

TERRITORIAL CONGRESS 2020



9 am - Sunday 25 October

LIFE AND LOVE

WITH

Chief of the Staff Commissioner Lyndon Buckingham

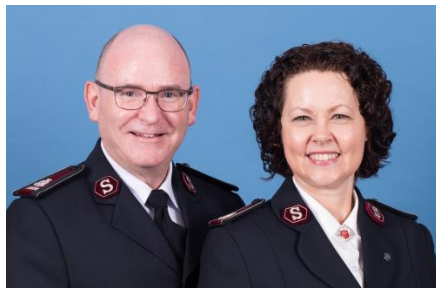
AND

World Secretary for Women's Ministries

Commissioner Bronwyn Buckingham

SUPPORTED BY

Commissioners Anthony and Gill Cotterill



WELCOME

Territorial Commander Commissioner Anthony Cotterill

Welcome to the second meeting of our Congress weekend. It's so good to be sharing this time with you. We're going to commence our worship with a great song, 'Crown Him With Many Crowns'. As we lift up our voices, may Jesus be lifted up within us, and may we experience something of his blessing upon us.

'CROWN HIM WITH MANY CROWNS' (SASB 358)

A song of worship to King Jesus, the 'Lord of life' and the 'Lord of love'.

1.

Crown him with many crowns,
The Lamb upon his throne;
Hark! how the heavenly anthem drowns
All music but its own;
Awake, my soul, and sing
Of him who died for thee,
And hail him as thy matchless King
Through all eternity.

2.

Crown him the Lord of life,
Who triumphed o'er the grave,
And rose victorious in the strife
For those he came to save;
His glories now we sing
Who died, and rose on high,
Who died eternal life to bring,
And lives, that death may die.

3.

Crown him the Lord of peace,
Whose power a sceptre sways
From pole to pole, that wars may cease
And all be prayer and praise;
His reign shall know no end,
And round his pierced feet
Fair flowers of Paradise extend
Their fragrance ever sweet.

4.

Crown him the Lord of love;
Behold his hands and side.
Those wounds, yet visible above,
In beauty glorified;
All hail, Redeemer, hail!
For thou hast died for me;
Thy praise and glory shall not fail
Throughout eternity.

'BREATHE'

Taking us into a time of prayer, the International Staff Songsters remind us of the source of our spiritual life: 'This is the air I breathe: your holy presence living in me.'

This is the air I breathe,
This is the air I breathe:
Your holy presence living in me.

This is my daily bread,
This is my daily bread:
Your very word spoken to me.

And I, I'm desperate for you,
And I, I'm lost without you.



FAMILY PRAYERS

Jeanette and Johnny Laird with Mia and Noah (Croydon Citadel)

Heavenly father, we want to centre our thoughts on you, the life you give us and the love that you are and that we all share. Life is your precious gift, from our first breath to our last. We are grateful for everything that means: our families, our friends, our joys, our sadness.

We thank you for everything we are able to do together as a human family. For the richness of lived experience, for music and art, for food and shelter, for science and learning, we thank you. For adventure, freedom, travel and exploration, we thank you.

Teach us to share what we have to enrich the lives of those we encounter on life's journey.

Help us to look after our surroundings, our planet and each other. Teach us to remember that you are love. Help us to show that love to each other – generously, extravagantly and without prejudice. In our relationships, help us to be kind and compassionate, to listen as much as we talk.

We pray this because we want to follow the way of Jesus and we recognise that God is life and God is love. Amen.



RECOGNITION OF NEW TERRITORIAL ENVOYS

Members of the Candidates Unit introduce and pray for those who have recently become territorial envoys.

Major Janet Robson (Territorial Candidates Director): We are blessed to have 59 territorial envoys (TEs) providing leadership to corps in communities across the territory. TEs serve along the same lines as corps officers – working with local Salvationists to bring the good news of Jesus to villages, towns and cities across the United Kingdom with the Republic of Ireland. We're delighted to let you know that during 2020 seven people have been accepted for service as territorial envoys.

Captain Ben Ellis (Territorial Candidates Officer): We want to introduce them to you today and ask that you would pray for them: pray for the communities where they are serving and pray for the men, women, boys and girls they will meet in those places.



Roger

Martyn

Hazel

Matthew

Sarah

Elaine

Sandy

- TE Roger Coates is serving with his wife, Lieutenant Jacqueline Coates, at Reading Lower Early
- TE Martyn Coles has moved from service as a divisional youth specialists serve in Newquay
- TE Hazel Ellison has recently been accepted for service and is waiting for news of her appointment in the West Midlands division
- TE Mathew Griffiths is serving at Malvern together with his wife, Lieutenant Sarah Griffiths
- TE Sarah Jones is about to start her service as she steps into ministry with the corps at Eccles and supporting young people moving on from the care system at Abbott Lodge
- TE Elaine Rogers lives and serves in a community she knows well in Ashton-in-Makerfield

- TE Sandy Reynolds is now serving at the corps where he first got to know The Salvation Army. We pray for Sandy as he leads the corps in Stirling

Major Julie Johnson (Assistant Territorial Candidates Director): Father God, we thank you for your love for us today. Thank you that you call each one of us to join with you, to know your love and to share your love with others.

God, we thank you for Roger, Martyn, Hazel, Mathew, Sarah, Elaine and Sandy. Jesus, we pray that you would help them be aware of your love and leadership. Holy Spirit, would you fill them so that your love and power overflows into the people and the places where they serve, and would you help us all to be ready and responsive to all that you call us to be and do for you.

We make our prayer in the beautiful name of Jesus. Amen.

‘THE HEALING WATERS’

The International Staff Songsters bring Albert Orsborn’s song (SASB 742). Verse 3 provides the theme for the Congress, ‘Light, life and love...’

1.

When shall I come unto the healing waters?
Lifting my heart, I cry to thee my prayer.
Spirit of peace, my Comforter and healer,
In whom my springs are found, let my soul meet thee there.

*From a hill I know,
Healing waters flow:
O rise, Immanuel’s tide,
And my soul overflow!*

2.

Wash from my hands the dust of earthly striving;
Take from my mind the stress of secret fear;
Cleanse thou the wounds from all but thee far hidden.
And when the waters flow let my healing appear.

3.

Light, life and love are in that healing fountain,
All I require to cleanse me and restore;
Flow through my soul, redeem its desert places,
And make a garden there for the Lord I adore

1 JOHN 4:7–12

Envoys Jane and Kevin Sandford, serving in Indonesia, bring the Bible reading.



‘Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. This is how God showed his love among us: he sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever

seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.’

FAREWELL

The territorial leaders express their thanks to Colonels Lee and Debbie Graves (Chief Secretary and Territorial Secretary for Leader Development) as they prepare to move to new appointments at International Headquarters.

In the past couple of years it's been an absolute joy for the territory to receive Colonels Lee and Debbie Graves. We welcomed them two years ago at the Congress in Edinburgh, and now, two years later at this Congress, it's my sad duty to say farewell to them. We want to say to Debbie and Lee a heartfelt thanks for their life and their ministry, which have impacted so many people. We're sad that they're going across the water to International Headquarters, but we know that God has great plans for them there and that they will be of great blessing in their new appointments. So today, Lee and Debbie, we say thank you so very much for simply being who you are, giving of yourself, sharing of your wisdom and your experience of Christ. Gill and I, who have worked so closely with you, especially say thank you. May the Lord be with you.



'ALL MY THANKS'

Birmingham Citadel Singing Company present a song based on Psalm 54, written by Gavin Lamplough and the singing company members during lockdown.

1.

When I'm wrapped up in my pride
I don't see my foolish side,
When I make mistakes, I look to you,
Seeing what I've done and what I should do.
When I try to go alone
I can't find my way back home,
But I know on you I can depend,
I know I've got you, my Lord and my friend.

*We thank the Lord because he's our maker.
Let us sing our praise forever!
May I always show you my love,
To you I give all my thanks.*



2.

Feeling lost and unaware,
When it seems that no one's there,
In my darkest times you hear my cries,
You draw close to me and dry my eyes.
You catch me when I fall
And you answer when I call.
You look after me through ups and downs,
And I thank you that your love has no bounds.

We thank the Lord because he's our maker...

3.

I give thanks each day because you are good.
I praise you like I should, like I should.
You have rescued me, that is why I rejoice.
I offer myself to you, I lift my voice,

We thank the Lord because he's our maker...

THIS TIME TOMORROW

Captain Alison Hutchings (Southport) interviews Songster Leader Joy Wood about her work and witness.

Alison: I'm pleased to welcome Joy Woods, our songster leader, experimental chef and gardener extraordinaire. What will you be doing this time tomorrow?

Joy: This time tomorrow I will be at work. My place of employment is Edgehill University, and as you can imagine at the moment, it's looking slightly different than it usually does. I work within the catering services, and I make anything from a sandwich to a roll to a butty to salads to yoghurt to fruit salads.

Alison: That's interesting and varied. I'm surprised you're not twice the size you are, working with all that food. What would you say your challenges are working in a university setting at this time?

Joy: Well, obviously, the coronavirus. Our campus is looking really quite depleted. It's looking very strange in that we have a lot of masks, we have a lot of hand-washing, sanitising stations, so the buildings and the campus itself is really quiet and empty of people. It seems to have lost itself somehow. The students that are there are fully masked and we are wearing protective clothing.

Alison: So some difficult days I guess. What would you say are the joys?

Joy: The joys of working at Edgehill are the infinite challenges that it throws at me. It's wonderful. I work with a number of colleagues who certainly don't profess any faith, and so the challenge and the positive thing about my faith is being able to portray Jesus in a way that is understandable and accessible to the people that I meet. I would love to think that I add a bit of salt and light into their lives, bringing the true message of the gospel to them. That is a challenge, but also one that I do quite happily. I hope that I can show the joy that I have when I come to church and worship, and that my faith helps me believe that I am standing on a solid rock in these very turbulent times – that God is always there for me.

Alison: You've been a Christian for some time. How does that help you in your everyday life?

Joy: Well, when I first became a Christian, many, many years ago, I thought this is it, I've made it, I'm a Christian, I've arrived. How little did I realise that actually that was just the beginning of a very long journey. Sometimes it's been very winding, sometimes it's been very smooth and straight. But actually, when I have called upon Jesus, he has been there to help me with whatever difficulties and problems that I have.

Alison: How can we as your church family pray for you?

Joy: It will be lovely to know that I am backed up in my job and in my family and church life. I would pray for strength and courage in these days, that I can share my faith in a very fruitful and positive way, and that people will ask me about what it is that makes the difference in my life.

Alison: Can I pray for you now? Heavenly Father, thank you for this opportunity to share with Joy. It's been really great to hear of what her everyday life, her journey with you, looks like in her workplace. God, I just pray that you will continue to give her opportunities to share the good news of Jesus, that you will give her the strength, the courage, the words to say as she brings hope and meaning to people's lives and is able to share something of who you are with her work colleagues and students around her. God, I thank you that you are faithful to each one of us and that we can trust in you as we take the next steps in our everyday life with you. I pray this in your name, Jesus. Amen.



‘WHAT A BEAUTIFUL NAME’

International Staff Songsters Helen Dymott and Neil Lacey lift up the name of Jesus.

You were the Word at the beginning,
One with God the Lord Most High;
Your hidden glory in creation,
Now revealed in you our Christ.

*What a beautiful name it is,
What a beautiful name it is,
The name of Jesus Christ my King.
What a beautiful name it is,
Nothing compares to this,
What a beautiful name it is,
The name of Jesus.*

You didn't want Heaven without us,
So Jesus, you brought Heaven down.
My sin was great, your love was greater,
What could separate us now?

What a wonderful name it is...



Death could not hold you,
The veil tore before you,
You silenced the boast of sin and grave.
The heavens are roaring
The praise of your glory,
For you are raised to life again.

You have no rival,
You have no equal,
Now and for ever, God you reign.
Yours is the Kingdom,
Yours is the glory,
Yours is the name above all names.

*What a powerful name it is,
What a powerful name it is,
The name of Jesus Christ my King.
What a powerful name it is,
Nothing can stand against,
What a powerful name it is,
The name of Jesus.*

Ben Fielding / Brooke Ligertwood
What A Beautiful Name lyrics © Hillsong Publishing,
Hillsong Music Publishing Australia

BIBLE MESSAGE

The Chief of the Staff

Light, life, and love. Powerful words in their own right, but blistering with power when you draw them together, particularly with a Christian understanding. These three words find a natural resting place in the person of Jesus Christ. They are the embodiment of who he is and who he came to be among us.

It was Jesus himself who said ‘I am the Light of the World, I am the Bread of Life, I am the expression of God’s love.’ My words today are ‘light’ and ‘love’. In my preparation, I have to be honest with you, I really wanted to change the order. In my heart, I really wanted to talk about ‘love’ first, and then ‘life’, and so I decided ‘Why not? Who’s going to stop me?’ So I am going to speak first of all about this beautiful, powerful word, ‘love’.

The Bible teaches that God is love, not just that he has the capacity to love, but that he is love. Love describes who he is. He is perfect in love, it’s his nature. He acts, he engages, he responds in love. His motivation is love, his driver is love, his aim is love. Even when he disciplines or corrects, even then he is acting in love. God is love. Love comes from God because God is love. What did our reading say to us? ‘Dear friends let us love one another, for love comes from God’ (1 John 4:7).

Now I want to say to you my brothers and sisters that perhaps the most powerful words that I can offer to you this morning are, 'God loves you.' I'm praying today that if you don't remember anything else, you will take a hold of this. You will have what I like to call an epiphany or a wake-up moment, where you realise afresh, or perhaps even for the first time, the full extent of God's love for you. You're not condemned by the creator, you're not judged by him, you're not scorned by him, you're not abandoned by him, you're not ridiculed by him, he loves you. Hear it today, know it to be true today, receive it today – God loves you.

God knew you before you were born. He knows your challenges, he knows your circumstances, he knows your dreams, your aspirations, your hopes, your fears and your concerns. He knows you and he loves you. And the Bible would say to us that the proof of his love to you is most intimately expressed, most divinely expressed and revealed in the person of Jesus Christ. Jesus is the proof of God's love for you. For God so loved the world, that he sent us his son Jesus. In his life, in his teaching, in his example, Jesus was the epitome of God's love. The intimacy of the relationship that he enjoyed with his heavenly Father was a relationship bathed in love.

I'm asking the question. Do you know this love? Have you been captured by it? Have you been set free by it? Have you been healed by it? Have you been restored by it? Have you been bathed in it and empowered by it? Are you willing to allow God, the creator of the universe who is love, to express his love toward you? I'm praying that you will let God love you today.

Let me ask you another question. It's one thing to say that God loves you. I want to ask you today if you are a lover of God. Do you love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your mind, with all your strength as the Scriptures ask us to do? And the reason that I ask the question is because I'm convinced that abundant life, fullness of life, not only depends on an understanding of God's love for us, but also on our reciprocating that with our love for him. The intimacy of the relationship that we enjoy with our creator holds the key to fullness of life, to abundance of life. So I ask you today, are you a lover of God?

If you answer 'yes', then I have to ask you this question, how is it that you love him? Would anybody know that you are a lover of God? How would I be able to tell that you love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your mind and with all your strength? You might answer, 'We worship him, we respect him, we acknowledge him, we praise him, we give testimony to him, we serve him in our corps.' And all these become very real and very practical ways in which we demonstrate our love for God. But the Bible would say that perhaps the most powerful demonstration of the reality of our love for God is the quality of the love for our neighbour. The way in which we love each other actually becomes a demonstration of the powerful nature of our love relationship with God.

The Scripture reading said, 'Dear friends, since God so loves us, we also ought to love one another' (1 John 4:11). So when Jesus said, 'I have come in order that you might have life – life in all its fullness' (John 10:10 *Good News Bible*), what did he mean? What was he saying about the fullness of life?

Many through the years have proven that this fullness of life is not about the accumulation of stuff. It's not about wealth, it's not about fame, it's not about recognition. Many who have these things are still miserable and would say that they don't have fullness of life. Perhaps the Lord was expressing an understanding that fullness of life is deeply connected to our understanding of love, hence the reason I wanted to put love first. If we understand deeply that we are loved by our creator, if we're exploring purposefully and intently what it means for us to be a lover of God. If we are in that mode, the overflow of that is our relationships with other people – and they benefit from that first relationship. And in that connection, there comes a fullness of life.

When Jesus said to his disciples 'You are the salt of the earth... You are the light of the world' (Matthew 5:13 and 14), I can't help but wonder whether he had in his mind this idea that the salt and light would not be judgmental or condemning or separated from, but that rather the salt and light, this flavour, this colour that would so infiltrate the world, would be one of love, of grace, of

mercy, of kindness, of gentleness – that these qualities, these fruit of the Spirit, these benefits of a love relationship would be experienced within the community of believers, and would spill over to touch and witness to the world that love is the ultimate answer.

Abundant life begins when we understand deeply in our hearts that God loves us. Fullness of life starts to come when we reciprocate and give God love for who he is as well as for what he has done. And fullness of life becomes so real for us when we see that our relationships with other people are in fact an expression of our love for God. Not just in our family, although of course in our family. Not just at our local corps, but of course at our local corps. But what about our neighbour, our work colleague, the stranger? Jesus even made reference to the enemy. Could it be that in these days what God is calling for from us, his children, is that we would demonstrate to the world the power of love? And that in exploring the power of love, we also discover fullness of life?

I'm praying that you will be captured by the truth that God is love. I'm praying that you'll be captured by the truth that God loves you. I'm praying that you will either begin or continue to be an avid lover of God, that you will praise him, that you will acknowledge him, that you will surrender yourself to him, that you will allow him to love and lead you into fullness of life. And I'm praying that you'll be captured by this concept that the Spirit of God would want you to be agents of love – agents of love in a world that desperately needs to understand what love is and what fullness of life really means. May God bless you.

TIME FOR RESPONSE

The International Staff Band play 'Consecration Hymn'.

You are invited to respond to the Bible message by praying at home and/or by sending prayer requests to the Territorial Prayer Network at saprayernetwork@salvationarmy.org.uk.

Prayer requests can also be sent to the network via **Lieut-Colonel Jonathan Roberts, The Salvation Army, 101 Newington Causeway, London SE1 6BN.**

1.
Take my life, and let it be
Consecrated, Lord, to thee;
Take my moments and my days,
Let them flow in ceaseless praise.

2.
Take my hands, and let them move
At the impulse of thy love;
Take my feet, and let them be
Swift and beautiful for thee.

3.
Take my voice, and let me sing
Always, only for my King;
Take my lips, and let them be
Filled with messages from thee.

4.
Take my silver and my gold,
Not a mite would I withhold;
Take my intellect, and use
Every power as thou shalt choose.

5.
Take my will, and make it thine,
It shall be no longer mine;
Take my heart, it is thine own,
It shall be thy royal throne.

6.
Take my love; my Lord, I pour
At thy feet its treasure-store;
Take myself, and I will be
Ever, only, all for thee.

(SASB 623)

PRAYER POEM

Four people read verses of a poem recently written by Major Howard Webber.

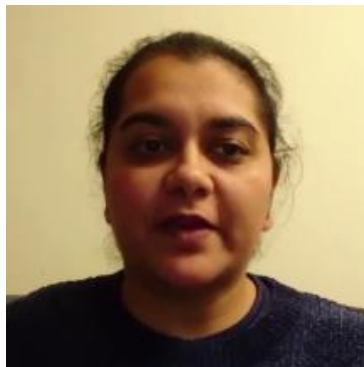
**Niclette Lutete
(Dublin City)**

Fill me with your Spirit, Lord,
Fill me with your love.
Fill this empty heart of mine,
Come down gentle dove.
You see all my self- concern,
Lovelessness and pride;
Help me open up my heart,
Place your love inside.



**CYS Shetal Patel
(Gloucester)**

Fill me with your Spirit, Lord,
Fill me with your power.
Give to me your source of strength,
From this very hour.
You have seen me trying hard,
Failing every time,
Show me how to let you now,
Live your life in mine.



**CSM Vernon Smallwood
(Coedpoeth)**

Fill me with your Spirit, Lord,
Fill me with your joy.
Give to me that happiness
Nothing can destroy.
Even when my sufferings
Point me to despair,
May I know that joy inside
Just because you're there.



**Deniece Brooks
(Gillingham)**

Fill me with your Spirit, Lord,
Fill me with your peace,
Quieten all the turbulence,
Bid my struggles cease.
Often my anxieties,
Fill my life with stress,
Show me how to let them go,
Give to me your rest.



A WORD FROM THE TERRITORIAL COMMANDER

Our Congress is coming to a conclusion now, and I want to say thank you to everybody who has made these meetings possible. I also want to say a special thank you to Commissioners Lyndon and Bronwyn Buckingham. We pray God's blessing upon you as you continue your worldwide ministry, somewhat curtailed because of the Covid situation and restrictions on travelling. But we know that you're in connection with so many people, encouraging them and blessing them, and I want you to know that people in this territory and many others from around the world will be praying for you in your ongoing ministry.

It's been our hope and prayer that we might know Jesus, Light of the World, that we might know his love and his life within us. And as we prepare for another week, may something of the Jesus life live in you and in me, to his glory and praise, and be a blessing to the people we come into contact with.

'REJOICE, REJOICE' (SASB 389)

A song of joy and affirmation, as we allow God to work in and through us so that 'things impossible, by faith shall be made possible'.

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Christ is in you,
The hope of glory in our hearts.
He lives! He lives! His breath is in you,
Arise a mighty army, we arise.*

1.
Now is the time for us to march upon the
land,
Into our hands he will give the ground we
claim.
He rides in majesty to lead us into victory,
The world shall see that Christ is Lord!

Rejoice! Rejoice! Christ is in you...

2.
God is at work in us his purpose to perform,
Building a Kingdom of power not of words,
Where things impossible, by faith shall be made
possible;
Let's give the glory to him now.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Christ is in you...

3.
Though we are weak, his grace is everything we
need;
We're made of clay but this treasure is within.
He turns our weaknesses into his opportunities,
So that the glory goes to him.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Christ is in you...

AND FINALLY...

This, this is the God we adore,
Our faithful, unchangeable friend,
Whose love is as great as his power,
And knows neither measure nor end.
'Tis Jesus, the first and the last,
Whose Spirit shall guide us safe home;
We'll praise him for all that is past,
And trust him for all that's to come.

(SASB 1041)

Amen!