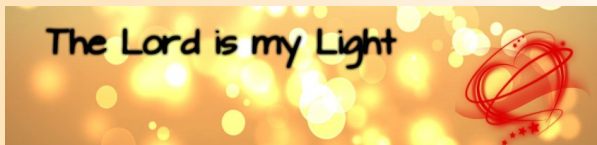


calling to us. God will remove things from our lives not because He is a cruel God but because He is working to remove all that stands between Him and us so that we can turn to Him and receive a greater measure of His love than we have experienced before. As He removes obstacles, we can either respond with bitterness and anger or we can turn to Him for comfort and support. The choice is ours but one choice will push Him further away and the other will open up a potential for such joy that we have never felt before. We must also remember that God's perspective is eternal so when he removes something, the time frame is probably the equivalent of us temporarily removing a toy from a child. This life is but a tiny part of our eternal life. So, whatever is being removed from you right now, raise your arms and praise Him even as your heart is breaking. Worship Him with adoration even as the tears of loss course down your face. The only sure thing in life is that God will never leave you and He will always love you with a passion far outshining anything you could ever understand. After all, He gave everything for us and so if someone or something dear to you has been taken from you, know that it is because the almighty creator of the universe longs for you to love Him with all that you can. He gives and takes away simply because He longs to wrap you up in the power of His love to carry you through all eternity.



SOVEREIGN OVER US
There is strength within the sorrow
There is beauty in our tears
And you meet us in our mourning
With a love that casts out fear
You are working in our waiting
You're sanctifying us
when beyond our understanding
You're teaching us to trust

You're faithful forever
perfect in love
You are sovereign over us

Songwriters



AARON KEYES, BRYAN BROWN, JACK MOORING

Loving Father,
Thank you for loving us beyond measure and beyond our understanding. Thank you that all things are in your hands and you mean all things for good in our lives. Teach us to trust you and draw us to love you in ways that we never thought possible; enabled by your Holy Spirit who makes His home with us. Bless your mighty name forever and always.
Amen

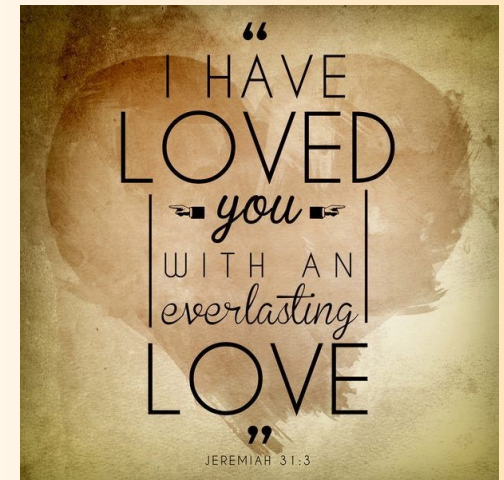


Hythe Road, Willesborough, Ashford, Kent

www.wbc-ashford.org.uk Charity Registration Number 1127593



Prayer Focus September 2016



Prayer Chain

Remember to send any prayer requests to:
prayer@wbc-ashford.org.uk

We would like to get together a group of people willing to go out and pray with people in their own homes. If you would like to offer this or if you would like someone to pray with you about a specific issue, please email the prayer chain or speak to one of the Paulas.

Prayer for Our World

REFUGEES: THE GLOBAL CRISIS

Perhaps the defining image of the past year has been that of the refugee. Their images fill the news reports, huddled into perilously overcrowded boats, eking out an existence in refugee camps, desperately queuing at border posts, or trudging across dusty plains carrying the fragments of their lives in plastic bags.

And darker, even more shocking images: toddlers lying lifeless on Turkish beaches; desperate captives, kneeling at the feet of their black-clad executioners.

Our impression of the refugee crisis is largely defined by events in the Middle East. Yet the truth is that this is a global phenomenon. Throughout the world, people are on the move – and millions of them are Christians.

The Year of Fear

Globally, persecution of Christians is increasing. For millions of them, 2015 has been a 'year of fear'. Open Doors records show that worldwide there were over 7,000 Christians killed for faith-related reasons in 2015 – almost 3,000 more than the previous year.

(These estimates exclude North Korea, Syria and Iraq.) Around 2,400 churches were attacked or damaged – over double the number for last year. In terms of violence against Christians and Christian property, Nigeria and Central African Republic top the list.

Islamic extremism has been crossing borders

Governments are tightening control

Many parts of the world are turning to Islam

More states are lawless

Ethnic cleansing returns as an anti-Christian tactic

Courtesy of Open Doors

COMMUNITY PRAYER

The weekend of 23rd—25th September is the National Prayer weekend where hundreds of churches across the UK are getting together to pray for their local community.

Did you know that in the Ashford Stour area alone (that's us), 29 crimes were reported during July.

Over the past year there were 315 reported crimes and these were the top types:

- 96 Theft, burglary, shoplifting (30%)
- 80 Violence & sexual offences (25%)
- 52 Anti-social behaviour (17%)
- 43 Criminal damage & arson (14%)

Taken from www.police.uk

If we pray regularly for our community, we can make a difference. Join with us on Saturday 24th September at 10am in the church car park to prayer walk our area. Prayer walking is an incredibly powerful way to serve our community. We will walk between 10 and 12 but if you can't stay for 2 hours, come and do what you can. If 2 hours sounds like a long time, it passes incredibly quickly. Bring your fitbit or pedometer and increase your steps walking the Kingdom of God into Willesborough.

WEDNESDAY PRAYER EVENT

We will be meeting at 7:45pm on Wednesday 21st September to kick start the prayer walk by praying for our local community.

'I looked for someone among them who would build up the wall and stand before me in the gap on behalf of the land'
Ezekiel 22:30

I AM—A Jealous God

You must not bow down to them or worship them, for I the Lord your God am a jealous God who will not tolerate your affection for any other gods.

Exodus 20:5 New Living Translation

We've heard this before and we know what it means to us—we must not prize anything above God. We know it well but when we think of our God being jealous, do we think of Jeremiah 31:3?

The Lord appeared to him from far away. I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore I have continued my faithfulness to you.

There are 3 points here:

- ⇒ God appears from far away
- ⇒ He loves with an everlasting love
- ⇒ He continues His faithfulness

If my husband loved me with an everlasting love, what would he be hoping for in return? Probably more than a passing thought or an hour a week which would equate to being the crumbs from my table. But our God is an everlasting God who is huge and therefore loves with a love that far outshines anything we can ever understand. He longs for our hearts, he longs for us to turn to Him with all the love we are capable of. God appears from far away because that is where we push Him when we allow so many other things to capture our time, attention, concentration and presence but even then he remains faithful and never stops