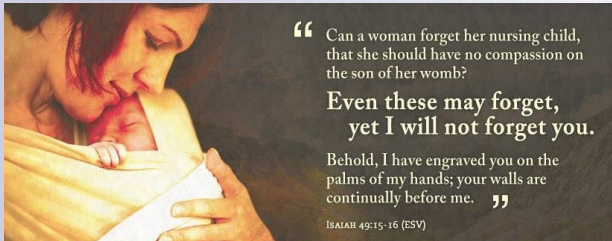


His only son as a sacrifice for many and that many is you. Take a moment to really imagine sending your child to die for another....



How great must His love be for you!

In John 15:9, Jesus said: *'As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you. Abide in my love.'* A

synonym of abide is to 'continue without fading or being lost'. Maybe your love for Him has faded or been lost in the busyness of life and you just feel out of sorts, dissatisfied, empty and lost. Your spirit is grieving your separation from your Lord, the giver of life. So this year, make time to get back to that closeness because the Lord is waiting for you with open arms to just BE with Him. Another synonym of abide is to 'accept or act in accordance with'. Do you ask Jesus to go with you in your life situations? Someone suggested to me that I ask Jesus if I can accompany Him into every situation of my life instead. That is such a subtle change and yet so different. He doesn't come with us into what we want to do or how we want to act but we go with Him in what He wants to do in our life and in the lives of those around us. What an adventure life could be if we let Him put the sparkle back into the little encounters in our lives this leads to worship as we praise Him with thanksgiving in our hearts.

A PRAYER FOR 2017

My Lord,

Be an ever present presence in my life. Only you truly know the mountains I must climb and the burdens I carry. May I truly learn this year how to cast my cares upon you and let you carry me through the fires of life.

Be a continuing comfort to those that grieve and may they find peace in the strong love of your arms and seek solace in your word so that you may be real in their suffering.

Be alive in my spirit so that every beat of my heart is a whisper of your voice that sings of your love and restores me

Whether I be lost in the busyness of life, the trauma of treatment, the emptiness of grief or the numbness of depression, may I abide in you and you in me so that I may shelter in the shadow of your wings and be lifted on the power of your breath, forever safe in your love to grow closer to you in the grace of your mercy.

Amen

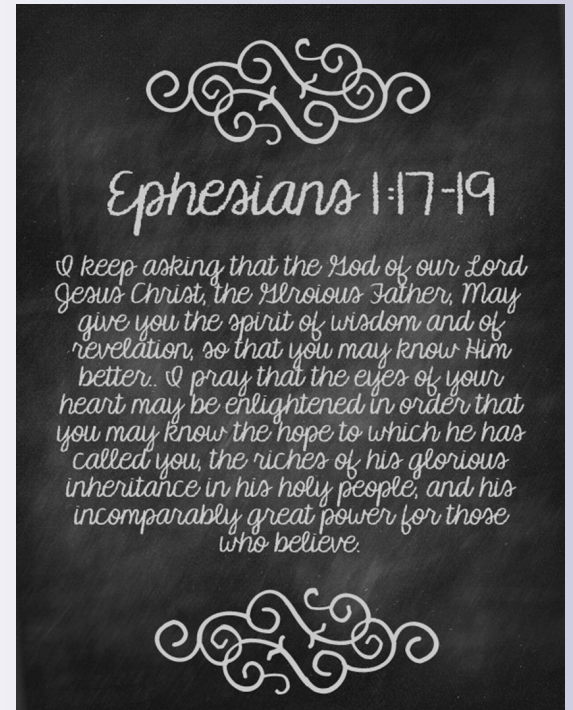


Hythe Road, Willesborough, Ashford, Kent
TN24 0QR.

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



Prayer Focus January 2017



Prayer Chain

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

Prayer for Our World

REFUGEES FREEZING

Across Europe the freezing conditions are taking their toll on the refugee camps. Temperatures have dropped to -14 in some areas of Greece and the government has faced severe criticism over conditions in reception centres which pose health and safety risks in the depths of winter. Reports of flu and pneumonia due to lack of

adequate shelter affecting many older and infirm people.



CHRISTIAN REFUGEE CRISIS

According to a report on the Barnabas website Christian refugees are facing discrimination by the selection process admitting them to western countries: *the refugee policies of Western countries such as the USA and UK admit only a tiny handful of Christians. This number vastly under-represents the proportion of Christians in Syria's pre-war population, but is truly shocking when Christians are being specifically targeted by jihadist groups intent on cleansing the area of its entire non-Muslim population.*

<https://www.barnabasfund.org/news/Why-does-the-West-say-no-room-at-the-inn-for-Christian-refugees-fleeing-Syria>

WINTER NIGHT SHELTER

PRAYER POINTERS:

- Give thanks for the number of volunteers for the night shelters across Ashford.
- Thanks that the numbers are lower than expected (4-6) but also pray that all in need such as those sleeping in cars or sofa surfing are aware of the night shelter provision.

TESSA LUKKIEN

Please keep Tessa in your prayers as she flew out to Canada for 5 months on 9th January. She is doing a leadership course with Soul Edge <http://www.souledgegapyear.com/> which incorporates discipleship, teaching and not a small amount of adventure. May she go with the Lord and be blessed beyond her wildest expectations as she grows deeper with Him.

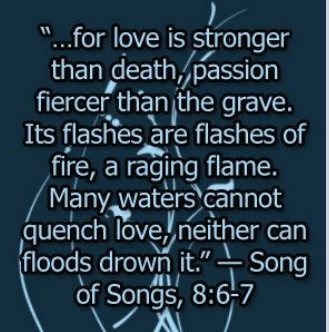
WEDNESDAY PRAYER EVENT

We will be meeting at 7:45pm on Wednesday 18th January to pray together. This time we will begin by focusing on the Lord's love for us at WBC and reaffirming Him as our Lord and Master in all that He wants to achieve in us as His church during 2017 and beyond. *Zephaniah 3:17:*

'The Lord your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; He will rejoice over you with gladness; He will quiet you by His love; He will exult over you with loud singing.'

Abba Father

In this new year 2017, God wants to draw nearer to you than ever before. He wants to sit with you and enjoy the setting of the sun or the early dawn light. He wants to gather you to Him and let you feel the depth of His need for you as a lover longs for his bride. His love is longer, wider and deeper than anything you can imagine and that is for you—the person reading this right now.



God wants to take you on a journey that is designed just for you and Him to enjoy together. This life is an adventure if you allow Him to take your hand and lead you the way He meant you to go before this world was formed, when He thought of you and planned for this year. Many of us will go through difficult, maybe frightening times but that is why He longs for you to know that you are in the palm of His hand. In Isaiah 41:13 he tells us: *'For I the Lord your God, hold your hand; it is I who say to you Fear not, I am the one who helps you.'* If you feel you are too sinful or too far away from God for Him to truly love you his word says in Romans 5:8 *'But God shows His love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.'* God loves us so much that He sent