



Chatham Chatter



Chatham Citadel Corps

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Hebrews 12:1

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.

Hello and welcome to this week's Chatham Chatter. We are on the cusp of 'Freedom Day' says one headline; not sure myself that it is as dramatic as that; and then the perpetual discussions debating about the wearing of masks, on or off and wanting to be told to wear them - as if we do not have a mind to care for each other. I remember at the beginning of the pandemic when there was a similar debate and criticisms were flying around. For me it was simple. I want to be safe, so I will wear a mask. Then the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby made this comment to the Church of England membership, 'My bible says, 'Love your neighbour,' therefore to love your

neighbour is to wear a mask to protect them. Let's love our neighbours. We may

not like all that we have to do in life, but caring for each other is a basic action of us all as Christians. I pray that we will use our choices wisely and think of those around us at the same time. In fact, let's love our neighbour'.

Remember, last week I was writing in the vein of positive thinking for the football. Well, that is history now. Remember the old saying, 'Today's news is tomorrow's fish and chip wrapper' (for those who remember those days!)

I kept thinking of the pressure on those who missed the goal or the ball was saved and hearing one commentator say 'Well he certainly missed the mark there'. That caught my thinking - 'Missing the Mark'.

So this week I am looking at 'Missing the Mark'. I found this explanation '*A King would gather archers and he had them tested to see if they could hit a target with their bow and arrow. Those who 'missed the mark' were disqualified.* It also has another meaning, translated from Greek, which we will be sharing together on Sunday.

So, let's not miss 10 am on Sunday. Buffering free worship from Chatham. God bless you all.



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 those who have been recently bereaved and for those who are receiving hospital care that they will feel the closeness of God in their situation.
- Pray for all those people who are in pain, those who are awaiting surgery, those who are undergoing therapy treatment of all kinds. God is a healing God and hears our prayers.
- Pray for those with mental health problems, some exacerbated by Covid, and for those who are having anxiety problems as we adjust to the lessening of restrictions. Pray that God will help us to be sensitive to their needs just now.
- Pray for new believers, Christians, that they will find joy in discovering more about Jesus and how he guides us in our lives.
- Pray for our Corps that, as activities are closed down for the summer, we will discover ways of keeping close to God in personal prayer and worship.

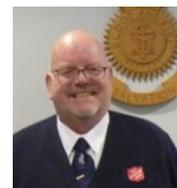
Please let Jean know of any urgent prayer requests for the supportive prayers of the Prayer Chain. Email her on jeanm1938@gmail.com or text on 07787718273.

100th BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

Anne Ward, a former member of this Corps and known to many; the mother of Major Elizabeth Lloyd and sister to Major Steve Russell R, celebrates her 100th Birthday on August 20th. Her address is:
9 Ardsley Drive, Owlthorpe, Sheffield,
S19 6RZ.



**Territorial Envoy
Tony McClure**



I am often quite gullible. I watch adverts on the telly, see adverts in magazines and will believe them completely. Often, I am bitterly disappointed. The promises an advert makes are a mirage. It looks good from a distance but, close to, it isn't what is promised at all. Well, not exactly. There is enough truth in what the advert promises to make it 'true' but it can be very misleading.

I started to go bald when I was sixteen years old. My mum blamed the fact that I had started to wear a Salvation Army cap and my head used to get very hot. Also, I used to wash my hair in almost scalding hot water. Whatever the cause, my hair began to thin and I knew that the phrase 'baldy' wouldn't be long behind it.

My mum wasn't blessed with a thick head of hair - fine and wispy were words used to describe it. She searched through the various shampoos available to see if any could help. She discovered one that seemed to fit the bill. It was a shampoo that had been created in Switzerland and was guaranteed to thicken a person's hair.

I can remember the bottle. It had a picture of a chalet halfway up a mountain on it. The look of the bottle was very Swiss and very honest and implied good things; hair-wise at least.

Seeing as how I was becoming balder by the day I wondered if this 'magical' Swiss shampoo would thicken my fast-disappearing locks. After a month's faithful use, albeit illicitly...after all I didn't want to pay the exorbitant price Boots charged for the shampoo, I realised that what the shampoo makers claimed, wasn't true.

I went to visit some friends and was bemoaning my situation and calling all manner of dire threats on the makers of the shampoo. All because I believed what the advert and the blurb on the shampoo bottle had said was a filthy lie.

Helen was my friend's wife. She had, before the birth of her first child, been studying for a degree in some form, or aspect of science. As we were talking it turned out that the aspect of science she had studied had had something to do with the Swiss shampoo. She told me that it had probably thickened the hairs on my head but at the level of the micro millimetre. And the shampoo wouldn't stop the hair falling out anyway.

I had imagined the thickness of my hair being transformed. It wasn't. You could say the manufacturers of the shampoo had slightly exaggerated what it could do. Nowhere in the adverts was mentioned how thick your hair would be.

We often read the Bible like it is some form of an advert. We find passages to agree with what we want to believe. Jesus said to his disciples "Truly I tell you, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible'."

On the surface reading, it may seem as if Jesus is not telling the truth. But He was ...the meaning of what He said had to do with the quality of the faith of the believer. And maybe the mountains we are called upon to move aren't actual mountains of stone and soil.

Make sure you allow your faith to grow and develop. Who knows what 'mountains' your faith in God will help you move?

Tony

BIBLE FELLOWSHIP

Bible Fellowship this week at 8pm, on Zoom. Meeting Zoom ID: 597 290 9541. This week we're looking at 'Holy, Holy, Holy' Isaiah 6
Come and enjoy, fun, fellowship and learning.

MORNING WORSHIP **SUNDAYS IN JULY**

YOU MUST BOOK A TICKET

for the Sundays in 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

MEETINGS IN AUGUST

There will be no activities at the Hall or online from Chatham Citadel during August; Sunday 25th July being the final one before the break, returning on Sunday 5th September. I trust you will enjoy exploring many Corps on line or other fellowships around the UK, even the world, that have sprung up over the pandemic period.

CORPS FUNDRAISING DONATIONS

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

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

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

THE KIDS ALIVE! 140 CHALLENGE

Let's celebrate Kids Alive! 140th birthday!

Instead of a giant cake and presents (blowing out the candles would take for ever!) their biggest wish is that kids from across the UK get involved in a challenge to raise money for their local corps. The idea is that you ask people to **sponsor you to do 140 things** and/or **try to raise £140**. Each week starting from 10 July until their anniversary issue on 21 August, Kids Alive! will feature a themed week to inspire you with ideas on how to get involved.

The six themes are:

- Show off your **sporty** skills
- Discover a love of **learning**
- Connect with your **creativity**
- Embrace an **environmentally friendly** activity
- Acts of **kindness**
- Invent **your own idea**

The top fundraiser in each category will each **win a £20 voucher for The Entertainer!** Adults are welcome to get involved too – Kids Alive! editor Justin Reeves is going to run 140km!

THE PERSECUTED CHURCH

Here is this week's article explaining and giving information on the subject. **MAURITANIA** number 20 in the **WORLD WATCH LIST**



20. Mauritania

Christians are a tiny minority in Mauritania. In a population of around 4.8 million, just 10,800 are Christians. The majority are Muslim.

The restrictive environment in Mauritania makes it impossible for Christians to gather openly. This is especially true for converts from Islam, who face enormous pressure from their families and communities. In Mauritania's tribal culture, leaving Islam is not only seen as religious betrayal, but also as a betrayal of the tribe and family. Understandably, in such a culture there is no room for celebrating baptisms, Christian marriages or funerals. Those who convert to Christianity could also face prosecution, since it is illegal to leave Islam. Openly expressing the Christian faith is even risky for foreign nationals, as it could be regarded as an attempt to convert others to Christianity, which can lead to prosecution.

Deciding to follow Jesus can be highly costly for someone brought up as a Muslim in

Mauritania. They are likely to be ostracised by their family, losing their status in society, and could be expelled from their home. To avoid performing certain Muslim rites, some Christian men flee their hometown or even the country. Since leaving Islam is illegal, charges of apostasy can be brought in a religious court.

Arranged marriages are common in Mauritania, and unmarried female converts, often still teenagers, can be forced into marrying Muslim men to keep them under the influence of Islam. If their faith is discovered, Christian women (or girls) can be subject to harsh treatment, such as excruciating servitude and isolation.

The presence of modern-day slavery (despite laws against it) makes ruthless detention and exploitation of female converts more likely - and very hidden.

Is it getting harder to be a Christian in Mauritania? Yes, it is, which is why Mauritania has risen four places in the World Watch List. Pressure on Christians in Mauritania has increased in the past year, caused by a tightening of the blasphemy and apostasy laws. Christians have experienced growing opposition in every area of life apart from family life, which remains at the same level. The sharpest rise is in violence, but this could be because more incidents are being reported.

PLEASE PRAY

Dear God, thank You for the small but faithful church in Mauritania. Give those who've made the bold decision to follow You the strength to stand firm and serve You. May they shine brightly, leading others to You, too. Protect Christian women from forced or unhealthy marriages, and place them in families and communities where they will not just survive, but thrive. 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 119:93

I will never forget your precepts, for by them you have preserved my life.

THOUGHTS ABOUT TODAY'S VERSE...

Much like the rules parents have for young children -- don't drink what's under the cabinet, don't play in the street, don't walk behind parked cars -- God's guidance is not intended to restrict us, but to protect us. His commands, both positive and negative, are for our protection and perfection. By them we find life and have it preserved.

A - MY PRAYER...

Holy Lord, help me see your words as life. I know you have given your commands, your will for holiness, to bless me and protect me. Use your Spirit to make my heart less stubborn and my life more nearly conformed to your will. Through Jesus' power I ask it. Amen.

TUESDAY MATTHEW 5:14-16

Jesus said] *"You are the light of the world. Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven."*

THOUGHTS ABOUT TODAY'S VERSE...

Our life will not be neutral. We will either point others away from God or show them that allegiance to God is important. Let's make an intentional effort today to shine

the light of God's holiness and grace in all we do and say.

B - MY PRAYER...

O God, may the words of my mouth, the actions of my life, and the influence of my deeds show others your holiness and grace and lead them to acknowledge your majesty and might. In Jesus name I pray. Amen.

WEDNESDAY JOHN 1:12-13

To all who received him, to those who believe in his name, he gave the right to become children of God -- children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

THOUGHTS ABOUT TODAY'S VERSE...

We live in a time and culture of rights. "It's my right to ____." Just fill in the blank. But there is one thing we don't have a right to be: God's child. We are given that right by grace through Jesus' coming to earth, living, dying and being raised from the dead. We appropriate it through faith, through which God gives us new birth when we are baptized and reborn through the power of the Holy Spirit (John 3:3-7). To be born of God, to be born from above, to be born again is the gift of adoption into God's family and entitles us to all the rights of heirs in God's house (Galatians 3:26-4:7).

C - MY PRAYER...

Abba Father, thank you for including me in your family. May my life today reflect your influence, character, mercy, holiness, compassion, righteousness, and love. I want to be like you, my Father. So just as I was born into your family by the power of the Holy Spirit, please fill me with your Spirit today so that I will more closely reflect you in all I do and say. Through Jesus I pray. Amen.

THURSDAY PSALMS 112:5

Good will come to him who is generous and lends freely, who conducts his affairs with justice.

THOUGHTS ABOUT TODAY'S VERSE...

We are pushed by our culture, and often by our own greed, to look for an angle, to get the upper hand, to try to use others for our own benefit. We are reminded today that our benefit is only found when we benefit and bless others.

D - MY PRAYER...

Oh God, you have been so gracious to me. May I reflect your graciousness to others today in all I say and do. Through Jesus I ask it. Amen.

FRIDAY JAMES 1:22

Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.

THOUGHTS ABOUT TODAY'S VERSE...

What we know and even what we believe are not that significant if they don't show up in the way we live. Pure and simple, faith not lived every day is not faith, it is facade.

E - MY PRAYER...

Holy God, help me put into practice what I know is your will and your truth today. Through Jesus I pray. Amen.

SATURDAY 1 SAMUEL 16:7

The Lord does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.

THOUGHTS ABOUT TODAY'S VERSE...

Have you ever wondered how many friends you may have lost simply by judging them on their first appearance or impression? I'm amazed at how the first impression very seldom tells us much of substance about another. We're not really going to be able to evaluate people properly until the Lord reveals at judgment what is really in their

heart. Don't you think that we should give them time for their heart to show before we make a decision about them, too?!

F - MY PRAYER...

Father, who alone knows each heart, help me be more patient with others before forming an opinion about them. Please give me eyes to see them as Jesus does. Through him I pray. Amen.

SUNDAY JEREMIAH 33:2-3

This is what the Lord says, he who made the earth, the Lord who formed it and established it -- the Lord is his name: Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know.

THOUGHTS ABOUT TODAY'S VERSE...

In a universe of billions of stars, think of the power of the God who made them and knows each of their names. Think of all he knows that we don't. Think of all he has seen that is not in a history book. Think of all he has done and can do. Add to this that he invites us to speak to him about the things of our heart.

G - MY PRAYER...

Almighty God, there are so many things I am simply ignorant about. There are so many things in my world that I can't understand. There are so many things about you that I long to know but I can't begin to comprehend you. Please, dear Father, please give me more of you, and about you, that I may know you better. You are beyond me, so deal gently as you reveal yourself. I look with anticipation at the thought of knowing you, the Unsearchable, the Almighty, God, my Abba. Through Jesus I pray. Amen.