



Church at Home

Sunday 7th March 2021

Sunday worship on is on  **YouTube**

The easiest way to find the link to the YouTube meeting each Sunday is to find the link on the Corps web page. Type.....

www.salvationarmy.org.uk/ramsgate and select **Church on YouTube**

You can also find us by searching on YouTube and on the Ramsgate Facebook page.

But we want to still “meet together” and share our thoughts and prayers and testimonies. It will give a chance to share how God has spoken to us during the meeting – and allow us to encourage each other.

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/8651865167>

Ramsgate ZOOM 8651865167

And you can **ring into Zoom by phone!** If you ring 02034815240, followed by 8651865167# then you will hear the meeting! Calls charged at the normal UK rate.

If you have no internet we are providing each week’s service on a DVD which we will deliver to you. Please let us know if you **do not want** a DVD each week. Also tell us if you **need help** watching the DVDs we are sending



What's happening next week at Ramsgate Salvation Army

Sunday 7 th 10 am	Ramsgate Worship at Home on YouTube
Sunday 7 th 11.15 am	ZOOM fellowship
Sunday 7 th 12 noon	ZOOM Youth Group
Sunday 7 th 4.30 pm	ZOOM Children's Church Kids Club (up to 11 years)

Carl is on his **Confirmation in Officership Conference**

From Tuesday to Thursday and will not be available during the daytime or Tuesday or Wednesday evenings.

Monday to Friday (6.30am-9am)	Breakfast Drop-in (street homeless only)
Tuesday 9 th (10am - 12 noon)	Food Bank
Tuesday 9 th 7pm	ZOOM Bible Study
Wednesday 10 th 7 pm	ZOOM Corps Fellowship
Friday 12 th (10am - 12 noon)	Food Bank
Sunday 14 th March	Mothering Sunday



There is a full day of activities on Fortress Radio.

<https://www.fortressradio.online/listen-now.html>

And don't forget Songs of Praise Sundays at 13.15pm



Maggie is available with the constant prayer line where you can call or text for prayer. You can contact her on 07840 753 603

Daily Hope offers music, prayers and reflections as well as full worship services from the Church of England at the end of a telephone line.



Birthdays

Josephine Calway 8-March

Pat Green 8-March

Sean Pigden 10-March

Danny Murcell 11-March

Caitlyn Stanley 11-March

Barry Davies 12-March

Bob Smith 12-March

John Newbould 13-March

Prayers please for

Captain John Garbutt who remains very unwell at this time.

For **Joyce Hill** she returns to health.

We continue to pray for **Grant** and **Al** and **David** and **John** McCairn all waiting for medical treatment. For full recovery for **Kate**. For Tracy's dad **Ivan**.

Continued prayers for **Paul**, son of Hazel, who has two more treatment sessions and for **Archie**, Lisa and Scott.

For **Steven**, the grandson of Kate's friend Madeleine

Chris, a friend of Gay, who is unwell at this time. For the peace and healing that only God can give.

Jean Maytum, very poorly following a brain bleed.

For **Anne Beerling** following the loss of her sister.

For all our **young people** returning to school on Monday and the following days – and for our **teachers** and those who support in education. We recognise the many challenges after so many weeks out of education. We pray that God will be the strength and confidence to all.

STEP 1 8 March 29 March	STEP 2 No earlier than 12 April At least 5 weeks after Step 1	STEP 3 No earlier than 17 May At least 5 weeks after Step 2	STEP 4 No earlier than 21 June At least 5 weeks after Step 3 All subject to review
EDUCATION 8 MARCH <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Schools and colleges open for all students Practical Higher Education courses 	EDUCATION <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As previous step 	EDUCATION <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As previous step 	EDUCATION <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As previous step
SOCIAL CONTACT 8 MARCH <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exercise and recreation outdoors with household or one other person Household only indoors 29 MARCH <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rule of 6 or two households outdoors Household only indoors 	SOCIAL CONTACT <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rule of 6 or two households outdoors Household only indoors 	SOCIAL CONTACT <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maximum 30 people outdoors Rule of 6 or two households indoors (subject to review) 	SOCIAL CONTACT <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No legal limit
BUSINESS & ACTIVITIES 8 MARCH <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wraparound care, including sport, for all children 29 MARCH <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organised outdoor sport (children and adults) Outdoor sport and leisure facilities All outdoor children's activities Outdoor parent & child group (up to 15 parents) 	BUSINESS & ACTIVITIES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All retail Personal care Libraries & community centres Most outdoor attractions Indoor leisure inc. gyms (individual use only) Self-contained accommodation All children's activities Outdoor hospitality Indoor parent & child groups (up to 15 parents) 	BUSINESS & ACTIVITIES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indoor hospitality Indoor entertainment and attractions Organised indoor sport (adult) Remaining accommodation Remaining outdoor entertainment (including performances) 	BUSINESS & ACTIVITIES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remaining businesses, including nightclubs
TRAVEL 8 MARCH <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stay at home No holidays 29 MARCH <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimise travel No holidays 	TRAVEL <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Domestic overnight stays (household only) No international holidays 	TRAVEL <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Domestic overnight stays International travel (subject to review) 	TRAVEL <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Domestic overnight stays International travel
EVENTS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funerals (30) Weddings and wakes (6) 	EVENTS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funerals (30) Weddings, wakes, receptions (15) Event pilots 	EVENTS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Most significant life events (30) Indoor events: 1,000 or 50% Outdoor seated events: 10,000 or 25% Outdoor other events: 4,000 or 50% 	EVENTS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No legal limit on life events Larger events

Many of you will have heard the announcement from government on the steps out of lock down. The news continues to be that the vaccination programme is reducing cases, hospitalisation, and - thank God - deaths.

Yet there is a clear message that we must still be cautious.

We are waiting to see if full church activities can start before 21 June. If not before, we can expect to be able to worship together, sing, play and share refreshments and food as we would want on that weekend. I can imagine a very exciting party.

In the meantime, we will be sending a questionnaire to gauge your opinions on what you hope will happen when we finally can join together.

Will you return for worship, lunch club, toddlers, Alpha, film nights....?

Would you like to be able to continue to see the service from home, have a DVD to watch later. We will send this in the next weeks to help us prepare.

Thoughts from Major John

Morning Prayer

**Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you,
whom you received from God?**

1 Corinthians 6.19

Here are some words from one of my notebooks, originally from one of Brengle's book I believe.

Here on earth a temple stands,
Temple never built with hands;
There the Lord doth fill this place
With the glory of His grace.
Cleansed by Christ's atoning blood,
Thou art this fair house of God.
Thoughts, desires, that enter there,
Should they not be pure and fair?
Meet for holy courts and blest,
Courts of stillness and of rest,
Where the soul, a priest in white,
Singeth praises day and night;
Glory of the love divine,
Filling all this heart of mine.

As I reflected on the above words, the verses of Song 777 SASB (John Oxenham) seemed to lend themselves as a prayer and a desire that I, we, might be that temple of the Holy Spirit...

'Mid all the traffic of the ways,
Turmoils without within,
Make in my heart a quiet place
And come and dwell therein.

A little shrine of quietness
All sacred to thyself,
Where thou shalt all my soul possess
And I may find myself.

A little place of mystic grace,
Of sin and self swept bare,
Where I may look into thy face
And talk with thee in prayer.

Come, occupy my silent place,
And make thy dwelling there!
More grace is wrought in quietness
Than any is aware.

Time to Smile

Two men were discussing religion. One man said, 'I don't have anything to do with things that I don't understand.' 'Have you had your breakfast this morning?' asked the other. 'Yes' said the first man, 'but what's that got to do with religion?' 'Did you have butter on your toast?' Asked his friend.' 'Yes' replied his friend, increasingly bewildered. 'Well can you tell me how a black and white cow eating green grass can make white milk that makes yellow butter?' 'No, I can't' said the sceptic. 'Well', his friend said, 'I wouldn't have anything to do with breakfast then!'

A Methodist minister had a secret vice – he loved a tippie of cherry brandy. It was impossible to admit his weakness to his congregation who were strictly teetotal. Some friends decided to exploit his dilemma. They offered him a whole crate of cherry brandy on the proviso that the gift was acknowledged in the next church magazine. To their surprise, the minister accepted. Next Sunday the notice duly appeared: 'The minister would like to express his thanks to his friends for the generous gift of fruit and the spirit in which it was given.'

Quiz

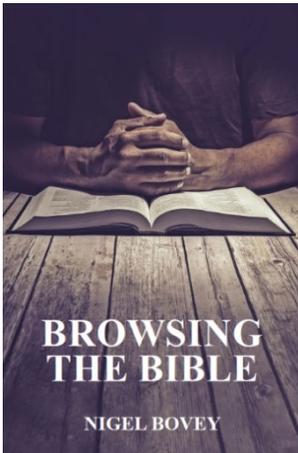
- 1.What do we call the heating process which destroys microorganisms in milk?
- 2.Who is the unproven author of the 'Iliad'?
- 3.What word can follow 'but', 'car', and 'bat'?
- 4.What was Captain Bligh's most famous ship?
- 5.Which European city was the first home of the Statue of Liberty?

The 70's

- 1.Singers Lynn Paul and Eve Graham went solo to break up which group?
- 2.Who wrote 'Roots', adapted as a TV blockbuster?
- 3.What was Saigon renamed after the North Vietnamese takeover?
- 4.Percy Shaw died, but what had he passed on to road users?
- 5.Who was the leader of the Khmer Rouge in the Killing Fields?

Anagram What is the only English anagram of STRAIGHTEN?

Answers
1.Pasteurization
2.Homer 3.Ton 4.The Bounty 5.Paris
1.The New
Seekers 2.Alex Haley 3.Ho Chi Min City 4.Invented Car's Eyes 5.Pol Pot
Anagram The only English anagram of STRAIGHTEN is SHATTERING.



Paperback £8

We now have copies

So let Carl know if you would like to buy one.

Last week Carl was able to attend a three-day course to learn the techniques found in the very well recognised training from the Franklin Covey organisation.

It was tough going – covering a lot of topics such as

Habit 3:

Put First Things First®

Eliminate time-wasting tendencies by focusing on goals and strict adherence to plans.

Habit 5:

Seek First to Understand, Then to Be Understood®

Create an atmosphere of helpful give-and-take by taking the time to fully understand issues, and give candid and accurate feedback.

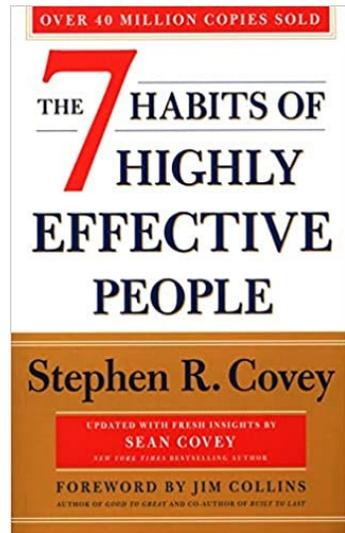
But I was reminded of a book (parody) published at around the same time as Covey as a challenge to Christians – called the 77 habits of the ineffective Christian

Do you read the Bible? Do you pray even when you are not in a crisis? Do you see some of what you do in life as worship?

If you can answer ‘yes’ to any of these questions, then you are not a highly ineffective Christian. You need to take steps to greater mediocrity This book will show you how. The author, Chris Fabry, claims limited personal experience and has done virtually no research, but has found 77 key principles to guide you into weakness.

Apply these principles and avoid certain key scriptures and you will discover how to develop a weak and meaningless Christian life.

Among the chapter titles are these rules for ineffective living:



Shun Pain, Treat God Like a Pal, Leave Fasting to the Weird People, Have All the Answers, Make Prayer Occasional. Speaking of prayer. You must pray the same things, the same phrases over and over, for this will make you more comfortable, and comfort is always the goal of the ineffective Christian.

Of course, it's expected that during routine prayer, your mind will wander to shopping lists, Facebook and football.

Since you think about so many other things when you pray, keep your prayers short and to the point. `I want (blank) and (blank). In Jesus' name, Amen.

This chapter end with a helpful Scripture to avoid (I Thessalonians 5:17: Pray constantly), followed by a fractured familiar hymn.

Sweet minute of prayer, sweet minute of prayer,

That's just about all that I can spare.

I have regrets and lots of sin,

so I'll see if I can squeeze them in.

In seasons of distress and grief,

my greatest prayer is quick relief.

But things are swell, I've no despair,

I'll just spend half a minute in prayer

It's funny – because its close to the mark.

A recent survey showed that only20% of church goers actually read their bible each day. I doubt this is because they *want* to be ineffective Christians. But that will be the result.

Let's be effective Christians. Let's do all we can to stay close to Jesus

The Salvation Army Ramsgate

Church at Home 7th March 2021

Next week Mothering Sunday 14th March

Loving God,
In our sufferings and joys,
In our relationships and daily lives,
We ask that your kingdom come.
Open our eyes to your presence,
Open our ears to your call,
Open our hearts to your love,
Open our ways to your will,
Open our actions to your compassion,
Open our pain to your peace,
And, in so doing so, open our world to your hope.
In the name of Jesus,
Amen

Lord Jesus,
You call us to be more like you,
Transform us into your likeness by helping us to recognise ways we can reflect your love,
While not all of us can do great things, through you, Lord, all of us can do things with great love.
In your name,
Amen

- 1 Hear the call of the kingdom, lift your eyes to the King;
let his song rise within you as a fragrant offering
of how God, rich in mercy, came in Christ to redeem
all who trust in his unfailing grace.
- 2 Hear the call of the kingdom to be children of light,
with the mercy of heaven, the humility of Christ;
walking justly before him, loving all that is right,
that the life of Christ may shine through us.

King of heaven, we will answer the call.
We will follow, bringing hope to the world,

filled with passion, filled with power to proclaim
salvation in Jesus' name.

3 Hear the call of the kingdom to reach out to the lost
with the Father's compassion in the wonder of the cross,
bringing peace and forgiveness, and a hope yet to come:
let the nations put their trust in him.

Keith Getty, Kristyn Getty and Stuart Townend

Great God:

Thank you for the constant call we hear from you every day.
The wind whispering around our ears,
the birds singing to us from the trees,
rain pinging on the window,
the good earth inviting our steps.
We hear that call again and again,
through kind hands and warm hearts around us.

Open our ears to your call,
which is as expansive as the world,
and as particular as a poor man walking a dusty road
to a cross on Calvary.
Like him, help us to love, not just in word, but in deed:
love for our neighbours who are hard to love,
love for newcomers in our community,
love for people who are cast out by others.

Forgive us for the times we have failed to share your love,
choosing to hoard what is freely given,
fearful that we have limited resources, limited time...we're too tired.
Thank you that even then, your consoling voice calls us.
Help us to respond with cheerful hearts as we do your work.

Strengthen those among us who face heavy burdens,
who live with pain; physical, emotional, spiritual.
Holy Spirit, bind us together as a community
to sing your chorus of love faithfully, heartily.

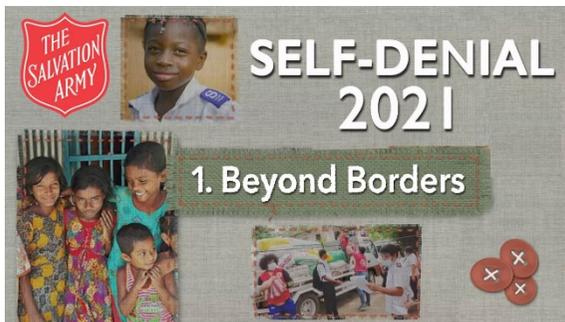
Multiply your call in us and through us.

In the name of Jesus we pray, Amen.

Self Denial 2021
Week 5 – Pakistan

Hello and welcome to the last of our films for this year's Self-Denial Appeal.

This week, I'll be making a call to Pakistan, which is one of our partners in mission, along with Denmark and Greenland, Finland and Estonia, Ghana, including Togo, and South America East.



We featured Pakistan in our 2016 Self-Denial Appeal, when Kerry Coke visited the country. Pakistan has very much been the main focus for me and Rebecca for the last two years and even though our plans have changed, we still feel very connected.

Today I'll be talking to Fozia Columbu, When Kerry was making an episode about education, she met Fozia as she took her girls to school.

The family would have been our next-door neighbours had things worked out differently for us. So I'm really pleased to be able to connect with her today. The girls have grown, and Fozia is now the corps based Community Development Manager at Territorial Headquarters in Lahore, and she looks after some of the projects funded by Self-Denial.

Salam, Major Fozia.

Salam Captain Ben.

Nice to see, how are you?

I am fine. Are you fine?

Yes, I am fine, praise God.

And how are your children?

They are doing good and at the moment they are at home, because of the Covid, the schools are closed and it's almost one year they are at home.

We'd be so interested to know, how has it been for The Salvation Army and its mission in 2020, with all that's gone? Could you tell us a bit about that?

When the country was in lockdown and that was not an easy time, especially for the poor, those who are facing difficulty to get food. But I'm glad that The Salvation Army did tremendous work within the communities, we are serving communities without discrimination. We provide food, groceries to the poor, and health and safety kits to the poor. And that's a really good effort and a really good initiative by The Salvation Army in Pakistan.

And how about the corps in Pakistan? How many corps do you have roughly? And have they been able to meet throughout 2020?

We have 132 corps in Pakistan and more than 300 active officers. We have in Pakistan 43 cadets at the moment, in our training college. We are not allowed to open the church, but our officers and our local officers they connect with the communities with phone or via social media. But our officers they did really good work on Covid; we faced Covid and the flood at the same time. But the churches and NGOs and The Salvation Army they come out from their offices from their homes, and they serve the communities. For the personnel, our offices, they have capacity in the building. And for the last three years five of our officers serve in different corps in UK and one officer she is working in IHQ. And this is good, I believe for the Pakistan territory, encouraging for us.

For us, I think it's been such a great example of the mutuality of support, it's not just supports flowing one way we've needed the reinforcements from the Pakistan territory to show us their experience, to lead in the ways that they know are successful and just to bless our territory.

Fozia tell us about your hopes and dreams for your family, your ministry and for the wider Salvation Army?

My hope and dreams for my girls, should be good Christian, independent woman, courageous women and this is my dream.

And my dream for my ministry, well, I give myself to God and I say yes to him and I believe that since from that day to now, till my death, he is always with me, and he will take me and he will guide me, and he will show me the way where he will be taking me, and I always say yes to him.

And the dream for The Salvation Army for Pakistan through our love, our support, and our call we will make good disciples for Jesus Christ.

Thank you for inspiring our territory and being partners with us. And, yeah t

hank you for saying yes all those years ago, and keeping saying it. Thank you so much for your time and your inspiration.

God bless you.

God bless you too.

Khuda hafiz

Khuda hafiz.

Bye

Bye, Bye.

Well that bring us to the end of our Self-Denial films. I wanted to find out how The Salvation Army has adapted to the pandemic and while I've gained just a snapshot of what's happening around the world. I've been really inspired by the people I've talked to. I've heard how Salvationists and friends have been coping with a host of different crisis. Typhoons, cyclones, flooding and economic hardship. Along with all the difficulties this pandemic has brought, and I've heard about the incredible resilience of the communities where The Salvation Army is at work.

I've loved what Nana Togo has said about showing love when you can't be physically be together. There are plenty of challenges ahead, poverty is widespread and The Salvation Army has limited resources but I feel more convinced of the vital work that

needs to be done. Work that is possible because of the money that is given through Self-Denial. Richard Bradbury reminded us that this is The Salvation Army's international Self-Denial, we are all involved. And while each of us here reflect prayerfully about what we can give, salvationists around the world are doing the same.

Sing Song Number 580

Dear Lord, I do surrender
Myself, my all, to thee;
My time, my store, my talents,
So long withheld by me.
I've heard the call for workers,
The world's great need I see,
O send me to the rescue,
I'm here, my Lord, send me!

Here am I, my Lord, send me,
Here am I, my Lord, send me,
I surrender all to obey thy call,
Here am I, my Lord, send me.

2 Too long at ease in Zion
I've been content to dwell,
While multitudes are dying
And sinking into Hell.
I can no more be careless
And say there's naught to do,
The fields are white to harvest
And labourers are few.

3 O hear, thou God of Heaven,
The vows that now I make!
To thee my life is given,
'Tis for the lost world's sake.
To serve thee I am ready,
Though friends and foes despise,
I now present my body
A living sacrifice.

William Walker (1871-1899)

The words of the song could not be clearer

- The call
- The call heard
- The response to the call

Just consider some verses where this is happening. You may want to underline the call, and the response. What does that say about calling?

Is there a difference between hearing and listening? What happens when we really listen – with our ears, our minds and our hearts?

Isaiah 30:21

Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying, “This is the way”; and you walk in it.

John 10:27

My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.

Matthew 4:19-22

And He said to them, “Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.” Immediately they left their nets and followed Him. Going on from there He saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets; and He called them.

Matthew 9:9

As Jesus went on from there, He saw a man called Matthew, sitting in the tax collector’s booth; and He *said to him, “Follow Me!” And he got up and followed Him.

Mark 1:16-20

As He was going along by the Sea of Galilee, He saw Simon and Andrew, the brother of Simon, casting a net in the sea; for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them,

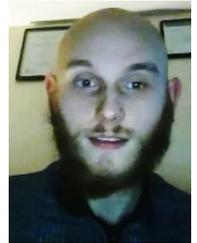
“Follow Me, and I will make you become fishers of men.” Immediately they left their nets and followed Him.

Mark 2:14

As He passed by, He saw Levi the son of Alphaeus sitting in the tax booth, and He said to him, “Follow Me!” And he got up and followed Him.

Before we sing our next song we will hear the first of three testimonies about hearing God.

I asked Matthew if he had heard or sensed God’s voice in his life.
This is what he said.....



Matthew’ Testimony

Sing song number 695

Will you come and follow me
If I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know
And never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown,
Will you let my name be known,
Will you let my life be grown
In you and you in me?

2 Will you leave yourself behind
If I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind
And never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare,
Should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer prayer
In you and you in me?

3 Will you let the blinded see
If I but call your name?
Will you set the prisoners free
And never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean,
And do such as this unseen,
And admit to what I mean
In you and you in me?

4 Will you love the 'you' you hide
If I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside
And never be the same?
Will you use the faith you've found
To reshape the world around,
Through my sight and touch and sound
In you and you in me?

5 Lord, your summons echoes true
When you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you
And never be the same.
In your company I'll go
Where your love and footsteps show;
Thus I'll move and live and grow
In you and you in me.

John L. Bell and Graham Maule Song Number 695

For those who will not see the next part you need to imagine a scene where three men are before God awaiting their final call.

VOICE OF GOD Come forward evangelist John

John No, that's not me. I'm accountant John

VOICE OF GOD You're not listening. Still not listening. I called for evangelist John because that is what I called you to be



So come forward evangelist John

John But I am not an evangelist, I've been an accountant all my life, I became very successful, earned much money and gave lots away. I've served my local corps well, I've done the books every week. That's who I am. Accountant John

VOICE OF GOD But John. I called you to be an evangelist. There were people waiting in Bristol, and Plymouth and Sheffield to hear you talk about how I could change their lives. But they never heard. Because you did not listen.

VOICE OF GOD Come forward accountant Mark

Mark No, that's not me. I'm Captain Mark the Salvation Army Corps Officer

VOICE OF GOD You're not listening. Still not listening. I called for accountant Mark because that is what I called you to be

So come forward accountant Mark

Mark But I am not an accountant, I've been an Officer all my life, I've served the Salvation Army well, I worked hard, and obediently went wherever I was sent. That's who I am. Captain Mark

VOICE OF GOD But Mark. I called you to be an accountant. You were meant to be in the workplace. I wanted you to share your faith in the board rooms of big companies

across the country. There were company directors who needed to see your skills in finance and hear about your faith. No one else could reach the board rooms in this country. The rich and powerful needed to know how I could change their lives. But they never heard. Because you did not listen

VOICE OF GOD Come forward cleaner Matthew

Matthew Yes, that's me. I'm cleaner Matthew

VOICE OF GOD Matthew you did listen to my call

Matthew Did I Lord? I'm sorry I never did much for you

VOICE OF GOD Matthew you have lived your life just as I planned. You got on with what was needed and did it every day without ever asking for recognition. Nothing was too much trouble for you. You did the jobs no one else was willing to do – and you did them cheerfully. Your whole life was lived in joy and many people are here in heaven today because of you.

Matthew Seriously not Lord

VOICE OF GOD Seriously yes Matthew. You cannot imagine how your kindness; your humility and your dedication touched the hearts of people who watched you clean. They saw Jesus in you Matthew. Every day you preached a sermon - by how you lived your life. People were led to me Matthew because you served where I placed you. People heard. Because you listened

I hope you're smiling – as it is supposed to be tongue in cheek – who knows what sort of account we have to give for our lives when that great day comes?

But there is a truth within it. Our theme for Lent is opening our lives to God.

Last week we looked at opening our eyes to God's presence. You may remember we heard how people see God around them – where is God turning up unexpectedly. What do you look for to seek his presence?

This week we consider hearing from God – are our ears open to his call?

William Booth famously said “‘Not called!’ did you say? ‘Not heard the call,’ I think you should say.

So what is it to be called? And who is called?

Let’s start with thoughts from John and Mavis on calling. What they will describe is a very profound response to God – that takes great courage and sacrifice. God has always called specific people to do specific tasks for him. He called throughout the bible and people answered

Noah: following even when alone, Abraham going into the unknown, Joseph: staying true even when persecuted, Moses: speaking up whatever the cost....and I could go on with Joshua, David: Isaiah, Daniel, John the Baptist, Peter and Paul and many more. But we have our own heroes of faith who said yes.

VIDEO

Sing Song Number 1002

I, the Lord of sea and sky,
I have heard My people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin,
My hand will save.
I who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear My light to them?
Whom shall I send?

Chorus

Here I am Lord, Is it I, Lord?
I have heard You calling in the night.
I will go Lord, if You lead me.
I will hold Your people in my heart.

Verse 2

I, the Lord of snow and rain,
I have borne my people’s pain.
I have wept for love of them,
they turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone,
Give them hearts for love alone.

I will speak My word to them
Whom shall I send?

Verse 3

I, the Lord of wind and flame
I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them,
My hand will save
Finest bread I will provide,
Till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give My life to them,
Whom shall I send?

Daniel L Schutte

And we thank God for all the Johns and Mavis who have listened to God and said
yes.

And yet God's call is to all of us

The word church in the original Greek was [*Ekklesia*](#),

It means *called out ones*.

If you are a member of Salvation Army Ramsgate – and wherever you are listening
from - if you are a believing member of a church – you have been called out.

But do we really accept this?

The concept of being called by God is fairly common.

Most churches, especially evangelical ones, believe in a call to lead – or a call to
preach.

Churches believe that individuals are chosen by God and given a special call, directly
from God, to be a pastor or a minister or a Salvation Army officer.

They believe that ministry isn't an occupation that people choose to enter, but a
calling directly from God that people hear and obey. This is of course exactly what we
heard John and Mavis share about.

But is that the only call?

In fact, when you look up the word *call* in the New Testament, you don't find the phrase *called to preach* anywhere. The closest thing you can find is in Romans 10:15 where Paul asks the question, "And how can anyone preach unless they are sent?"

It's interesting to note that in this case, people are **sent out** to preach to unbelievers, not **called in** to preach to Christians.

The rest of the time called is used in the New Testament it refers not to a calling of special people to an office of preacher, pastor, or minister; but a calling to all Christ followers.

For example, Peter wrote: "But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light." (1 Peter 2:9)

What is Peter saying?

If we are following Jesus – if we have confessed, "He is Lord" and are doing all we can to follow Him – then we are called; we are called out of the darkness

We are called into the light

And we are called to do something for His kingdom

Every one of us – if the light of Christ is in us - we are called.

We talk about the priesthood of all believers. This is what Peter says we are chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation.

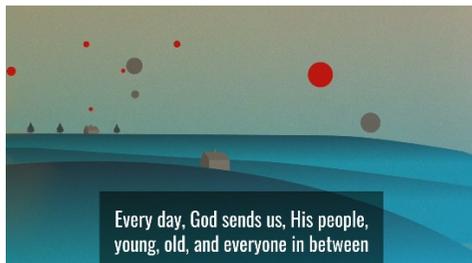
This point really must be stressed. Peter is referring to all Christ-followers, not to just a few, special ones. He says that all believers have been called. We are all called both out of and into: - "out of darkness into His wonderful light."

Jesus, Himself, issued a call to all. He said to whoever was listening: "Repent and believe the good news!" (Mark 1:15) He was issuing a calling to ordinary people to come out of sinful thoughts and behaviours (repent) and into faith and obedience to Him.

Does our church consist of one person who has been called to preach and a bunch of other people who are not called to do anything but sit and listen to the one called preacher?

No, a thousand times no, the very word that Jesus, Himself used to define His followers (ekklesia—called out ones) shouts the opposite! If you are a part of Christ's body, you are called!

But called to what?



Every day, God sends us, His people, young, old, and everyone in between out into his world to the places we normally go.

Work and school, gym and shop, field and factory. To the people He's put us alongside. To do good work; that brings

good to others. ministering love and grace, snuffing out injustice and speaking truth with kindness. Sharing Jesus in word and deed to see brows unfurrow, hearts soften, wounds heal, people set free. Home, school, work, and nation changed day by day

From the earliest days of the church there has been a recognition that believers were needed to play specific functions in the church. A good example is found in Acts 6:1 where there were problems with the feeding programmes. They had not got the balance right and too much emphasis was being paid to one part of the church and other parts ignored. So, they decided to appoint other people to lead those neglected parts. No suggestion that those doing this work were any less than those, say teaching or leading worship. Just different.

Think about our own context. Is everyone able to lead a toddler group, or a prayer group, or help someone with a housing application, or lead singing, or run the youth cell. I could go on; cooking, cleaning, food parcels, benefit claim, counselling, homeless support, lead the band. We cannot imagine any one person being able to do all of these things well. Its true that some of these jobs have glamour and status – but Paul makes absolutely clear that every part of the body has equal merit.

Now the body is not made up of one part but of many.

If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason cease to be part of the body. And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason cease to be part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be?

But in fact God has arranged the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be.

And in the church God has appointed apostles, prophets, teachers, and Paul goes on to list the many other tasks that are needed in the church to help others; the one body, the one priesthood of believers.

Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles?

No of course not. And we really all do understand that – yet we still struggle to believe God has called us to special work

So why is it that?

Well let's go back to some of the examples I gave earlier when I thought about calling; everyone of them was an activity inside the church. Everyone essential – but we need to think about that definition of church again. Ekklesia – called out.

Called out – not in

In the opening chapter of Acts Luke details the command that Jesus makes to his disciples – he tells them that the Holy Spirit would come and they would receive power.

“And you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

And that's the point Jesus never expected us to stay in church - but to be out in the market place, the work place, the cafes, the gyms, the playgrounds, the old folks homes.....wherever out is.

You may know that in the early days of the Salvation Army there was a utter horror with using the word church to describe ourselves. We met in halls, or barracks or citadels. We did not meet in a church. We were not a church. No, we were a mission to the unconverted. We spent our time in the world – coming back to our buildings to recharge before we set out again



Work really matters to God, it's a place where Christians equipped with biblical wisdom and inspired by the Holy Spirit can really make a difference.

When we bring together the Spirit and the Word and we apply in the context of the workplace

something very powerful will begin to happen.

And that's the Wonder of scripture that as we live it out without being religious in the everyday workplace environment we see that we've become change agents.

So local churches have a fantastic opportunity to multiply the impact of their ministry through their people out on the front lines of work. And actually they have a vital role to play a vital role play teaching why the gospel is indeed Good News for work. It's Good News for workers. And it's Good News for workplaces.

A vital role to envision their people to see the opportunities they have out on the front lines of work and to empower them then to take those opportunities in the power of the Holy Spirit.

There are over one point five million regular churchgoers in workplaces across the country. So each week that's nearly 50 million hours spent with clients and customers and colleagues. So that's over 50 million hours of Christian influence each week. Just think about the number of people that you come into contact with in your workplace.

Maybe we have been preaching the wrong message for too long.

We have preached that we must listen to God and respond to His call, but have we really been listening.

The early Salvation Army knew all about calling. As soon as someone was saved they went back to their work place, their home environment, their frontline. Booth knew that people would not come to hear the gospel – the Good news had to go to the people – to the slums, to the sweatshops, to the pubs to the clubs

So let's ask the questions again

Do we believe we are a chosen people, a royal priesthood?

Do we believe that God calls everyone who follows Him?

Do we believe that - for most of us that calling is - to be “out” in the world?

Have you been called?

And if you say no, let me remind you again, William Booth said

“‘Not called!’ did you say? ‘Not heard the call,’ I think you should say.”

So what must we do?

Firstly you must trust that our Ekklesia – our corps - is a place where everyday people can listen to God calling in their hearts and then obey Him in a safe, supportive, and encouraging environment. Its so hard at the moment to share your concerns or you joys because we are not with each other. But that will soon end. For the meantime keep in touch as you are doing.

Bramwell Coles penned these incredible words found in song 646

How can I better serve thee, Lord,
Thou who hast done so much for me?
Faltering and weak my labour has been;
O that my life may tell for thee!

2 Dull are my ears to hear thy voice,
Slow are my hands to work for thee,
Loath are my feet to conquer the steeps
That lead me to my Calvary.

3 Strength for my weakness, Lord, impart;
Sight for my blindness give to me;
Faith for my doubtings, Lord, I would crave,
That I may serve thee worthily.

Here at the cross in
this sacred hour,

Here at the source of
reviving power,

Helpless indeed, I
come with my need;

Lord, for thy service,
fit me I plead.

Secondly you must recognise that your day to day life is not your own, but where God has called you to – for a reason.

What would happen if we began to live our lives as if every day on our “job” was a personal calling from God?

What would change if we realised that was what he wanted?

That is where the Ekklesia – our corps – can really help. – Ask these questions when you call someone this week. How can I pray for your ministry? Tell me how God has used you this week?

If the person says “I don’t have a ministry just repeat those words from William Booth. Share how you have heard the call this week and how God has used you.

Andre Cox, our former General said, “we will fail” unless we are “convinced of our calling.” Are you? Is your calling a burning reality in your heart? Does it make a difference where you are every day?

If not, God, the Holy Spirit, will make your calling real to you. Just ask Him: “Show, me Lord, what You are calling me to do with my life, with this day, and with this moment.” If you listen, God give you wisdom and passion for your personal calling.

Thirdly, pray for your ministry. God has called you. He has work that only you can do

Pray fervently;
resist the devil;
walk in the light;
love one another;
come unto Jesus;
draw near to God;
humble ourselves;
serve one another;
tell what God has done;
read and obey the Bible;
fight the good fight of faith;
obey the voice of the Spirit;
confess our sins to each other;

seek first to be under God's rule;
consider others better than ourselves;
stir up the gift of God that is within us;
contend for the faith once delivered to the saints;
and so much more that can be found in the Bible.

Sing Song Number 819

O Church, arise, and put your armour on;
Hear the call of Christ our Captain.
For now the weak can say that they are strong
In the strength that God has given.
With shield of faith and belt of truth,
We'll stand against the devil's lies;
An army bold, whose battle cry is love,
Reaching out to those in darkness.

2 Our call to war, to love the captive soul
But to rage against the captor;
And with the sword that makes the wounded whole,
We will fight with faith and valour.
When faced with trials on every side
We know the outcome is secure,
And Christ will have the prize for which he died,
An inheritance of nations.

3 Come see the cross, where love and mercy meet,
As the Son of God is stricken;
Then see his foes lie crushed beneath his feet,
For the Conqueror has risen!
And as the stone is rolled away,
And Christ emerges from the grave,
This victory march continues till the day
Every eye and heart shall see him.

4 So Spirit, come, put strength in every stride,
Give grace for every hurdle,
That we may run with faith to win the prize
Of a servant good and faithful.
As saints of old still line the way,

Retelling triumphs of his grace,
We hear their calls, and hunger for the day
When with Christ we stand in Glory.

Stuart Townend and Keith Getty

Benediction

We are a chosen people,
A family people,
Chosen for love and to share love,
Chosen for joy and to spread joy,
Chosen for friendship and for befriending,
Chosen for blessing and to bless,
Chosen for fruitfulness,
Chosen for harvest.
We are a chosen people,
A family people,
Your family,
Our family.

(John 15:9-17)

Forgive me those times
when I consider myself to be of little value,
Remind me constantly
that you died for me
before I even knew you.

We have a call!
To be loved
and to love.
To be shown mercy
and to show mercy.
To be forgiven
and to forgive.
To receive hope
and to offer hope .
To know joy
and share joy.
To feel peace
and bring peace.
To be made whole
and offer wholeness.
We have a call
Listen...
Listen...
Do you hear?



Hear and obey

K N H Z O J L S S K K Y V J N D P B E Q C F V U
W Y E K L Y G L H A A S U R R E N D E R B V N N
S I A P N D V F S J E W Z F A U R Z E S W B O D
H B R D E E D E E H P N N O E S R S J P Z X I E
S Q A F E W V D M F S G Q L L R Y E A E Q W T R
G X F P E G N I L L A C W L R S A R C A M Q N S
G Q C A P Z Q E E C N I O O K J P V C K R M E T
Q R E W S N A R T C F L H W L R W E E E V N T A
W Z S Z Y V X P V Z E N Z S B I A D P R N L T N
R W N B Y R T Y Y G O R G I A S S H T C C I A D
E O V E N R E P Q I R U H N O P U T C A V S Y N
R R O A L B T F S R A E L L A E B Q E U V T A E
N D C T O L K S X W C O F V W K C N Z N J E P N
K S A T K Y I W V U O U T L D P U J Z E F N S P
V N T E N M H I G Z N Y A I E D K J E E N E G C
T V I N I Q I E Q U C B K Q B C D N R T E R W R
Q X O T E R R Y Z H E L E R P L T E M C N N B Z
R E N I N E G Y I E N V N B W Q G E I Z H X I U
L D U V U F O F Z V T N O L F U S O X X P W G O
W Y X E T D Y E N L R Y T Q F S V U Z O E F I N
N R A E E V I G A F A Y I L A S H T Q G T F H L
B E U N P P S F V N T L C G D Y B A J H P D O L
Y Y E R E S P O N D E S E O R U W I V O L C Y F
M B W R S G X J S Y E M G S N E K R A E H C I Y

accept
be all ears
concentrate
God's voice
hearken
listen
mission
receive
serve
surrender
understand

act upon
be attentive
follow
hark
heed
listener
obey
reflect
speak
take notice
vocation

answer
calling
give ear
hear
learn
message
pay attention
respond
speaker
tune in
words

WHETHER YOU TURN TO
THE RIGHT OR TO THE LEFT,
YOUR EARS WILL HEAR A
VOICE BEHIND YOU, SAYING,
"THIS IS THE WAY; WALK IN IT."

