

Items for Praise and Prayer

❖ You have searched me, Lord, and you know me. You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar. You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways.

Psalms 139:1-3

❖ A prophecy against Damascus: “See, Damascus will no longer be a city but will become heap of ruins.”

Isaiah 17:1

❖ Some men came, bringing to him a paralyzed man, carried by four of them. Since they could not get him to Jesus because of the crowd, they made an opening in the roof above Jesus by digging through it and then lowered the mat the man was lying on. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralyzed man, ‘**Son, your sins are forgiven.**’

Mark 2:3-5

- Pray for all who serve others, that they may do so in safety.
- Pray for all refugees, that may find peace and comfort.
- Pray for the leaders of the nations, that they may seek peace.
- Pray for those who serve their country that they may return home safely.
- Pray for families left at home, that they be freed of worry.
- Offer thanks for those that share the LORD’s Word and for those who have yet to know the LORD’s Word.

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“Serving those who serve”

October 2017 – January 2018



Dear Christian Friends,

You may have noticed our new logo, above, following a decision by trustees to revert back to our former title; Naval & Military Bible Society. This change has resulted from the need to streamline the title and trustees



consider the Air Force to be a part of military forces in each country, leaving the naval element to mean merchant seafarers. A review of our stated aims and purpose has also resulted in clarification that we serve all military forces, of whatever nation, all merchant seafarers, cadet forces, emergency services and all families and veterans of these groups. We are proud and honoured to serve these groups as they serve us. The new title has been submitted to and accepted by the Charity Commission and Companies House. Our email domain has also changed - the new format is on the back page, although

messages sent to the old address will be forwarded for a while. We are now negotiating with the banks and with our website provider to change the titles there as well but, for the moment, they remain unchanged.



Now to him who is able to establish you in accordance with my gospel, the message I proclaim about Jesus Christ, in keeping with the revelation of the mystery hidden for long ages past, but now revealed and made known through the prophetic writings by the command of the eternal God, so that all the Gentiles might come to the obedience that comes from faith—to the only wise God be glory forever through Jesus Christ! Amen.

Romans 16: 25-27

We are preparing to send another 800 New Testaments to South Sudan, to support the Christian Ministry which is attempting to stop the civil war there. We are also sending more New Testaments to German and French speaking African nations, to boost Christianity in the military forces fighting Boko Haram rebels.

I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow.

1 Corinthians 3:6

During recent months, I have spoken to new chaplains from the Air Training Corps and the British Army, as well as receiving many visitors into the office in Portsmouth. We have been invited to speak to a Birmingham Air Training Corps and are making arrangements to do this through a local Royal Naval Reserve Chaplain.

We are out of stock with regard to the following lines but we will re-print the first 4 as soon as we have sufficient funds available:

- Overcoming Stress at Sea (English)
- The Gift of God (English)
- The Holy Spirit - God in us (English)
- You are not alone (English)
- Christian?
- Little Book of Help (but there is a new book Little Book of Chaos)

The accounts report for 2016 is available on the Charity Commission and Companies House websites :

(<http://apps.charitycommission.gov.uk/Showcharity/RegisterOfCharities/CharityWithoutPartB.aspx?RegisteredCharityNumber=1102593&SubsidiaryNumber=0>)

(<https://beta.companieshouse.gov.uk/company/05021052>)

In summary, We started 2016 with £24,230 and ended with £50,328. Our stated reserves target was £52,500. We distributed 16,000 Bibles and New Testaments (with Psalms) & almost 9,000 booklets with 3, 234 to the Royal Navy, 6933 to the British Army, 639 to the RAF, 1661 to foreign military forces, 3885 to British cadet forces, 6443 to Merchant Seafarers and almost 2000 to military Christian organisations.

We are all extremely grateful for each of our supporters, whether it is financial support or the moral support of those who keep us in their thoughts and/or prayers. We continue to expand, reaching new nations, while continuing to serve those already in the customer base. On which point, if you wish to be removed from the database, you have only to let us know but we hope that you will continue to pray for us and for those we serve. However, we would obviously prefer it if you stayed with us, continuing to receive the newsletters, and a short note or email to the office to confirm that you are happy to remain on our mailing list would help us to satisfy the requirements of the new data protection regulations (generally known as GDPR).

Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise - the fruit of lips that openly profess his name. And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased. Have confidence in your leaders and submit to their authority, because they keep watch over you as those who must give an account. Do this so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no benefit to you. Pray for us.

Hebrews 13:15-18a

We have a meeting of trustees on 6 October, at which we hope to set our budget plan for 2018 and review the position with regard to current and future direction. I hope to attend the Seafarers' Conference 16-17 October) and the Service of Prayer for the Armed Forces (9 November), both of which are in London. If you would like to attend, give the office a call for details.

Therefore, I urge you brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God - this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is - his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Romans 12:1-2

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.

Proverbs 3:5-6

Yours sincerely in Christ,

Matthew