



Chatham Chatter



Chatham Citadel Corps

Corps Officer Major Ian F Payne

ian.payne@salvationarmy.org.uk 07813949773 Corps website: www.chathamsa.org.uk

16th January 2022

Matthew 22:37

Jesus answered him, 'Love the Lord your God with every passion of your heart, with all the energy of your being, and with every thought that is within you.' This is the great and supreme commandment. (The Passion)

It has happened, Wednesday 12th January, I received a negative result, I was then free. It has made me think. I was hoping for a negative result every time I took one! Obviously talking about the Covid lateral flow test. I never thought that I would be happy about being negative - being, by and large, a positive person through life. It's strange how one word could define you!

This weekend in our worship is our Commitment Sunday. A day in the SA calendar where we look at our covenant with God - take stock I suppose. The thoughts are around 'Being together, living in God's Covenant' as set by THQ leadership. Being together, not that has happened much over the past two years with the Covid pandemic, but we have found new ways to 'Be together'. However, my thoughts will lead you to your 'being together' with Christ. How's that been? And the 'being together' with those not attached to the church, what does that look like?

When I was a teenager I worked in a family department store in Jersey called Voison's,

still being run by the Voison family. Every January we had a stocktake. Every item had to be counted and accounted for. I worked in the china, glassware and kitchen department; what a 'faff' but we would find out lots of details in preparing for the buyers for new stock; what were the best lines and sold the best etc: so we could target better.

Commitment Sunday a stocktake of our spiritual life, in all aspects; what needs to be developed more, what do we need to achieve for ourselves, spiritually; a very important time for the Christian - preparing ourselves for a new year of what God wants of us, changing here and there, to be the best God wants us to be.

Well, may this Sunday be a new turning point in your spiritual journey. Come prepared to set time aside to ask and seek God's will; let us not just come to the 'meeting', let us come expecting God to engage with us in a new way for this New Year. God bless each and every one of you as we journey together to discover that being together with God and each other not only changes our lives but the lives of those around us.



God bless Chatham Salvation Army and all that is achieved in His name.

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 that as we begin this New Year we will be guided and inspired by your love. By the power of your Holy Spirit, in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

- Pray for the young people in the Corps, especially those who are being enrolled as Junior Soldiers.
- Pray for all the children's groups which are run at the Corps: Mainly Music, Mummy and Me, KAOS and BP sections.
- Pray for the staff in our NHS who are undertaking stressful duties in looking after patients and all the responsibilities that go with it.
- Pray for all those who are experiencing ill health and needing medical care and treatment.
- Pray for people who are financially stretched and finding it difficult to cope with the family's needs.
- Pray for those who have been bereaved and are still coming to terms with the loss of their loved ones.
- Pray for those people and families who have mental health problems and addictions which they find difficult to control.
- Pray for schools and colleges - for both students and teachers as they cope with staff shortages.

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.

FLOWER LIST

The Corps Flower list for 2022 is by the reception desk, please add your name if you haven't already or speak to Joan Page-Mills

NEW ADDRESS

The new address for Kevin, Debbie & Rebecca Abbott is;

13 Locksley Drive, Ferndown, Dorset, BH22 8JU.

God bless the Abbotts in their new home.



JUNIOR SOLDIERS AWARDS

Pray for our Junior Soldiers as they meet on Sunday afternoon 16th Jan 3pm. New junior soldiers will be made and JS awards will be given

out to those present.

God bless our young people and the workers who dedicate so much time in nurturing and supporting them.

BIBLE FELLOWSHIP

Wednesday is Zoom Bible Fellowship at 8pm - Zoom Code 597 290 9541. It is led by TE Tony McClure and this weeks commences looking at Exodus. Concluded promptly at 9pm

TOGETHER 2022

Save the date 15-17 July 2022 for 'Together 2022' in Birmingham at the ICC. This is an opportunity to gather for worship, teaching and celebration encompassing the commissioning of the Messengers of Reconciliation session, Territorial Congress, sports mission and Symphony Sounds. Look out for more details coming soon in Salvationist and online.

WASHING MACHINE & TUMBLE DRYER

Available for a family that could use them, they are used but in excellent condition; Please see Major Ian for details

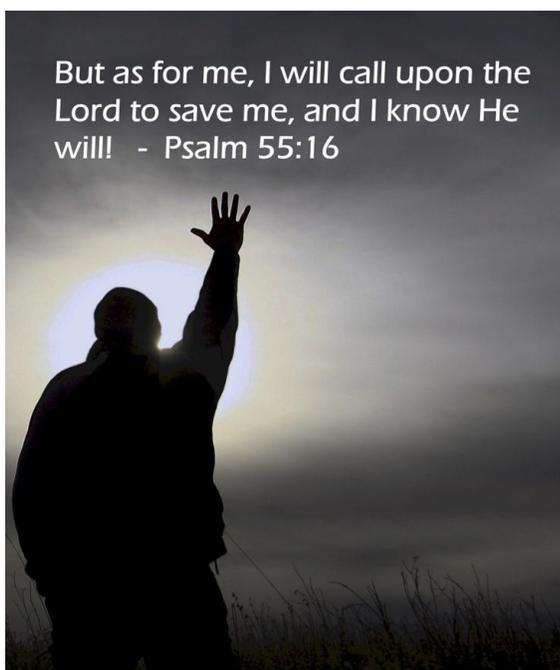
TAKE ON A FUNDRAISING ADVENTURE IN 2022



Test yourself with our most adventurous fundraising challenge, the scenic Trek Mount Toubkal through the mountains of Morocco and climb of the highest peak in the Atlas Mountains. Raise funds for people who are homeless, your favourite Salvation Army project or your corps - the choice is yours. For an information pack email challenge@salvationarmy.org.uk

further information;

<https://www.salvationarmy.org.uk/trek/mount-toubkal-trek>



PRAYING FOR THE SALVATION ARMY AROUND THE WORLD

Sweden and Latvia Territory

Territorial leaders:

Colonels Bo and Christina Jeppsson



Prayer requests:

Please pray with us:

- That discipleship becomes the most important for our soldiers/adherents.
- That people will be saved and we will have many new soldiers/adherents in 2022.
- That we should reach out even better to children and young people.
- That new leaders will be raised up.
- For clarity, wisdom and direction as we still navigate through the pandemic and also courage to make positive changes with new ways of mission.

THE PERSECUTED CHURCH

Here is this week's article explaining and giving information on the subject.

MEXICO Number 37 in the **WORLD WATCH LIST**



How many Christians are there in Mexico?

There are 128.2 million Christians in Mexico - they make up the majority of the total population, which is 133.9 million.

How are Christians persecuted in Mexico?

Criminal networks have spread throughout Mexico, and their increasing struggle for territorial control creates an environment where Christians face the constant risk of being targeted for violence. Believers are perceived as a threat to criminal activities because they oppose corruption and drug use, or because they explicitly reject any demands or requests from criminal organizations.

In areas controlled by drug traffickers, members of criminal networks expose women to abuse. They are recruited as hired assassins or are forced to engage in relationships with cartel members. The families of women who convert to Christianity and desert criminal groups often face rape, death threats and constant surveillance as punishment.

Men in Mexico generally face more threats than women and a higher level of persecution since they are often the heads of families and leaders of churches. In the areas controlled by criminal groups or drug cartels, young men are exposed to indoctrination and forced recruitment. Those who refuse to join a gang or take part in criminal activities are threatened, abducted or even killed.

Christian converts from indigenous communities in the south of the country are also likely to face persecution from their families and tribes for choosing to follow Jesus over any traditional faith.

Meet Pastor Genaro*

“The closer you get to what people in those areas call ‘hot spots’, life becomes much more difficult. You risk your life and the lives of your loved ones. While I was there, I heard so many sad stories.”

PASTOR GENARO, CHURCH LEADER

What's life like for Christians in Mexico?

Javier is a Christian leader from an indigenous background in Mexico. He was kicked out of his home, along with three other Christian leaders and their families, because he no longer followed his community's traditional religion.

The state authorities have been aware of this case from the moment the incident occurred. But despite this, the dream of these families to return home is unlikely to

become reality any time soon. Indigenous communities in Mexico find it easy to get away with persecuting those who leave their traditional faiths because they have a certain amount of autonomy from the central government. According to their own laws, converting to a religion that is different from the traditional faith is forbidden, and Christians who have converted can face rejection and punishment in the form of fines, imprisonment or forced displacement.

Thanks to your prayers and support, Open Doors has been able to hire lawyers to fight for the rights of these believers. This can be a very long path, and it isn't always fruitful, but it helps to show these believers that they are not alone and that their global church family are willing to fight for them.

In late 2020, Open Doors partners were also able to help displaced Christians in several Mexican states with the purchase of land and construction of shelters - supporting these believers with homes and livelihoods after they have been expelled from their communities.

How can I help Christians in Mexico?

Please keep praying for your brothers and sisters in Mexico. Your gifts and prayers make an enormous difference to those following Jesus no matter the cost.

Open Doors strengthens persecuted believers in Mexico with biblical training, legal support, trauma care and socio-economic aid.

Is it getting harder to be a Christian in Mexico?

Mexico shot up the 2021 World Watch List after being outside of the top 50 entirely

last year. This is likely due to the rise in illegal activity that directly challenges Christians and Christian teaching. Drug traffickers and gangs retaliate against and target Christian leaders for opposing their criminal activities, and during the Covid-19 pandemic, their control over parts of Mexico has strengthened.

*Name changed for security reasons

PLEASE PRAY

Lord Jesus, thank You for the faith of our persecuted church family in Mexico, and their boldness in speaking out against criminal organisations. Please protect them and help them to keep advocating for justice. Provide safe places and homes for believers who are expelled from their families and communities for choosing to follow You. Amen.

And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests - Ephesians 6:18



ON YOUR DAILY JOURNEY

As part of your daily devotions let's pray the **A to Z prayer**. Each day you will have a letter from the alphabet. Use this letter to pray for members of the Corps with this initial, friends, family, neighbours, a Salvation Army Corps and a Country of the World.

Let's make a difference by praying for each other and wider. 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!

H - 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 re-

ceives; 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.

I,J - 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.

K - 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 where 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."

L - 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.

M - 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 honor him.

N - 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. 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.

O - 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.



Love God
Love Others

BEING together LIVING IN GOD'S Covenant



COVENANT SUNDAY 2022

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: Love your neighbour as yourself.”

Matthew 22:37-39 (NIV)

Loving Father,

Your love for me is unconditional and unceasing.

The depth of your love is beyond my comprehension,
but today I respond to that love.

As your love lives in me, may my thoughts, my words,
and my actions reflect you at all times and in every place.

May my soul be a place where we meet – where all that I am
becomes all that you want me to be in heart, mind and spirit.

That in being one with you, I might see you, know you,
and show you in every part of my life.

That in me and through me your Kingdom may come now.

May this Covenant of Love draw me deeper and
bring others closer to you.



Signed