

FOCUS



SANDES

The soldier's friend
since 1869

the
magazine
of

SANDES

Soldiers' & Airmen's Centres
October – December 2019



Inside this issue of **FOCUS**:

- ◆ Reports from the Centres
- ◆ Prayer notes

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Our cover this issue shows us a soldier ready for battle. He is armed and ready. His armour is on, he is ready to face the enemy. We see him kneeling in prayer, asking God for the most important armour, His protection and strength.

The ability to effectively use the Armour of God comes through prayer. This is the force behind the armour and the key preparation for battle. Our hymn “Stand Up Stand Up for Jesus” urges: “Put on the Gospel armour, each piece put on with prayer.” This critical component of prayer is how we utilise the spiritual resources God has issued us.

Fighting sin and Satan without prayer is like David fighting Goliath in Saul’s armour. The armour doesn’t fit and is ineffective. Like a Challenger 2 without ammunition, our armour is useless unless we pray. Our prayer life is foundational for the deployment of our sword and shield, our helmet and belt, our breastplate and boots.

Prayer is both a duty and a delight. It is how we obtain readiness and perseverance as soldiers of God. Paul tells us to “always keep on praying,” no matter how long it takes. Our battle is ongoing. Elsewhere, Paul insists, “Pray without ceasing” (I Thess. 5:17). We maintain a constant attitude of prayer. Just as soldiers maintain readiness, we maintain an open line to God and pray without hesitation. Jesus warned His disciples of impending danger: “Take heed, watch and pray, for you do not know when the time is” (Mark 13:33). Prayer is a spiritual discipline. We need to be alert, vigilant, and always on praying ground, in touch with Higher Headquarters.

Battlefield prayer is communication with our Commander-in-Chief. It is reporting for duty! We pray, often out of desperation, and the result is bold action in the face of conflict. “The only conversation that works is the one with God” (Lauren Winner).

In Exodus 17 we see Moses praying for the Army of Israel engaged in battle. The fighting went well for as long as he lifted up his arms in blessing, but when he became tired, the tide shifted, so Aaron & Hur held his arms up. The hilltop overlooking the battlefield was where the battle was truly won. We need support in prayer; it’s not something to attempt alone. We need partners in prayer; they’re our “battle-buddies.”

Maybe you lost a battle recently. Whatever has happened in the past, you can be renewed day-by-day. Never give up. Prayer gives us courage to make difficult decisions and the confidence to leave the results to God. After the prophets of Baal prayed all day long on Mount Carmel, God’s prophet Elijah uttered one simple, brief prayer, and the fire of God came down!

Paul points out that when we pray “in the Spirit.” Everything depends on the Holy Spirit. He enables us to stand and resist the foe, to remain steadfast in our faith. “Praying in the power of the Spirit” means we pray by the leading of the Holy Spirit, with His help, and according to His will. What we call our “quiet time” is actually a busy time. Prayer is vital, crucial, essential. When faced with insurmountable odds, do we fall apart, or fall to our knees? Do we trust self, or the Lord of Hosts?

Are you ever at a loss for words? When people question our faith, we can sometimes shut down; we feel put on the spot, and struggle to come up with answers. When we pray in the Spirit, God helps us to respond with wisdom. In Matthew 10:19, Jesus told His disciples: “When you are arrested, do not worry about what to say or how to say it, for it will not be you speaking, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you.”

All is done in prayer! When we talk to God, we get the courage to face the world, resist the devil, and say “no” to self. But we think we are too busy to pray, and for that reason, we should put prayer in our schedules, as an appointment. If you had an open invitation to talk to the Queen, I think it would get in your diary or calendar, even if you were told to “call any time.” Figure out the best prayer-time and write it in your diary as a recurring appointment, and you’ll be less likely to skip it!

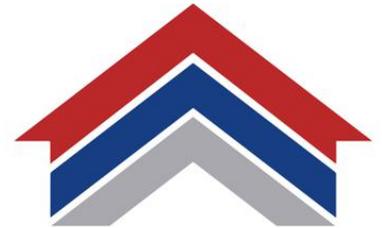
As this year starts to draw to a close, Sandes has continued to serve H.M. Forces because of the prayers of all of our supporters. Thanks to the power of faithful prayer, all of our Centres are being used by more and more soldiers and their families, we have employed new Support Couples, we have been asked to consider a new Centre in Aldershot, hundreds of Bibles and thousands of dog tags have been given out and we have thanked God and celebrated reaching one hundred and fifty years of service to God in H.M. Forces. Prayer encourages all the staff at Sandes, it encourages our financial supporters and it changes the hearts of people who may stand against us. As 2019 starts to draw to a close, and 2020 appears on the horizon, please keep praying for Sandes and its mission to H.M. Forces. Your prayers make a real difference to us!

Gary Robb

FOCUS

on

Hollywood



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A Season to minister through children's work

Where does the time go? As these notes are being prepared, I am already thinking, planning and praying for the new season of Good News club, which we hope to start in October. Please pray with us for the club, as well as for our volunteers, Joyce and Stephanie who will minister to the boys and girls, that they would know God's leading and power. At the end of September, we hope to have a joint special with the youth club on camp in order to launch the new season of GNC, it would be lovely to see some new children come along as a result.

We would also like to take the opportunity to thank you for your prayers especially at the end of June when we held our 5 Day Club. It was good to see all our regulars there, as well as a few new faces. A great time was had by all and it was a real blessing to once again see and hear their enthusiasm as the children sang the choruses, quoted memory verses and had a fun time during the quizzes and games. On the last night, each child received a

goodie bag, which included sweets (of course) but more importantly, the Word of God in the form of a booklet published by CEF called 'Turned Around'. Pray with us for the salvation of these little ones.

A season to minister as we say goodbye

Sadly, over the last few months, we have once again had to say farewell to some of our regulars. Allan, who worked in Army Welfare, and his wife Julie, will be greatly missed. Julie will be especially missed as she was not only a loyal visitor but has been our cleaner for a number of years. Not only did Julie do an excellent job of keeping the centre looking good, but she always kept us up to date with all that was happening on camp and made sure that everyone on camp knew what was happening in Sandes. We pray for them both, Allan as he leaves the Army to take up a new position, and Julie and their family as they relocate to Scotland and back into civilian life. Before leaving, they popped into the centre for breakfast and to say their final farewells. After breakfast, I presented them with a Bible, which

they warmly accepted – may they as a family know God’s blessing in this new chapter of their lives and use His Word to bring them to saving faith in Him.



Julie and Allan receiving a Bible from Chris

Over the year, we have had the privilege of being part of the lives of so many by being a listening ear when they needed to unburden themselves. It’s good to talk but more importantly to listen – some have expressed their appreciation for the time taken to do just that, for the input into their lives and the interest in their families. They see Sandes as a safe place to share what is on their heart concerning the ups and downs of life in the Army, as well as life in general and of course a place where they can have a bit of craic with the staff. Hopefully we have been able to share a word in season, to strengthen and encourage as they struggle with the challenges of life.

A season to share about the work

At the beginning of July, it was great to have the opportunity to present the work of Sandes at one of the local churches. I spent an evening in the company of the folks at Cregagh Baptist Church, some of whom would be supporters and prayer partners. Everyone was both touched and challenged by what they saw and heard, especially through the DVD, as well as by some of the stories that I was able to share about conversations with the lads. We look forward to the Lord opening more doors to be able to inform and update local churches about what God is doing through the ministry of Sandes here on camp.

We trust the Lord will continue to bless His work – we ask that you please continue to remember 1 Scots and their families in your prayers. Many thanks for remaining faithful in the place of prayer throughout another year – we pray you will know the Lord’s peace and blessing over the Christmas season.

Chris & Marlene



CAN YOU ...

mop floors,
wash dishes,
help prepare food,
serve tea and coffee,
and still look cheerful?

CAN YOU ...

counsel a young Christian,
share the Gospel 1-to-1,
pray and love every day,
and trust God for the
results?

IF SO ...

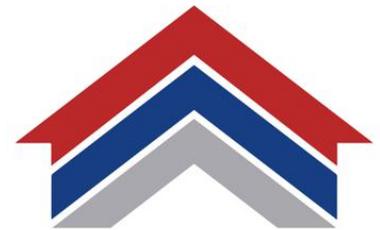
would you think and pray
about working or
volunteering with SANDES?

**For further information please contact
Sandes Head Office on 028 9050 0250**

FOCUS

on

Harrogate



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WOW, well it's that TIME again! You can really feel the excitement and almost taste the joy as we count down to Graduation parade, "the pass off", for Alamein, Burma, Cambrai and Peninsula companies.



As all of you who know us well, know we love our work but more importantly we love our soldiers. Coming up to pass off we do get a wee SKIP in our hearts and when we see them all in their best kit, looking proud on their big day in front of all their families and friends. It is truly a great day for the College and a credit to all the training staff.

There has been so many wonderful things happening in the work of

Sandes and we at Harrogate feel the blessings too. We were speechless when we received a wonderful donation of over a thousand pounds from a soldier who used to come in to Sandes when he was a new recruit. Ben Parkinson MBE is such an inspiration to everyone, and we are thankful for the support he has promised to give us. It was really amazing to have Roberta, Emmalee and Ben at the Centre and it was such a lovely surprise for all of us. They are wonderful people we can't thank them enough for taking Sandes into their hearts.



Ben Parkinson MBE giving a generous donation to Sandes!

A young soldier who was here over ten years ago and was always in the Sandes Centre, John surprised us when he walked into the Centre and asked Sally "is Maryjane in"? We have kept in touch all these years but it was amazing to see him in person. John was at the College to pipe with the members of the Pipes and Drums and he wanted to surprise us and he surely did! It was like it was only yesterday as we chatted over a cuppa.



Maryjane and Jim with a couple of old friends who popped in

The Centre has been busy and we are so grateful for the support we have from the College headquarters and the team really go the extra mile. For years we have wanted a counter cold display fridge and thanks to a very generous donation we are now shopping about for one. We want to do cream cakes and scones and have fresh sandwiches made for those in a hurry, so we are excited to get those wonderful blessings to make life that wee bit better for the soldiers and staff.

Our Padre Paul Green is a good

friend of Sandes and will call in and make sure we are awake and ready for the day one morning making Sally jump right out of her skin! He is really a bundle of fun and is a real blessing to all on camp.

We love change and we are always on the lookout for new things and the new "Scottish" breakfast wrap has proved to be a very popular addition to the Sandes menu.

We had the WRVS team join us in Sandes while they waited for the welfare centre to get a makeover as it was running a bit behind. It was lovely for us to see Belinda, Jenny, Liz and Phil over the time they spent with us and the new look welfare centre looks amazing for the soldiers.

The Centre has had a promise of new sofas as our present ones are looking a little tired now. They have served us well, so really just watch this space! Exciting things are in the pipeline. Our new Sandes mugs are brilliant with the Sandes logo on both sides so hopefully they won't disappear like our other cups did in the past!



Our team are all great and we really do appreciate each one of them. Mark and Sally love to chat and are bold in getting to know any new faces coming into the Centre and telling them about the work of Sandes. Denise always has a heart for the work and always willing to go the extra mile. She is now famous for her omelettes!



The wonderful Denise keeps the soldiers well fed!

As always in Sandes we care for, help, love and pray for the needs of our soldiers and junior soldiers. That is why we are here. The dog tags, Bibles and tracts are always taken and the little things we put up around the Centre get read by many.

As I write this report we are looking

forward to meeting over a 1000 new junior soldiers and staff for the new intake. We hope they will take Sandes into their hearts and that the team will just make their time here a little bit sunnier (happy days)!



Junior Soldiers relaxing in Sandes

So, as we take up the banner once again, we look forward with peace knowing God has His plans for us all and the work here at Harrogate.

Jim & Maryjane

Deputations

Would you like someone from Sandes to visit your church group and talk about the work that Sandes does with the military?

Learn of the history of Sandes and what goes on at each of our Centres.

See the materials and literature that we distribute in the U.K. and across the world to support our soldiers.

Join the hundreds of people who support the work of Sandes. Stand with us as we seek to bring Christian love and witness to those within HM Forces.

To arrange a suitable date and time, please call
Head Office on 028 90 500 250 or email admin@sandes.org.uk

PLEASE PRAY!

The Army has kindly invited SANDES to explore an opportunity to open a new Centre in the Aldershot Garrison. They have offered the use of an Army owned Community Centre that they intend to develop into a welfare hub for the whole Garrison.

Please pray:

- for guidance that this would be the right opportunity for Sandes to grow
- for the right couple to manage a new Centre to come forward
- that the finances required will be secured in God's will and time
- with thanks for this opportunity to reach soldiers and their wives with the Gospel

**"And how can they believe in Him if they have never heard about Him?
And how can they hear about Him unless someone tells them?"**

Romans 10:14 (NLT)

Prayer Diary



1st October	C.V.W.W. Meeting
18th October	Sandes Prayer Meeting
15th November	Sandes Prayer Meeting
18th November	Sandes Council Meeting
9th December	Sandes Prayer Meeting & Christmas lunch

Prayer Requests

Pray for divine wisdom for the way ahead as we explore opening a new Centre in Aldershot

Pray for the Head Office team as they provide support to all the Centres

Please pray for our Superintendents and Support Workers:

Jim and Mary Jane McCracken	Harrogate
Mark and Sally Nieuwoudt	Harrogate
Chris and Marlene Wilkinson	Hollywood
Trevor & Jan Pinkerton	Lisburn/Ballykinler
James and Michelle Loubser	Pirbright
Besim & Rhonda Haxhija	Pirbright

And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.

Ephesians 6:18

October 2019



Please pray for:

1. those Missions attending the CVWW meeting in London today
2. Chris & Marlene and their team in Hollywood
3. a secure spiritual climate on camps and especially in our Centres
4. soldiers and their families suffering from the consequences of conflict
5. opportunities for working with families coming into our Centres
6. a deep revelation of God's love to all attending garrison services today
7. growth in the Sandes prayer and financial support base
8. plans for a new Centre in Aldershot
9. Sandes workers to know a real peace and encouragement in their work
10. Jim & Maryjane and their team in Harrogate
11. new opportunities for Sandes to grow and share the Gospel
12. our Vice Presidents as they continue to represent Sandes within the wider military community
13. Padres to know the Lord's leading in services within garrison churches
14. Sandes deputation in Comber Methodist this evening
15. Sandes deputation in Shankill Baptist this evening
16. the safety of our troops on deployment
17. courage and confidence for Christians serving in the Army
18. Trevor & Jan and their team in Lisburn
19. a new generation of Sandes supporters to arise
20. local fellowships and spiritual support for all our workers in Sandes
21. people to consider Sandes in their legacy planning
22. opportunities in Hollywood despite the low troop numbers on camp
23. settled and committed teams in the Sandes Centres
24. Godly volunteers for our Centres
25. opportunities to assist the other welfare agencies within the military in caring for people
26. opportunities with recruits coming into Sandes on Saturday evenings
27. Bibles, literature and dog tags being distributed through our Centres
28. fresh ideas and effective ways for outreach within and beyond the Sandes Centres
29. God's leading for the future of Sandes
30. James & Michelle and their team in Pirbright
31. the value of Sandes to be recognised within the Army

**Then He spoke to them, that men always ought to pray
and not lose heart. Luke 18:1**

November 2019

Please pray for:



1. Trevor & Jan and their team in Lisburn
2. hope for those in the military suffering emotional distress
3. Sandes deputation in Ballynahinch Methodist this evening
4. soldiers and their families to come to a living faith in Jesus
5. the young recruits in Harrogate
6. God centred unity and single purpose throughout the work of Sandes
7. thanksgiving for all our volunteers
8. opportunities to witness amid the busyness of running the Centres
9. James & Michelle and their team in Pirbright
10. a deep revelation of God's love to all attending garrison services today
11. people to remember the cost of peace for both the nation and in their personal lives
12. conviction of the Holy Spirit to awaken people within the military community from spiritual apathy and unbelief
13. Sandes deputations in Strandtown Baptist & St. Donard's Parish today
14. all the little seeds of faith planted through Sandes, that they would grow and bear fruit
15. good and supportive relationships with the Padres on the camps
16. the marriages and families of those working in Sandes
17. Jim & Maryjane and their team in Harrogate
18. the Sandes Council Meeting today
19. the Holy Spirit to break through hardened hearts
20. a continued increase in footfall for all the Centres
21. our Vice Presidents as they continue to represent Sandes within the wider military community
22. good rapport with soldiers coming in to our Centres
23. the still on-going review of the CVWW Charter
24. Godly inspiration for the Padres taking services in the garrison churches
25. Chris & Marlene and their team in Hollywood
26. a fresh anointing as we face the challenges of this age
27. protection and promotion of Christian values within military and the Government
28. the Commanding Officers on camps where we have Centres
29. God to open doors to opportunities for new Centres on other camps
30. the funding shortfall to be met

The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much. James 5:16

December 2019

Please pray for:



1. protection for our troops serving and training throughout the world
2. wisdom for new initiatives
3. encouragement for Christians in the Armed Forces to share their faith
4. Trevor & Jan and their team in Lisburn
5. people to prayerfully consider supporting Sandes financially
6. opportunities to share the Gospel during the Advent period
7. Sandes to continue to be relevant to the soldiers of today
8. courage and confidence for Christians serving in the Armed Forces
9. those attending the monthly prayer meeting and Christmas Lunch today
10. Jim & Maryjane and their team in Harrogate
11. the Holy Spirit to open hearts to the love of Jesus and the Good News of the Gospel
12. God's favour and blessing on all Christian ministries to the military
13. encouragement and blessing for all Sandes supporters
14. our Vice Presidents as they continue to represent Sandes within the wider military community
15. the work of Sandes to bear fruit in the lives of those we reach out to
16. the Holy Spirit to bring revival throughout the military community
17. Chris & Marlene and their team in Hollywood
18. encouragement for Christians in the Armed Forces to share their faith
19. wisdom for planning for 2020
20. those Junior Soldiers experiencing the Christmas spirit in Sandes in Harrogate and would realise the significance of the season
21. James & Michelle and their team in Pirbright
22. a deep revelation of God's love to all attending garrison services today
23. military families apart, especially those with children during this festive season
24. soldiers who may feel separated or lonely today, and that they would experience a sense of God's loving presence
25. **Glory to God in the highest and on earth, goodwill toward men**
26. God's anointing on the work of Sandes in the years ahead
27. those in the Sandes family who need a healing touch
28. wisdom for new initiatives
29. divine inspiration for Padres as they lead services today
30. rest and restoration for the Sandes staff during this holiday period
31. an awareness of the loving call of God as people reflect on the past and the future

Let my prayer be set before You as incense, the lifting of my hands as the evening sacrifice. Psalm 141:2

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on

Pirbright



Rebuilding?

We read in Ezra 3 the following passage:

When the builders laid the foundation of the temple of the Lord, the priests in their vestments and with trumpets, and the Levites (the sons of Asaph) with cymbals, took their places to praise the Lord, as prescribed by David King of Israel. With praise and thanksgiving they sang to the Lord:

“He is good; His love toward Israel endures forever.”

And all the people gave a great shout of praise to the Lord, because the foundation of the house of the Lord was laid.

We have felt such a connection to this exciting time in the historical recording of the rebuilding of the temple as we have been redecorating the Sandes Pirbright Centre for the following reasons.

The Israelites had help from so many different sources to accomplish this huge task.

At Pirbright, we had help from so many different sources. With the Centre being closed for two weeks, we set about redecorating the Centre. This project had been on the go since April in different phases, but the final stage was the counter and front area which could only be completed within a two-week time frame. During the initial phases of painting, we had a friend from the USA visit us who eagerly assisted us with the painting on some of the bank holidays we had.



Andrew, tirelessly repainting the radiators

We eagerly awaited the two weeks summer break when all the major changes would then take place. The old display fridge literally broke a week before the intended changes

which meant further adaptations to plans and further planning of removing old equipment and replacing with new.



With the rearrangement of kitchen and counter spaces, we needed a team of strong men and women to assist with the moving of many items. We were so blessed as to how the permanent staff of the camp came to our help.

Jody, pictured above, helped us move the old, heavy display fridge using a forklift. She had to drive it quite a distance to where it would be tipped.

After having visited Harrogate, Michelle returned eager to change and adapt the menu, which she wanted to implement with the opening of the centre after the break. A new menu meant a new display which also meant extra costs. With the approval of Command in the camp and a dear friend who is a regular visitor to the Centre (who is in charge of the printing and producing of many things for the camp) we now have a beautiful new menu. We are so grateful to God for Mary-Jane who inspired many of the additions on



Michelle learning how to produce wraps in Harrogate



James and Damon in front of our new menu board!

the menu and Damon who helped produce the display.

And God's provision did not end there! Major Miller had organised for us to receive brand new couches! The first sets have arrived, and the others are to be delivered soon.

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Lisburn & Ballykinler



A Very Present Help

God is our refuge and strength, A very present help in trouble. Psalms 46:1

A moving life story is that of Lt. Gen. Sir William Dobbie, nick-named 'the Defender of Malta'. During WWII he was the governor and commander-in-chief of the British troops on this island. He was charged with defending Malta at all costs against the Nazis. His strong personal faith and reliance on prayer helped him to successfully fulfil this charge, against overwhelming odds, and this strategic island was never taken by the enemy. General Dobbie records miracles of God's intervention in his book 'A very present help'. His life was a great success in many ways, but his own testimony towards the end of his life was this: "Uninterrupted contact with the heavenly Father is the most wonderful thing in the world".

General William Dobbie was no doubt a very busy person. Each day must have come with enormous pressures, knowing the incredible

importance of his task in the war effort. yet, in the midst of all of that, he appears to have remembered the most important thing – staying close to God.

We may have lots of good plans, goals, ambitions and intentions on any given day. A day might be busy. We might even feel we have lots of important things to do. But it is all empty unless we keep our focus on what I believe is the most important thing, staying where we belong, in the presence of God.

This last quarter has been a really blessed quarter where in the midst of being busy and also having to deal with some difficult situations we have really seen God's hand at work and felt His presence in the Centre and in our lives. The Centre in Lisburn has remained busy and there are many opportunities to "be there" for people as a listening ear, a friend and as a signpost for other welfare agencies within the military who are trained to help in specific areas. Our wives' prayer meeting has

continued to grow and we are blessed that there are new Christian families that have arrived on camp and are joining with us in fellowship. We have been blessed again this quarter to have Martha Thomson helping out on a voluntary basis for a few weeks and she really fitted in to the team well and was a great help to us.



Fiona, Illy, Victoria and Hannah keep the soldiers fed in Lisburn!

Over the years we have been blessed with some great workers in Sandes Lisburn and Ballykinlar, one such person is Illy. Illy has worked with us in both centres for the last 7 years and has been a tremendous blessing. Not only has she been a very industrious worker and a very valued member of our team she has clearly shown Christ-like love for all our visitors over the years. It is with mixed emotions that I am telling you that she is going to be joining the RAF as she feels that is where God is calling her. We wish her every blessing in her new career and cannot thank her enough for her faithful service to Sandes and for her

friendship to us personally as a family. She will be greatly missed by staff and visitors alike.

In Ballykinlar we have seen an increase in the midweek evening opening of the centre as the Army Recruiting Team have been booking us to open for the work experience groups. These are normally groups of 15/16 year old children and we are always given the opportunity to share a little of the work of Sandes with each group that comes through, this often leads onto some chats with individuals about our own



Fiona, Jan, Trevor and Illy with the Cadets from Yorkshire

During the month of August we opened in Ballykinlar for 10 evenings for a group of 350 cadets and their instructors who had come over from Yorkshire for their summer camp. These were very busy evenings but were extremely blessed. Even though some staff were unable to work due to sickness, with the help of volunteers we were able to meet the needs that arose and the children and staff really enjoyed their time in Sandes. At the end of the camp we were called out to the front of the Centre

and one young cadet made a speech thanking us for all we had done for them and presented us with cards and gifts. This was very humbling and encouraging. We would like to thank all those who helped out during this time, both staff and volunteers; we could NOT have managed without you.



Some of the cadets enjoying Ballykinlar

During the quarter we also had a major electrical fault which meant the Lisburn centre had to close for 3 weeks but God's timing is perfect as the first week was when we were in Ballykinlar and that meant we didn't have to do double shifts that week ! The last 2 weeks of the closure was when we were on annual leave anyway so it did not affect us then either. On our return there was a brand new dish washer for us and within the next week we also had a brand new freezer delivered to us. We thank the people in D.I.O. and staff at Amey who have helped us out in the arrangements for this new equipment.

During this quarter we are looking

forward to increasing our fellowship with the Christian community on camp with the Bible study and prayer meetings and we will also be taking on more centre assistants to help us out in the daily busyness. We would value your prayers in these matters and we continue to thank God for all those who support the work of Sandes in the many ways you all do. During difficult seasons over our years working in Sandes we often ask God is this still where you want us to be and He has often used phone calls and letters from Sandes friends to encourage us and reassure us of His calling. I will finish with a few words from a song we sing in our home church. "To be in Your presence, to sit at Your feet. Where Your love surrounds me, and makes me complete. This is my desire Oh Lord."

Trevor & Jan

BITS FROM MY LETTERS.

From a Soldier in Baluchistan, to Miss Sandes, Ireland.

Dear Friend of all Soldiers,—I feel sure you would like to have a short account of a pic-nic we had in connection with the Soldiers' Home here to Woodcock Spinney. The Spinney!—scene of many a pic-nic in times gone by.

We went down in tum-tums (two-wheelers). After finding the shadiest spot we selected a cricket pitch, and "drove the wickets in," and some of us had a game of "touch and go," or "tip and run"; others tried their skill at dart throwing, while some were exercising their balancing powers on the trunk of a felled tree, lying conveniently across a bank of earth, yclept "see-saw." Some lay in the shade and sang hymns or read the Word. The Soldiers' Home ladies arrived presently, and cooks were told off to boil water for the tea, etc. After tea we had more games, and then sang some of the old favourites, praising the dear Lord for His saving and keeping power, and thanking Him that in His everlasting love He had called us to be His children for ever.

Then we prayed for Miss Schofield, the Homes, and absent friends, etc., and the joy of the Lord was shed abroad in our hearts.

The concensus of opinion was, I think, that we had a most glorious time, but it was "only a fore-taste of glory divine"; and in the words of the hymn—

*"But, lo! there dawns a yet more glorious day,
The saints triumphant rise in bright array,
The King of Glory passes on His way, Alleluia!"*

When the Lord shall make up His jewels, what a day that will be! Glory for me, when the roll is called up yonder, what a gathering and a meeting that will be!

However all pic-nics, and descriptions of them, must come to an end, and so we sought our respective gharries, and returned to the Soldiers' Home as happy a couple of dozen as could be found anywhere.



Dear lady, may God bless you and make His face to shine upon you, and be gracious unto you, and may I know you some day, if not here, around the throne, and may your work go on, and on, for the honour and extension of the kingdom of our dear Lord Jesus.

A Thankoffering, £1, to put a stone in each of your last four new Homes in India, from one who always prays for you and your work among our soldiers.—Belfast, April, 1905.

Dear Miss Sandes,—I am very sorry I have not any more money than ninepence for you. I live down in the country, where I can get nobody to give it to me.—I remain, Yours loving—Nora B—.

A General in India writes—"I enclose a cheque for £5 as a donation to your Homes, and I have this day instructed my bankers, Messrs. Coulter & Co., London, to pay to you £1 annually on 1st January, as a subscription from me to the Homes' Fund. I may mention, that having made the acquaintance of Miss Schofield at Meerut and seen her work there, I know its great value to the soldier."

LEGACY PLANNING

As Christians we believe, and live our lives according to the principle, that everything we own comes from God and is entrusted to us for our life on earth. We are stewards of our family, property, belongings and finances.

We know that this earth is not our home and so we endeavour to steward our possessions in such a way as to leave a lasting legacy. That legacy will first and foremost be a gospel legacy – a godly life lived to the glory of God and so we employ our resources to that end.

We all know that at some stage we will leave this present world and enter our eternal rest and will no longer have need of our earthly possessions. What a joy it is to know that even after our death we can still be a blessing to those we leave behind!

We can use our possessions to make provision for our family and friends, but we can also utilise our possessions to leave a legacy in providing for the furtherance of Gospel work.

Sandes has benefitted in immeasurable ways from individuals who have left a legacy in their wills for a specific project or the wider work of the mission. This giving is not budgeted for and can be utilised in a way that can propel and fuel some previously unplanned aspect to the ministry. In the past, legacies have been used to assist with running and core costs and the purchase of important and necessary items for the Centres.

No matter how large or small, each gift can and will make a significant impact on the work of the mission and ministry for the glory of Jesus Christ.

If you would like to find out more or if you would like to leave a gift in your will to Sandes, please contact the Mission Director who would gratefully speak with you in confidence.

Gift Aid

Gift Aid is a tax relief allowing UK charities such as Sandes to reclaim an extra 25% on every eligible donation made by a UK tax payer.

For every £1 that is kindly and generously donated to further the work of Sandes, HMRC will increase the value of your donation by 25p (25%). This extra amount makes a huge difference to the work of Sandes.

When you donate, please circle "YES" on the donation page to confirm whether or not you are a UK taxpayer. Please note that Gift Aid can only be reclaimed on donations made by individuals who pay UK income or capital gains tax at a rate at least equal to the amount reclaimed on their donations in the current tax year.

If you have any queries, please contact Sandes Head Office on
028 9050 0250 or via email on admin@sandes.org.uk



SANDES

The Soldier's friend since 1869



As a Christian Mission we depend on your prayerful and financial support to sustain our work. Please consider making a donation or joining our mailing list. Stand with us as we seek to bring Christian love and witness to those within the military and help us secure this foothold for the Gospel.

Name:

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I would like to help and support the work of Sandes
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£ _____

Q419

Please treat this and any future donations to Sandes as Gift Aid – Yes / No

Please tick here if you would like a receipt:

We can claim Gift Aid on your donation if you pay Income Tax or Capital Gains Tax. For every £1 you donate, the Inland Revenue will give us 25 pence back, effectively increasing your donation by a further 25% !

(It is important that we keep our records up to date, so please advise us if there is any change in your tax status or address).

You can also donate by:

- Direct Debit
- Standing Order
- Payroll Giving
- Bank transfer
- Leaving a Legacy

Please contact us if you would like more information on ways to donate.

I would like to receive copies of Focus at the above address.

If you would like to arrange for a speaker from Sandes for your Church Group, please contact Sandes Head Office on 028 90 500 250.



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SANDES SOLDIERS' & AIRMEN'S CENTRES
Unit 7, 30 Island Street, Belfast BT4 1DH
Tel: 028 9050 0250 Fax: 028 9022 6233
www.sandes.org.uk