



Paul wrote to the Philippians and said ...

"Every time I think of you, I give thanks to God"

Philippians 1: 3

New Living Translation



We are so sorry that because of the current situation it is still not possible to meet together at our hall in Bromley. As you read this leaflet, our hope and prayer is that you will be able to see yourself in that precious, familiar place, think and pray for others you would normally meet there, and find blessing for yourself too. May it also be that in the quiet moments you spend reading the leaflet, that God will ease the anxieties and cares of this difficult time, give strength and blessing for your own needs, and lighten your heart by the blessing of his grace.

FIRST OF ALL

Find a quiet place to sit and relax.

Take a few moments just to be quiet.

Sense the peace and presence of God that you find when meeting at the hall.

Recognise that God in Jesus is present with you now. He waits to greet and bless you.



So often when we share together at the hall it is bustling with friends who meet there regularly to worship. It's been a long time since we could see each other, enjoy each other's company and worship together!

So take a moment or two ...



Don't hurry, give yourself time!

In your mind's eye look around the hall ...

See the faces you would normally see ...

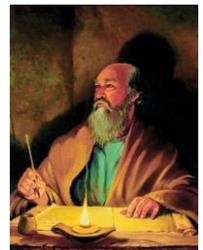
Hear the chatter you would expect to hear ...

Hear the sounds of happy praise and worship ...

As you reflect and catch a glimpse of those well-loved faces, take a few moments to contemplate and thank God for all that this place means to you.

And when you are ready ... read Paul's words, written when he thought of friends in the Faith. **1 Philippians 3 – 11** *New Living Translation*.

³Every time I think of you, I give thanks to my God. ⁴Whenever I pray, I make my requests for all of you with joy, ⁵for you have been my partners in spreading the Good News about Christ from the time you first heard it until now. ⁶And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns.



⁷ So it is right that I should feel as I do about all of you, for you have a special place in my heart. You share with me the special favour of God, both in my imprisonment and in defending and confirming the truth of the Good News. ⁸ God knows how much I love you and long for you with the tender compassion of Christ Jesus.

⁹ I pray that your love will overflow more and more, and that you will keep on growing in knowledge and understanding. ¹⁰ For I want you to understand what really matters, so that you may live pure and blameless lives until the day of Christ's return. ¹¹ May you always be filled with the fruit of your salvation—the righteous character produced in your life by Jesus Christ[Ⓜ]—for this will bring much glory and praise to God.

Why not read Paul's words again

Take it slowly and allow God's Spirit to speak to your heart and prompt your prayers through the words you read. Take your time!

Having read Paul's words you may want to look around the hall again and, in your mind's eye, meet up with some of your 'Army friends'. Allow God to direct your thoughts and your prayers as he brings images of friends to mind.



THE FIRST WEEK IN THE YEAR

When asked to write a prayer leaflet for use at the commencement of the New Year, my mind was immediately drawn to Charles Wesley's words that have often been sung at this time, with his opening words bringing a smile to many a face. They are old words, but they seem particularly meaningful at this time ...

**And are we yet alive,
And see each other's face?**
Glory and praise to Jesus give
For his redeeming grace!
Preserved by power divine
To full salvation here,
Again in Jesus' praise we join
And in his sight appear.

**What troubles we have seen,
What conflicts we have passed,**
Fightings without and fears within,
Since we assembled last!
But out of all, the Lord
Has brought us by his love;
And still he doth his help afford
And hides our life above.

**Then let us make our boast
Of his redeeming power,**
Which saves us to the uttermost,
Till we shall sin no more.
Let us take up the cross
Till we the crown obtain,
And gladly reckon all things loss
So we may Jesus gain.

Charles Wesley's words seem particularly appropriate at this time. Not only because it is a New Year, but because of the Covid situation. Allow God to use Wesley's words to direct your prayers both for the national and worldwide situation because of Covid and also your own spiritual life and ongoing commitment and service for him.

**AND AS YOU CONCLUDE
A New Year's Prayer**

Lord, you make all things new
You bring hope alive in our hearts
And cause our Spirits to be born again.
Thank you for this New Year
For all the potential it holds.
Come and kindle in me a mighty flame
So that through my life, many will know and embrace your love
And live forever to praise your glorious name.
Amen

If you have a prayer request or we can support you in anyway,
please email us at: bromley.temple@salvationarmy.org.uk
or write to us at The Salvation Army, Ethelbert Road, Bromley BR1 1HU
