers for the Persecuted Church.

My thanks to TE Tony for his words last week on 'Right Place, Right Time'. This Sunday morning I am thinking around the thoughts of 'Does going to Church make you a Christian?' and looking at 1 Samuel 3, about Samuel's early journey with God and the relevance of that story to today's society. Are we godless? faithless? just going through the motions? Well, let's look at this reading and apply it to ourselves and our journey with God.

God bless you all as we walk together, with hope, with faith, with God.
Please all keep safe.

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 all those working in caring roles whether in hospital, care homes, community or own homes.

- 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 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.

- Pray for those who are persecuted for their faith that they will know the presence of God in their lives.

- Pray for those whose faith may be wavering because of the lack of fellowship.

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

I don't know about you but the coronavirus pandemic seems to have been around for ever.

As I write, it has been with us for nearly a year and although there are signs of hope with numbers of cases decreasing slowly and the vaccine programme running well, the virus itself will be with us for the foreseeable future.

That's what I hear from Radio 4 each morning. Radio 4 news seems to be wall to wall coronavirus...with the occasional reference to Brexit and the troubles in Myanmar.

We can easily become disillusioned with the situation. Someone told me that the people who know these things have said that the third lockdown will be the most difficult. They certainly got that right.

So, whatever you are feeling at the moment or whatever you are doing, jigsaw puzzles seem to figure highly, especially ones with a Disney theme (according to Facebook) being the most popular, my thoughts are drawn to the verses of Song 723 in The Salvation Army Songbook. I leave these words with you;

Loved with everlasting love,
Led by grace that love to know;
Spirit, breathing from above,
Thou hast taught me this is so.
O this full and perfect peace!
O this transport all divine!
In a love which cannot cease
I am His and He is mine.

Heaven above is softer blue,
Earth around is sweeter green;
Something lives in every hue,
Christless eyes have never seen;
Birds with gladder songs o'erflow,

Flowers with deeper beauties shine,
Since I know, as now I know,
I am His and He is mine.

His for ever, only His;
Who the Lord and me shall part?
Ah! With what a rest of bliss
Christ can fill the loving heart.
Heaven and earth may fade and flee,
Firstborn light in gloom decline,
But, throughout eternity,
I am His and He is mine.

George Wade Robinson (1838 - 1877).



WELCOME TO THE NEWEST MEMBER OF CHATHAM CONGREGATION

ELLA ROSE COLLINS
Born 27th January
2021 at 11:29pm
Weighing 6lbs 6oz.
Congratulations to

Jenny, Adam & George and welcome to Ella. Mum and Ella are doing well

BIBLE READING SUNDAY 7th February

1 Samuel chapter 3

Does going to church make you a Christian?

PROMOTION TO GLORY

On Wednesday 3rd February Vic Pearce was PTG after being quite poorly since the autumn last year. Major Ian was able to visit him at Medway Maritime Hospital on Monday, share prayer and scripture, for which Vic was able to say only one word - Amen. Please pray for his brother and sister who live over in Epsom. They have been unable to see him and are unable to come to the Funeral.

BIBLE FELLOWSHIP

Bible Fellowship this Wednesday is under the leadership of TE Tony McClure. The subject is '*Bible verses that have challenged me*'. Come and join us on Zoom. We start at 8pm for one hour. The Zoom details are:

Meeting ID: 597 290 9541

Passcode: Hope2020



CHILDREN'S CLOTHES BANK PROJECT

Contact was made before Christmas with an outlet which helps families in need across the Medway area. A number of parcels of toys were given but it

became clear that other items were always required throughout the year which they were often unable to supply. The main need is for children's clothes - either new or good quality pre-owned. We would like to help this group by setting up a collection point where we can accumulate clothes from donations and pass them on regularly.

At present our Hall, as you know, is not open for general use and therefore clothes cannot be taken and left there but if you have any suitable children's clothes please hold on to them and contact **Wendy Scoulding** or **Margaret Day**.

FUNERAL DETAILS - FRANKIE KEMBER

The funeral service for Frankie Kember will be this Tuesday 9th February, 10am at Thames View Chapel. If you wish to join in with the service please use the Link below.

<https://www.obitus.com/>

Username Miyi9781

Password 363484

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.

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'S VIDEO MESSAGE

'May it be so that this week we might intentionally - step by step, little by little - enlarge the influence of God through our lives.' Commissioner Anthony Cotterill encourages us to renew our hope in God. Watch on

<https://youtu.be/TW40lxfgFUu>

SIGN UP TO VIRTUAL TYB/TYC

Territorial Youth Band and Territorial Youth Choir are virtual events 15-19 February. There will be five days of discipleship, music and fun for young Salvation Army musicians aged 12 and over. It's free!

For details and more information contact;

For Band

paul.sharman@salvationarmy.org.uk

For Choir

stephanie.lamplough@salvationarmy.org.uk



INTERNATIONAL STAFF SONGSTERS ONLINE

Enjoy this online worship and praise service from the International Staff Songsters prepared instead of their January visit to Letchworth Corps. The video is led by Executive Officer Lieutenant Colonel Jayne Roberts and Songster Leader Dorothy Nancekievill.

Watch here on youtube;

<https://youtu.be/KA8u3x-wC8E>

EXPLORING LEADERSHIP DAY

21 MARCH



Explore the possibilities of spiritual leadership in this free online event which includes special guests Commissioners Lyndon and Bronwyn Buckingham from IHQ.

The purpose of Exploring Leadership Day is to do just what the title says: to help people explore different areas of leadership in its various forms.

The day provides insight into different types of leadership, the space to reflect on what God is saying and the time to respond to that. If you have never been before, then please consider attending. If you have been before then you can testify to what a great day it is, and with the theme and seminars changing every year, there is always something for everyone. More details email; vocation@salvationarmy.org.uk.



SELF-DENIAL 2021 WEEK 1

This year's theme is 'Rebuilding Hope and resilience together' based on John 4 verses 7-21.

PRAY

Father God, we thank you that your extravagant love has been poured out for us on the cross and poured into us by the Holy Spirit. We want to taste and experience more of the depth and breadth and length and height of your amazing love in order that we might live out our Christian faith through our actions. Amen.

MEDITATE

- 1 John 4:11-21 has an overarching set of inter-related truths.
2. In response to God's love for us we should love others.
3. As we love others, God's love is brought to full expression within us.

God is love. The greatest expression of God's love is that the Father sent his Son to be the Saviour of the world. All who confess that Jesus is the Son of God have God living in them, and they live in God. 1 John 4:11 says, "Dear friends,

since God loved us that much, we surely ought to love each other." "As we live in God, our love grows more perfect" (v17), and "His love is brought to full expression in us" (v12).

PRAY FOR THE INTERNATIONAL SALVATION ARMY

Pray for those who are suffering in the world through conflict, violence, poverty, natural disasters and who lack basic necessities such as clean water, food and shelter.

Pray for those who struggle to find acceptance in their own communities due to prejudice or ignorance.

Pray for Christian brothers and sisters enduring civil conflict, persecution, poverty and injustice as they seek to serve and use their gifts to build community and care for others.

Pray that we can support our family of God in regular prayer and financial support.

Pray for officers, leaders and missionaries around the world, particularly those ministering to people in remote areas, that they will be devoted to the Gospel and sharing the Good News of Jesus.

If you would prefer a SD Envelope in which to place your gift, please let Major Ian know and one will be sent to you otherwise over the next weeks we will let you know how you can make your gift on-line.

THE PERSECUTED CHURCH

Here is this week's article explaining and giving information on the subject - **SOMALIA, No 3 in the WORLD WATCH LIST.**



3. Somalia

From a population of over 16 million it's estimated that there are only a few hundred Christians in Somalia. It's very hard to know, given the secrecy they are forced into.

It is impossible to publicly admit your Christian faith in Somalia, and 'church life' is non-existent. Islam is considered a crucial part of Somali identity, and if any Somali is suspected of having converted to Christianity, they are in great danger. Members of their family, clan or community will harass, intimidate or even kill them. Women may be raped and forcibly married.

Christians are also in danger from al-Shabab, a violent group that advocates Sharia (Islamic law) as the basis for regulating all aspects of life. Christians from a Muslim background are considered a 'high-value target' by al-Shabab, who have often executed believers on the spot, when discovered.

If a Christian man is killed or abducted, his whole family suffers, as the man will be the breadwinner. The remaining family are often left unprotected and seen as a stain on the community.

What's it like for Christians in Somalia.

Momina (not her real name) met Jesus in a dream - a common way that God uses to break through to people who have no chance of hearing about Him any other way. She managed to find a Christian man, who gave her a Bible - and she gave her life to Christ!

But she faced extreme opposition from her Muslim family. Her extended family rained insults, rejection and threats on her. Even her husband abandoned Momina and said she was dead to him. In any country this would be terrible but Somali culture is so clan-based that Momina was left without any source of help.

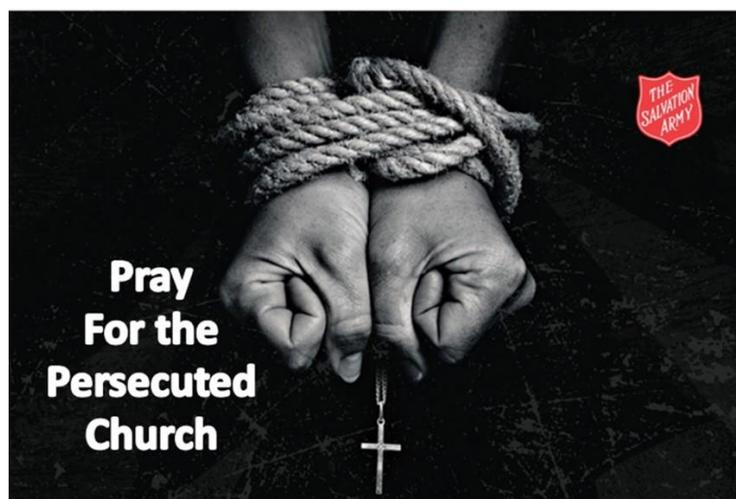
Except, of course, God. He led her to a town where an [Open Doors](#) partner

runs a church that takes care of believers from a Muslim background.

“Your support reached me when I was almost ‘gone’, almost broken and when I felt I had no one,” says Momina. “I thought I would see my children die one by one, or all at once. If not for you, our grief, hunger and thirst would have killed us.”

PRAYER FOR SOMALIA

Lord, thank you that you are standing by Somali Christians - that however small they are in number, they are loved and cherished by the Almighty. Please encourage those who despair, and bring joy in the face of hardship. We also ask that you would convict those who persecute Christians as you did with the apostle Paul, and show them the truth of the gospel. **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 PSALMS 18:1-2

I love you, O Lord, my strength. The Lord is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge. He is my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.

THOUGHTS ABOUT TODAY'S VERSE...

We sing it and we say it in our public prayers: "Father, God, we love you." But notice very carefully the beginning phrase of our verse. "I love you, O Lord..." Even in public, community worship, we are taught the importance of a personal expression of love to God. When is the last time you told the Creator of the universe, "I love you!"

O - MY PRAYER...

Father in heaven, I love you. I love you because you are more than worthy of my love. I love you because you have first loved me. I love you because you sent your son to be my big brother and pay the price for my adoption into your family. I love you because of your faithfulness. I love you because you have permitted me in your grace to love

you. In the name of Jesus I thank you. Amen.

TUESDAY PSALMS 33:4-5

The word of the Lord is right and true; he is faithful in all he does. The Lord loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of his unfailing love.

THOUGHTS ABOUT TODAY'S VERSE...

God is faithful. We can trust his promises to be kept and his purposes to be good. How do we know? The sunrise each morning is a reminder that the Father of heaven and earth is at work keeping his universe in working order. If it is true in nature, it is true in the spiritual realm as well. Greet each sunrise as a reminder of God's faithfulness.

P - MY PRAYER...

O Magnificent and Majestic Creator, I greet today as your gift and a reminder of your faithfulness. Each day the sun rises I anticipate the day you honour your promise to send your Son back to bring us home to you. Give me a keen sense today of your faithful presence. I pray this through him in whom all your promises find their fulfilment. Amen.

WEDNESDAY PROVERBS 21:21

He who pursues righteousness and love finds life, prosperity, and honour.

THOUGHTS ABOUT TODAY'S VERSE...

Isn't it funny that when we set off to find happiness or joy or significance or meaning, we seldom find it. Instead, when we offer to serve others and give ourselves wholeheartedly to the Lord

and His work, it is then that we find what we most need.

Q, R - MY PRAYER...

O Giver of every good and perfect gift, I ask today that You give me a chance to serve you and others in a way which shows your kingdom and its glory. If in the process You choose to meet the needs in my own heart, then I thank You. This I pray through your servant Jesus. Amen.

THURSDAY PSALMS 97:10

Let those who love the Lord hate evil, for he guards the lives of his faithful ones and delivers them from the hand of the wicked.

THOUGHTS ABOUT TODAY'S VERSE...

Hate -- what a bold and powerful word. We must not hate people. We must hate evil. It's a tough combination to pull off, but absolutely vital. Evil is here because of the Evil One -- the champion of hate, lies, and death. So when evil rears its ugly head, let's be courageous and oppose Satan and his work. In the process, let's pray for those trapped in its tentacles, even if they consider us enemies.

S - MY PRAYER...

Almighty God, make my heart pained by the evil in my world. Give me a holy revulsion to things opposed to your will and character. Yet Father, just as You redeemed me by grace, and rescued me while a captive to sin, give me courage to care about those who are in the Evil One's embrace. Through my Saviour I pray. Amen.

FRIDAY MATTHEW 5:43-45

[Jesus said,] "You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbour and hate your enemy.' But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven."

THOUGHTS ABOUT TODAY'S VERSE...

We often talk about the privileges of being a child of God - forgiveness, salvation, a future in heaven with him, the gift of the Holy Spirit, and ultimate victory when Christ comes. One of the greatest privileges we get, however, is the opportunity to act toward those who dislike and hate us in a way that reflects the character of God himself. Anyone can return hate for hate, but it takes a child of God to return a blessing and a prayer for their enemies.

T - MY PRAYER...

Father, thank you for loving me when I was still an enemy to you. Thank you for risking the death of your Son to offer me the chance to accept or reject your love. As you have promised, please pour your love into my heart so I may love even my enemies as you have loved me. Through Jesus, the gift of your love, I pray. Amen.

SATURDAY 2 THESSALONIANS 1:3

We ought always to thank God for you, brothers, and rightly so, because your faith is growing more and more, and the love every one of you has for each other is increasing.

THOUGHTS ABOUT TODAY'S VERSE...

"Increase my faith, O Lord." "Increase my strength." "Increase my wisdom." We often pray for these things, but when is the last time you thanked God for your love increasing? Can you think of anything more exciting to say about your church than "The love every one of you has for each other is increasing!" Let's pray and act to make it so!

U, V - MY PRAYER...

Holy God, may your love so fill us that I share it with others who call on your name. May this love grow and increase in my life so others may readily see its benefits and recognize that it is a direct response to your lavish love shared with me. In Jesus name I pray. Amen.

SUNDAY 1 CORINTHIANS 13:1-3

If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing.

THOUGHTS ABOUT TODAY'S VERSE...

Love - in the week before Valentine's Day we want to remember the real meaning of love. Without the motivation and expression of love, all "Christian" activities are more "activity" than Christian. Love is the expression of Christ's character and presence in our lives through deeds done for others.

W, X , Y, Z - MY PRAYER...

Loving Heavenly Father, thank you so much for your demonstration of love in Jesus. Help me to love as he did - selflessly, sacrificially, and consistently, so others may know of your love through my actions. In Jesus Name I pray. Amen.