



# Chatham Chatter



Chatham Citadel Corps  
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## CONTENTS

- ☐ CO Pastoral Column
- ☐ Prayer reminders
- ☐ TE Column
- ☐ Allan Jones
- ☐ Salvation Army Papers
- ☐ Bible Fellowship
- ☐ Thank You Day 4<sup>th</sup> July
- ☐ Hope for Every Home prayer
- ☐ TAKE TO THE SKIES & TRANSFORM LIVES
- ☐ Booking for Sunday Worship
- ☐ Corps Fundraising - donations
- ☐ National Parliamentary Prayer Breakfast
- ☐ Mobility Scooter
- ☐ Persecuted Church - China
- ☐ A-Z Daily Readings

## 1 John 3:1

**See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!**

What a difference a week makes, from last Sunday, glorious sunshine and today, sitting in my office at home writing this Chatham Chatter to hear the rain pelting on the window - more like winter! Things change in a glance, but I am reminded about the verse of scripture found in Hebrews 13:8;

*'Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever'*

What a great encouragement to us all that is. I was delighted this week, that at the quarters, my coffee table became the Mercy Seat, as Gill who has been coming for a while, serving at the café on Mondays, pre-covid, knelt and gave her life to Jesus -

Amen. What a privilege it is to lead someone along that path, encouraging and engaging, then come the time, 'His time' - Pray for Gill and Steve, she has made a huge step in her life and I know will be a great asset to the kingdom of God - if you haven't met her, pop in on a Monday for a Coffee and a smile! And it all started with a funeral!

We are still aware of issues with on line as it particularly challenging on Sunday, sadly not at our end - we will be purchasing our on live streaming router which should deal with this issue; I know it is frustrating as it disrupts worship for you, but we are almost there.

This week is Fathers day, so my thoughts are around 'The Fathers Love' and a number of Fathers in the Corps will be taking part in our worship in different ways. Look forward to welcoming you in person or online.

Remember you can book a seat via the Eventbrite web site, I know It is not the easiest of ways to come, but we do need to manage numbers and keep everyone safe, but your are all welcome, observing the Covid Guidelines.

God bless us all as we journey together this Sunday.



Ian F Payne  
Major

## PRAYER REMINDERS



**Please pray this prayer:**

*Father God, I pray that today you will inspire us and fill each of us with your joy and peace and that, in our worship wherever we are, 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 families who have been bereaved recently especially Allan Jones and family
- Pray for those experiencing health concerns. It was good to see Rita in the meeting last Sunday - evidence of prayers answered.
- Pray for those with mental health problems. We are continually being made aware of young people suffering in this way which has not been helped by Covid restrictions.
- Pray for all those in education, children, young people and those who teach and assist. Pray that the harm that might have been done by missing attendance at school through Covid will be balanced by refreshing times at school/college.
- There are still those whose lives in the community are difficult. Pray for the volunteers who work hard to provide the means for their needs to be met within their capabilities. We thank God for our team of volunteers.
- Pray for our Corps that we will find a way of discipling others in their faith and be assured that we are doing as God plans for us.

*Please let Jean know of any urgent prayer requests for the supportive prayers of the Prayer Chain. Email her on [jeanm1938@gmail.com](mailto:jeanm1938@gmail.com) or text on 07787718273.*



## **Territorial Envoy Tony McClure**

My family have never been great ones for celebrations. You always got a card when it was your birthday and a present too. But parties were an exception. Also we never did holidays. Admittedly we do go to Australia for two and a half years. Other than that there was a week in the Isle of Wight and then a week in Dorset. And that was it.

I used to be most envious of my friends who had a birthday party every year and always went on holiday. Although envious, I accepted the situation. My Dad was self-employed and said to me once "If I don't work, we don't eat." I think, looking back, that was a fairly extreme comment. Thinking more about it, it was a reflection of what my Dad's early life had been like.

Born just before World War Two during my Dad's younger days holidays were unheard of. There wasn't much money so food was limited too. My Dad had two paper rounds to support himself.

But parties and holidays were luxuries to be dreamed of. Not realities to be lived through. And I suppose because he never had these luxuries, when he married my Mum, life continued in much the same way. I remember a story being told of when the man from the Pru. Was due to visit to collect the annual life insurance policy premium. £7.00 was needed. Dad would have earned about £7.00 per week. There wasn't a lot of cash to be slashed about. The story went that everywhere was searched for the £7.00. The back of the settee, every pocket in every jacket, mine and my sister's piggy banks and anywhere that a few pennies might be hidden.

The £7.00 was found and handed over. I can't imagine the man from the Pru was happy with £7.00 's worth of coin. This was in the middle 1960's after all.

We often act in the way we have been raised. If generosity and kindness are the qualities your parents, or those who looked after you, showed you it is likely these will be the qualities you show in later life. I know this is a

sweeping generalisation, but run with it. There is a reason for the comment.

We know very little of Jesus' childhood. A few Temple visits and nothing else. Jesus' earthly situation wasn't one of lavish luxury or wealth. Yet he showed the qualities of a 'wealthy' life to the people he met, healed and comforted. Indeed the effects of an encounter was life transforming.

I often wonder the effect my life has on the people I meet. Sometimes better than others I would think. But do hope and pray that it has a good quality about it.

Major Ian, last Sunday, quoted the great commandment that Jesus gave to his followers.

'...You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. ... You shall love your neighbour as yourself.' Matthew 22:37 & 38

May these qualities be seen in all of our relationships and actions.

**Tony**

### **ALLAN JONES**

On Wednesday we gathered at the hall to celebrate the life of Jean Jones, and then in glorious sunshine, I conducted the last offices and laid Jean to rest in the beautiful grounds of St Peter's Church in Bredhurst. Please prayer for Allan and the family, drop him a line, give him a call as life will be challenging in these weeks. It was a pleasure to meet his brothers and hear of the days growing up at Chelsea SA and the community around Worlds End Estate. The SA are still carrying out a valuable work in that area. God bless you Allan know God's peace and presence in these days.

### **SALVATION ARMY PAPERS FOR CHATHAM**

Those members of the Corps that have weekly SA papers, the papers will be at the Hall, on Monday and Friday mornings (9:30-12:30) for you to pick up.

### **BIBLE FELLOWSHIP**

Bible Fellowship this week at 8pm, on Zoom. Meeting Zoom ID: 597 290 9541 The subject this week, under the leadership of TE Tony is; 'The Father and the Son' using John chapter 13 verses 31 through to chapter 14:11.

Come and enjoy, fun, fellowship and learning with the occasionally Cuckoo!!! (you'll only know if you zoom in!)

### **SUNDAY 4 JULY THANK YOU DAY**

After a hard 18 months of pandemic, let's pause to say a great big 'thank you' to everyone who helped get us through this extraordinary time together. From hosting a thank you picnic brunch, or sharing a BBQ with your neighbours, join in the first National Thank You Day on Sunday 4 July. Find guides, ideas and a timetable of activity you can choose to join on the Thank You Day website

<https://thankyouday.org.uk/>

### **HOPE FOR EVERY HOME PRAYER APP**

Turn your daily walk into a prayer walk in your street or community where you live, with the new OKIOS Prayer App available from the App store or Google Play. Use the app to place a pin on a map to show a street is being prayed for. See details

<https://www.hopeforeveryhome.org>

### **TAKE TO THE SKIES & TRANSFORM LIVES!**

Join Team Sally Army and take on a skydive and raise funds to help survivors of human trafficking rebuild their lives, or raise money for your corps, centre or project. With 19 locations across the UK, choose a time and a day that suits you. Find out more here.

[https://www.salvationarmy.org.uk/sites/default/files/resources/2021-05/TSA\\_Skydive\\_info\\_pack\\_2021.pdf](https://www.salvationarmy.org.uk/sites/default/files/resources/2021-05/TSA_Skydive_info_pack_2021.pdf)

## MORNING WORSHIP

SUNDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> JUNE - 25<sup>TH</sup> JULY

### YOU MUST BOOK A TICKET

for the Sundays 27<sup>th</sup>. June through to 25<sup>th</sup> July - no ticket no entry. We need to adhere to the Covid19 rules and guidance.

Tickets can be obtained at

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/sunday-morning-worship-tickets-156521982463>

Contact CSM Paul for further details.

There are guidelines that you must follow;

- + Please do not arrive before 9:30am
- + You must be in your seats by 9:45am
- + Your temperature will be taken
- + Please use hand sanitisers supplied
- + Register the QR Test and Trace App or sign in the day book
- + Please observe all seating protocols
- + Face coverings must be worn at all times in the hall
- + There will be no public singing
- + No close socialising
- + Please observe the 2 metre rule
- + There will be NO collection
- + Please leave as directed immediately the meeting has concluded - 11:15am

### IMPORTANT

If you have a Temperature or flu-like symptoms.

PLEASE DO NOT ATTEND

If someone in your household is unwell

PLEASE DO NOT ATTEND

If you have come into contact with someone who has Covid19

PLEASE DO NOT ATTEND

PLEASE DO OBSERVE ALL THE GUIDELINES

AS THEY WILL HAVE AN IMPACT ON

FUTURE SUNDAY GATHERINGS.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PATIENCE AND  
CONSIDERATION

## CORPS FUNDRAISING DONATIONS

Donations can be made to the Corps at our Just-Giving page.

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

Donations can also be sent to the Hall for the attention of the CO.

Can we remind members that you can pay your cartridges and collections by **STANDING ORDER**. Please ask CT Andy Smith for details.

## NATIONAL PARLIAMENTARY PRAYER BREAKFAST

Join this free online event on Friday 25 June 8am in recognition of the contribution that Christianity makes to the national life of the UK. Organised by Christians in Parliament, the Chair will be The Rt Hon Andrea Leadsom MP and the main speaker is The Rt Revd Professor NT Wright.

Register here to join

<https://www.christiansinparliament.org.uk/>

## MOBILITY SCOOTER



Mobility scooter for sale; Four years old, used for less than 6 months; fully serviced; 185 miles on the clock; Registered with the DVLA; Bought for £3,200; open to offers circa £1,000; for further details contact Gil

07739133788 or

[gillian.hopkins1@talktalk.net](mailto:gillian.hopkins1@talktalk.net)

## THE PERSECUTED CHURCH

Here is this week's article explaining and giving information on the subject. CHINA number 17 in the WORLD WATCH LIST



### 17. CHINA

China's growing Christian community currently stands at around 97.2 million - just under 7% of the country's total population. The church in China continues to see extraordinary growth, however life for Christians is anything but straightforward, and recent years has seen an increase in persecution.

The policy of 'sinicising' the church (to make Chinese) is implemented across the country as the Communist Party relies strongly on Chinese cultural identity to stay in power, and limits whatever could threaten its control on society.

New restrictions on the internet, social media and non-governmental organisations - along with a revision of religious regulation in 2018 which was enhanced again last year - are strictly applied and seriously limit freedom. Churches are being monitored and closed, be they independent or affiliated to the state (e.g. Three-Self Patriotic Movement).

On a more local level, converts from Islam or Buddhism whose new faith is discovered by family and the community are likely to

face threats and physical harm to lure them back.

Grace is a gentle person in her late 40s. She is a Han Chinese Christian. Her story demonstrates that there is no sphere of life that the Chinese state will not seek to exert its control. She was once the deputy head nurse in a big urban hospital, rising through the ranks over a period of two decades. She is a fervent believer who shared the gospel with many colleagues in her hospital. Having previously been overlooked for promotion because of her faith, Grace was visited by the senior officials of her hospital. They interrogated her for a whole day and pressured her colleagues to provide information on her 'religious activities'. From then on, Grace's colleagues kept their distance, afraid they might get embroiled in this seemingly serious incident. After the investigation, Grace was demoted and given non-essential duties. Her new income was a fraction of what it had been. Grace wrestled with the injustice for 12 months, repeatedly asking God why she had suffered in this way. Her professional career was in tatters, and her hard work over many years had come to nothing. She felt lonely and betrayed. "With God's grace, the frustration and grief gradually left me," she says. "I eventually found peace when I accepted what I had always believed: that only God's work has eternal value. Everything else is temporary. It will all pass away."

It's getting harder to be a Christian in China. The intense pressure increasingly placed on Christians by the government means China has jumped six places from last year's list. In just three years, the country has risen 26 places, reflecting a rapidly deteriorating situation for Christians in the country. It is getting increasingly difficult to avoid having to fall in line with official socialist ideology, even for state-affiliated churches.

## PLEASE PRAY

Heavenly Father, we are astounded at the remarkable growth of the church in China, despite years of opposition and hostility. We praise You for the power of the gospel. Fill believers with wisdom, discernment and courage as they seek to serve You in an increasingly monitored environment. Empower their witness and continue to build Your church. Strengthen and sustain Your children through all challenges. 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 ROMANS 12:3

*By the grace given me I say to everyone of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you.*

## **THOUGHTS ABOUT TODAY'S VERSE...**

Pride does go before a fall! It is not easy to balance the two truths: "I must not be prideful, but I must understand just how much God values me." Satan can use our self-denigration, the worthless worm syndrome, to discourage us and keep us from using our gifts for Kingdom work. On the other hand, pride takes God out of the picture and attributes our contribution to God's Kingdom to us and not to God.

## **O - MY PRAYER...**

Holy Father, as your child, redeemed at the cost of Jesus' life, I know I am loved and valuable to you. I know you have given me abilities and gifts to use for your glory and to bless your church. But Father, I do not want to ever think that my abilities are somehow mine alone. I know you have given me the gifts, abilities, and experiences that have shaped me, so please empower me to your glory. But Father, I never want the glory that is achieved from your gifts to puff me up or turn from me the realization that I am what I am, I have what I have, and I do what I do, because of your grace and your generous gifts. May I ever be your humble but valuable child at work in your Kingdom. Through Jesus I pray. Amen.

## TUESDAY JEREMIAH 16:9-10

*The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it? "I the Lord search the heart and examine the mind, to reward a man according to his conduct, according to what his deeds deserve."*

## **THOUGHTS ABOUT TODAY'S VERSE...**

Jesus told us that what is in our heart ultimately works its way out into our activities. The great wise man told us to guard our heart because it is the spring well of our life. Jeremiah wants us to know that God knows our heart. We want to stress the importance of what goes into our hearts because it really makes a difference in what goes on inside our heart. Invite the Lord in to what you do, think, read, watch, and hear and ask him to remove those things that are not worthy of your time and interest.

## **P - MY PRAYER...**

Righteous Father, please help me guard my heart and be wise enough not to place things into it that would rob it of its devotion to you. I want to be pure through and through. Please search me and help me

remove everything that would steal my devotion from you and ruin my influence with others. Through Jesus I pray. Amen.

### **WEDNESDAY PROVERBS 14:34**

*Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a disgrace to any people.*

#### **THOUGHTS ABOUT TODAY'S VERSE...**

Wow, what an indictment. When we vote according to our pocketbook more than character and when we excuse the indiscretions, infidelities, and illegalities in the leaders of both political parties, we have reached a very sad state indeed! But before we rant and rave about the sad state of morality in our public officials, let's make sure we're honest in our own daily lives, that we don't say cruel things about others, that we remain faithful to our marriage and our purity vows to God, and let's make sure that we expect of ourselves higher standards than we do of others.

#### **Q, R - MY PRAYER...**

God, you are not only the Almighty, you are holy! Holy, Holy, Holy are you, the LORD God Almighty. May the whole earth be filled with your glory and may that glory be shown in what I do and say. Forgive me for my own sin and hypocrisy. Bless me with purity and holiness as I pledge my life to your glory. In Jesus name I pray. Amen.

### **THURSDAY PSALMS 33:12**

*Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord.*

#### **THOUGHTS ABOUT TODAY'S VERSE...**

What is god of our culture and our nation? Certainly our God is the LORD, Yahweh, King of Israel and Redeemer of the lost. But we can pray for revival to sweep our land and we can repent for not placing him first in our own lives. He has promised to respond if we will humble ourselves and seek him. Let's do that beginning today!

#### **S - MY PRAYER...**

LORD, God of the heavens and Father of all nations, I humble myself before you today, acknowledging my own sin and the sin of my people. I pray that you will revive us by the power of your word and the sanctifying power of your Spirit. Bring renewal to our land. In the name of Jesus and by the power of the Spirit I ask this. Amen.

### **FRIDAY ISAIAH 12:4**

*Give thanks to the Lord, call on his name; make known among the nations what he has done and proclaim that his name is exalted.*

#### **THOUGHTS ABOUT TODAY'S VERSE...**

It is wrong to think God's love for the nations began only with Jesus and the Great Commission. Remember Jonah's preaching to save Israel's great enemy, Nineveh? Remember the precious story of Ruth? God loves all people and wants them to come to share in his grace. As Christians, we are his salt and light, here to touch all the people of the world and beckon them to come back to the Father who loves them.

#### **T - MY PRAYER...**

Holy God, stir in my heart a greater passion to share your love with the world. May my life, my money, and my concerns be used to do more of your work throughout the world. Please bless the efforts of all those who share the Gospel of Jesus in a culture other than their own. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

### **SATURDAY MATTHEW 24:35**

*Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away. (Spoken by Jesus.)*

#### **THOUGHTS ABOUT TODAY'S VERSE...**

What do you have that will last? Not much - the love you have for God and his children, the praise you offer him, and the Word he has spoken to use through his Spir-

it, the prophets, and his Son, Jesus. Invest in these things and you will never be without lasting profit!

### **U, V, W - MY PRAYER...**

Eternal God and loving Father, give me wisdom to discern what is truly lasting and invest my life in those things that will never suffer decay. Thank you for sending Jesus to teach me truth that will last. I want to be obedient to his words and his life. Bless me in ways that help me live a life that is true. Through Jesus, my eternal Saviour I pray. Amen.

### **SUNDAY PSALMS 18:30**

*As for God, his way is perfect; the word of the Lord is flawless. He is a shield for all who take refuge in him.*

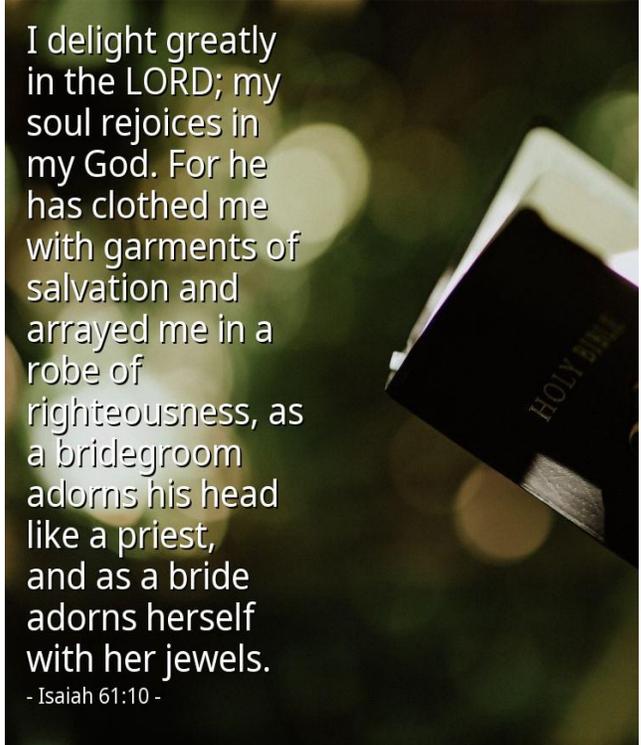
### **THOUGHTS ABOUT TODAY'S VERSE...**

A shield whose word can be trusted. But we must take refuge in him if his flawless word for us is to be a blessing and his presence a shield.

### **X,Y,Z - MY PRAYER...**

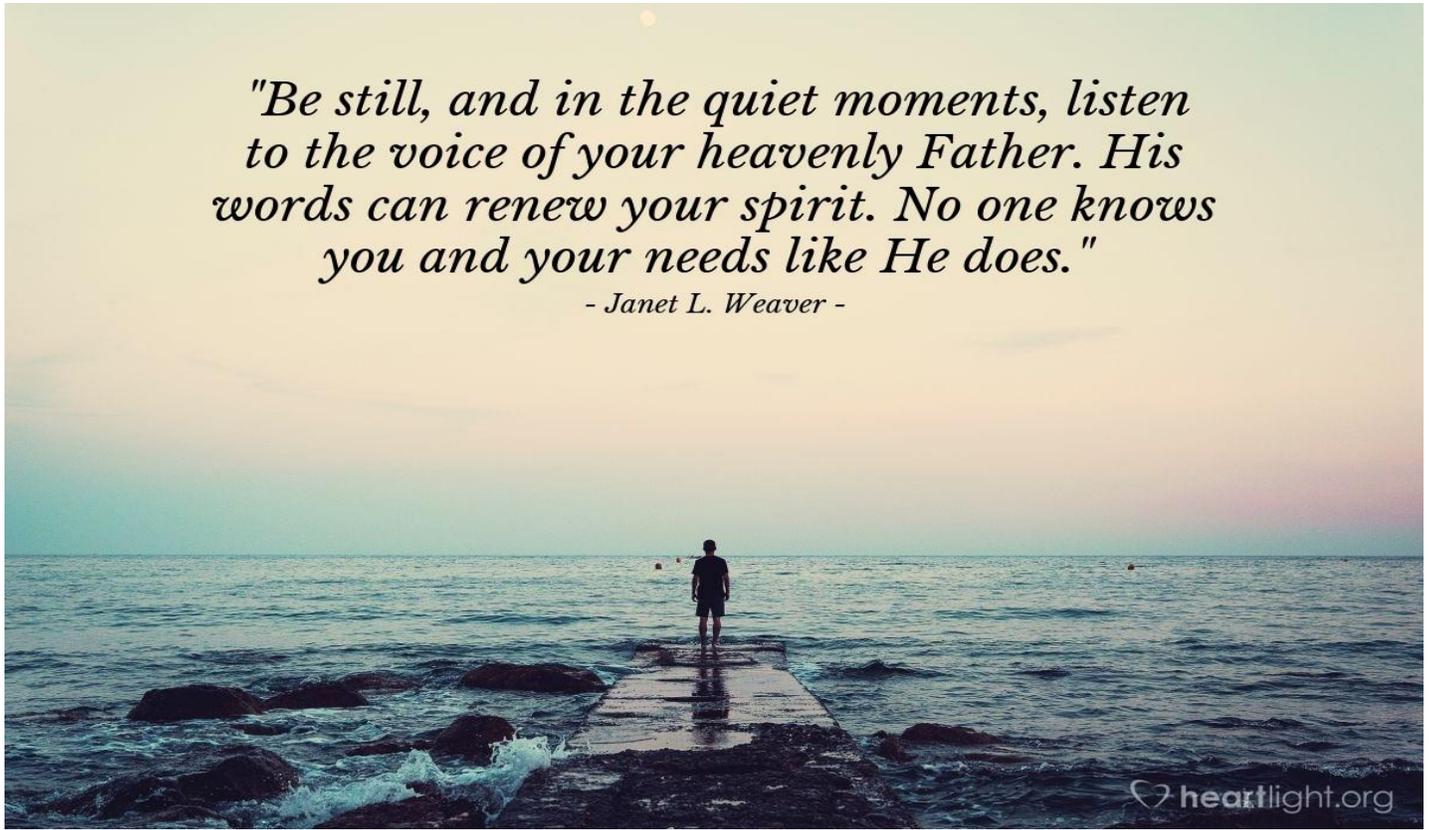
God of the Fathers Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, I trust my soul and future to you.

You are my strength and shield and I pray that your name will be exalted in my life. Please protect and guard me and my family and my church from the Evil One and keep us physically safe and whole as we serve you this summer. In Jesus name. Amen.



I delight greatly in the LORD; my soul rejoices in my God. For he has clothed me with garments of salvation and arrayed me in a robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom adorns his head like a priest, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

- Isaiah 61:10 -



*"Be still, and in the quiet moments, listen to the voice of your heavenly Father. His words can renew your spirit. No one knows you and your needs like He does."*

- Janet L. Weaver -