



LOVE BEYOND

SELF DENIAL APPEAL 2020

DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

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“Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Saviour of the world. Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. So, we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgement, because as he is, so also are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love. We love because he first loved us. If anyone says, “I love God”, and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother.”

1 John 4:7-21 – ESV



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WEEK
1

INTRODUCTION

WEEK 1

“The ultimate goal of Bible study is *application*, not interpretation ... God wants to change our lives through his Word” (Dr Rick Warren). Or as James writes, “Don’t just listen to God’s Word. You must do what it says” (James 1:22). “What good is it, dear brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but don’t show it by your actions? ... I will show you my faith by my good deeds” (James 2:14, 18).

Over the six weeks of the Self Denial Appeal, we will use the format of Dr Rick Warren’s *Devotional Method of Bible Study* to delve into and apply 1 John 4:11-21.

The devotional method involves taking a passage, large or small, and prayerfully meditating on it until the Holy Spirit shows you a way to apply its truth to your life in a way that is personal, practical, possible and provable. The goal is to take the Word of God seriously and “do what it says”. The devotional method follows four steps – pray, meditate, apply, memorise.



PRAY

Father God, we thank you that your extravagant love has been poured out for us on the cross and poured into us by the Holy Spirit. We want to taste and experience more of the depth and breadth and length and height of your amazing love in order that we might live out our Christian faith through our actions. Amen.



MEDITATE

1 John 4:11-21 has an overarching set of inter-related truths.

1. God is the source of all love.
2. In response to God’s love for us we should love others.
3. As we love others, God’s love is brought to full expression within us.

God is love. The greatest expression of God’s love is that the Father sent his Son to be the Saviour of the world. All who confess that Jesus is the Son of God have God living in them, and they live in God. 1 John 4:11 says, “Dear friends, since God loved us that much, we surely ought to love each other.” “As we live in God, our love grows more perfect” (v17), and “His love is brought to full expression in us” (v12).



APPLY

Write an application of the insight you have received from 1 John 4:19.

Make sure it is personal, practical, possible and provable.



MEMORISE

We love because he first loved us.



PRAY FOR THE INTERNATIONAL SALVATION ARMY

- Pray for those who are suffering in the world through conflict, violence, poverty, natural disasters and who lack basic necessities such as clean water, food and shelter.
- Pray for those who struggle to find acceptance in their own communities due to prejudice or ignorance.
- Pray for Christian brothers and sisters enduring civil conflict, persecution, poverty and injustice as they seek to serve and use their gifts to build community and care for others.
- Pray that we can support our family of God in regular prayer and financial support.
- Pray for officers, leaders and missionaries around the world, particularly those ministering to people in remote areas, that they will be devoted to the Gospel and sharing the Good News of Jesus.
- Pray that we can love beyond all barriers as Jesus did.



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WEEK
2

ESWATINI

Thema's story

WEEK 2

The Community Care Program of The Salvation Army in eSwatini is a long-standing and respected HIV/AIDS care and education program. One of the issues the carers and educators often face is the fear that is associated with a diagnosis of HIV/AIDS. The love of God, expressed through the carers and educators, helps to reduce fear.



PRAY

Father God, we praise you for the wonderful future that you have prepared for us through the death and resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ. We eagerly await the day when we will enter into your presence for all eternity. Please help us to not lose heart when we face the many pressures, anxieties and troubles of life in this fallen world. Amen.

(Based on 2 Corinthians 5)



MEDITATE

1 John 4:17-18 helps us to understand the relationship between love and fear.

1. As we live in God, our love grows more perfect.
2. So, we will not be afraid.
3. Because perfect love drives out all fear.
4. If we are fearful, we have not fully experienced his perfect love.

What are you afraid of? For many people, worry, anxiety and fear are constant companions – fear of death, fear of danger, fear of disease, fear of rejection, fear of criticism. And, too often, these fears are crippling, keeping us from the life God has called us to live. But it doesn't have to be that way. As Christians, we have been given all we need in order to face even the most frightening, unexpected and overwhelming obstacles in life.

As we live in God, our love grows more perfect. As we live in God, we understand and accept more of God's truth and love in our lives. We are created in his image, the objects of his love and grace, uniquely formed, forgiven, free, justified, redeemed, adopted into God's family ... the list of his promises goes on and on. As we increasingly and consistently live in God, these promises take effect and the result is that our love grows more perfect. Love drives out fear because they are opposite to each other. As we live in God, our love grows more perfect and we will not be afraid because love drives out all fear.



APPLY

Write an application of the insight you have received from 1 John 4:17-18.

Make sure it is personal, practical, possible and provable.



MEMORISE

There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear.

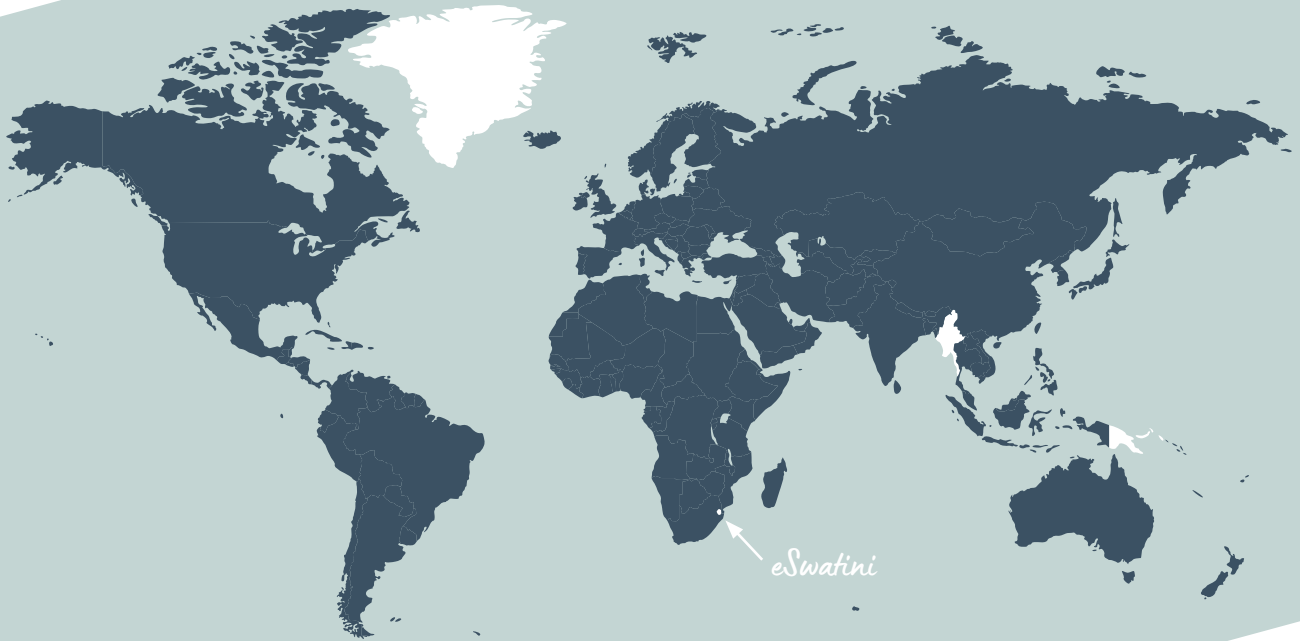


PRAYER REQUESTS FROM THE SOUTHERN AFRICA TERRITORY

- That our youth and children would become true disciples of Jesus Christ and respond to his will for their lives.
- We continue to need candidates and officers as we do not have enough to fill our empty posts.
- That all officers can receive 100% of their allowances.
- That our soldiers would fill the needed leadership roles in their local corps.



COUNTRY PROFILE:
ESWATINI



Quick facts

Population:

1.3 million

Dominant religion:

Christian

Did you know?

- eSwatini has the world's highest prevalence rate of HIV/AIDS
- Life expectancy for men is 54 years and 60 for women.

In eSwatini,



\$53

provides HIV/TB testing of one person



\$280

trains a community carer



\$7167

funds the centre for a year



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WEEK
3

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Major Iveme's story

WEEK 3

The Highlands Region of Papua New Guinea is a remote and impoverished part of the world, only accessible via dangerous roads, which makes supplies, healthcare and development a challenge. Many people in these areas experience severe poverty and malnutrition. The territory has over 330 officers serving faithfully, although many lack resources usually taken for granted, including water, power and transport.



PRAY

Lord of the harvest, raise up, nourish and send more workers to preach the Good News to the poor, to build up the Church in every land and minister to the needs of people everywhere, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.



MEDITATE

“As he is, so also are we in this world” or “we live like Jesus here in this world” (1 John 4:17).

When God called Abram (Genesis 12), he established a framework for mission in the broken and fallen world. God promised Abram that his descendants would become a great people, that they would live in a particular place and that their purpose would be to bless the world with God’s love. Four hundred years later, as Moses prepared to lead the people towards the assigned place, God gave them the Sinai covenant, which explained how they would be his people and how they would fulfil their purpose of blessing the world with his love.

As Jesus fulfilled the Old Testament covenant, he commanded his followers to love God and love others. He also said that by this, all people would see him (John 13:34-35).

Then, following the ascension of Jesus and the coming of the Holy Spirit, the followers of Jesus were sent to the ends of the earth to continue the mission commenced through Abram; to be his people in the place he has sent us, fulfilling our purpose of blessing the world with his love.

The officers serving in the highlands of Papua New Guinea faithfully fulfil this purpose in challenging circumstances. How might we be faithful as his people, fulfilling his purposes in the place he has sent us?



APPLY

Write an application of the insight you have received from 1 John 4:17.

Make sure it is personal, practical, possible and provable.



MEMORISE

As he is, so also are we in this world.

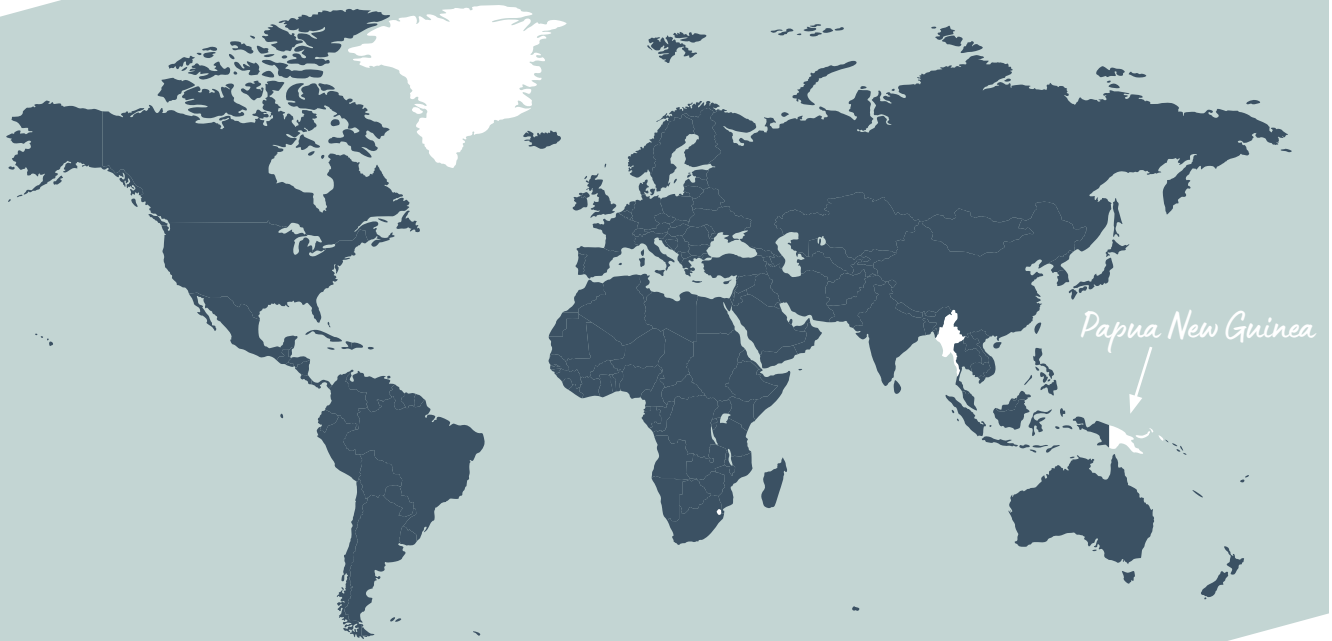


PRAYER REQUESTS FROM THE SALVATION ARMY IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA

- Prayer for soldiers, local officers and Salvationists to grow strong in their relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ and grow mature in their faith.
- Prayer for Salvation Army communities and workers that deal with social issues, including family violence and sexual violence. Prayer that these workers may remain faithful in their Christian principles.
- Prayer for enhanced fundraising opportunities to help run programs effectively, and prayer for financial sustainability in each division, corps, centre and fellowship.
- Prayer for officers, envoys and lay workers to be spirit-filled and grounded in the Word of God; to be living examples of Christ so that lost souls will be saved.
- Prayer for retired officers, that their lifetime of faith will impact others, and for officers' children, that they will focus on Jesus to build their faith.
- Prayer for The Salvation Army's community services throughout the territory, that people who come to us will sense the presence of God and their hearts will open to him.



COUNTRY PROFILE:
PAPUA NEW GUINEA



Quick facts

Population:

8 million

Dominant religion:

Christian

Did you know?

- PNG includes the eastern half of the world's second biggest island New Guinea, bordering Indonesia to the west
- About 40% of the population has access to an improved drinking water source

In Papua New Guinea,



\$40

provides food for one hospital visit



\$14,000

funds a vehicle for a year



\$19,000

trains a Salvation Army officer



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WEEK
4

MYANMAR

Zaw Moe's story

WEEK 4

The community development project in Myanmar aims to improve quality of life through community capacity building, income generation, clean water and home care for 3000 families in 100 targeted communities. This project is being led through local corps. Positive and strong communities are the goal of this project. Love for each other is at the heart of good community.



PRAY

*Father God, help us to be holy as you are holy.
Amen.*



MEDITATE

“His love is brought to full expression in us” (1 John 4:12). Three brief excerpts from The Salvation Army *Handbook of Doctrine* provide stimulus for meditation.

1. “‘Perfect love’ is perhaps the most comprehensive description of holiness, although a description which can be simply expressed. Through this sanctifying power, the Holy Spirit fills us with God’s perfect love, so that we begin to love, not with our own, seriously flawed love, but with the unselfish love of Christ” (page 205).
2. “Holiness teaching stresses the need to develop an inner personal spiritual life to feed on for living a holy life, a life in community with others and a life of restored relationships. Salvationists in any community must learn to model what this means. The ‘saints’ in the New Testament are always plural; one cannot be holy as an individual without being holy in interaction with others. This does not mean that Salvation Army corps or centres will be without fault, but it does mean that our relationships should be determined by our holiness” (page 220).
3. “God changes the structures of society through a variety of means, but he changes them as well through the mission of his sanctified people, empowered and gifted by the Holy Spirit. The mission of God’s holy people encompasses evangelism, service and social action. It is the holy love of God, expressed in the heart and life of his people, pointing the world to Christ, inviting the world to saving grace, serving the world with Christ’s compassion and attacking social evils. Holiness leads to mission” (page 198).



APPLY

Write an application of the insight you have received from 1 John 4:12.

Make sure it is personal, practical, possible and provable.



MEMORISE

If we love each other, God lives in us, and his love is brought to full expression in us.

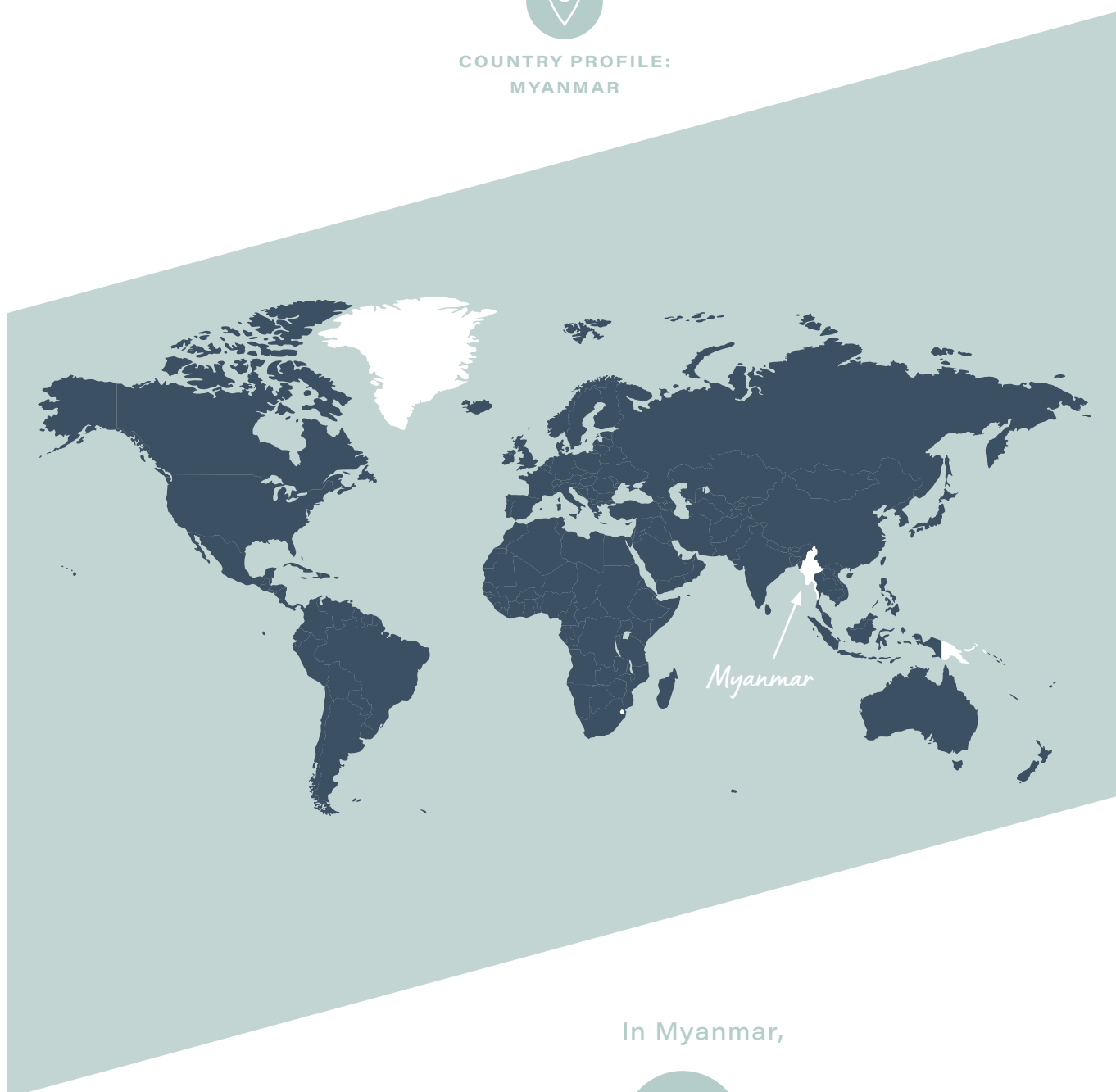


PRAYER REQUESTS FROM SINGAPORE, MALAYSIA & MYANMAR TERRITORY

- Territorial: Please pray for the efficient implementation of the “In Step with the Spirit” Territorial Strategic Mission Plan (2020-2025) under the 4 Strategic Pillars of Our People, Our Resources, Our Processes and Our Services.
- Territorial: Pray that every corps and faith-based facilitation program in the territory becomes intentional in embracing accountability and sustainability. Pray also that we will develop passionate disciples who cultivate a culture of evangelism, proclaim Christ and harvest souls.
- Singapore: Pray for corps to share the Gospel in practical ways and reach out to children and youth with inspiring worship and to develop healthy, relational small groups.
- Malaysia: Intercede as we promote stewardship of resources and proper maintenance of properties. Pray so that there is no lack of support and partnerships to bring God’s love to disadvantaged communities.
- Myanmar: Pray for a burden and a resurgence for saving souls. Pray also for the establishment of corps and vocational training for youth.
- Thailand: Pray for continued open doors to cement our presence in this new frontier. Ask God to strengthen and make our emerging establishment shine. Seek the Lord for more new soldiers and additional resources.



COUNTRY PROFILE:
MYANMAR



Quick facts

Population:

54 million

Dominant religion:

Buddhism

Did you know?

- A lack of adequate sanitation and underutilised healthcare system have contributed to high rates of gastrointestinal diseases, tuberculosis and malaria.
- In some remote rural areas, there is no formal primary education

In Myanmar,



\$82

starts one new Self Help Group



\$115

funds life-skills training for a disadvantaged young person



\$22,916

pays for a shared toilet for a community



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WEEK
5

GREENLAND

Malakias' story

WEEK 5

The Salvation Army opened in Greenland in 2012 after a request from the government to help address issues of homelessness in the capital city of Nuuk. The city is one of the coldest and most isolated places on the planet. The Salvation Army operates the only centre for people experiencing homelessness in the country with community meals served several times a week and a welcoming worship service held every Sunday. Homelessness is an increasing problem in the world and one that The Salvation Army is committed to fighting. The verse from 1 John 4:17 prompts us to think of our eternal home.



PRAY

Father God, we praise you for the confidence you give our hearts through the love of your Son. We look forward to the day when we will not pass from this world into condemnation, but instead enter into your presence of everlasting celebration. Lead us to live our lives for Christ's sake at our workplaces, with our friends and families, and wherever else we may go this week, that others may have the confidence of eternal life with you. Amen



MEDITATE

Confidence in facing Jesus on the day of judgement is based on belief in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. When there is belief in the resurrection of Jesus there is belief that death does not have the final say. God does. Jesus conquered death, and so death does not finally separate us from God. As God raised Jesus from death, so God will raise us from death to eternal life with him.

This eternal life is a quality of life in the presence of God, and it begins now as we follow Christ. We will find our destiny and experience that for which we were created, to be like him, to love him and enjoy him forever.



APPLY

Write an application of the insight you have received from 1 John 4:17.

Make sure it is personal, practical, possible and provable.



MEMORISE

So, we will not be afraid on the day of judgement, but we can face him with confidence because we live like Jesus here in this world.



PRAYER REQUESTS FROM THE SALVATION ARMY IN GREENLAND

- People in Greenland are very spiritual, but please pray that they will acknowledge the importance of Jesus Christ as a personal Saviour.
- For the further establishment of The Salvation Army as a church and for people to be called to be soldiers and local leaders.
- That the churches will stand stronger together and united in the sharing of the Gospel.
- For the establishment of children's and youth work in the corps, and stable volunteers for this area of work.



COUNTRY PROFILE: GREENLAND



Quick facts

Population:

57,000

Dominant religion:

Christian

Did you know?

- Greenland is the world's largest island with over 80% of the island being covered by an ice cap 4km thick in places.
- Greenlanders have long struggled with social problems – not least amongst them the impact of alcoholism and HIV/AIDS.

In Greenland,



\$917

heats the centre for a month



\$1100

buys a week's warm meals
for the centre



\$13,275

funds a vehicle for a year



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WEEK
6

ALTAR SERVICE

WEEK 6

There are many ways by which we can be identified as belonging to a particular group of people – a sports shirt or scarf, a language or accent, a badge or jewellery, what is eaten or what is not, a uniform or red shield. There are close to 100 verses in God's Word that suggest that God's people should be identified by their love for each other, and three are contained within 1 John 4:11-21.



PRAY

Ever since I first heard of your strong faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for God's people everywhere, I have not stopped thanking God for you. I pray for you constantly, asking God, the glorious Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, to give you spiritual wisdom and insight so that you might grow in your knowledge of God. I pray that your hearts will be flooded with light so that you can understand the confident hope he has given to those he called – his holy people who are his rich and glorious inheritance (Ephesians 1:15-19).



MEDITATE

Jesus made it abundantly clear that the distinguishing feature of his followers should be love for one another. "So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples" (John 13:34-35). The "one another" in these verses is a reference to fellow believers. A distinguishing mark of being a follower of Christ is a deep, sincere love for brothers and sisters in Christ. John reminds us of this fact: "And he has given us this command: Those who love God must also love their Christian brothers and sisters" (1 John 4:21).

The Early Church demonstrated the type of love Jesus was talking about. There were people in Jerusalem from all over the known world (Acts 2:9-11). Those who were saved got together and immediately began meeting each other's needs: "And all the believers met in one place and shared everything they had. They sold their property and possessions and shared everything they had" (Acts 2:44-45). This was love in action, and you can be sure it made an impression on the people of that city.



APPLY

Write an application of the insight you have received from 1 John 4:21.

Make sure it is personal, practical, possible and provable.



MEMORISE

*Since God loved us that much,
we surely ought to love each other.*



PRAY FOR THE 2020 SELF DENIAL APPEAL

- Pray that God will be at work in and through us every day so that we will bring good into the world, live life fully and bring life to others.
- Pray that God's Spirit will work in us and give us the desire to give the way God has given.
- Pray for The Salvation Army officers and workers as they venture into harsh and remote environments to help those in need and to share God's love.
- Pray for guidance for our leaders in the distribution of Self Denial Appeal funds.
- Pray that all people around the world will find acceptance and friendship within their communities.
- Pray that God's love is not limited by cultural expectations and social conventions and that we can love like Jesus does – beyond all barriers.