



Prayer
Network

Prayer MATTERS

MARCH 2024



Dear Prayer Matters readers

Welcome to *Prayer Matters* for March.

It's the third month of our new Prayer Rhythm, and we really hope you're finding it a helpful way to pray. We continue with our seven daily themes, setting this heartbeat of prayer for the mission of The Salvation Army.

This month we focus our prayers on all sorts of things, including schools and young people, families and justice, officer appointments and Easter outreach. Let's keep going with the precious and vital work of prayer.

As you get familiar with the Prayer Rhythm, you might even want to create a local version for yourself, or to share with others. Why not take the daily themes from the UKI Prayer Rhythm and use them to pray for your corps and local community? You could approach your town councillors, local charities and businesses and ask how they'd like you to pray for them, then fit the prayers into a monthly calendar that follows the Prayer Rhythm daily themes.

The best thing about a rhythm is that you can use it as a foundation beat, and then have a go at freestyling!

We do also now have a bookmark with the seven daily themes listed, which you can download and print from here:

www.salvationist.org.uk/resources/discipleship/prayer-matters

Thank you for your partnership in prayer.

With love and blessings from the UKI Boiler Room Team

MARCH



FRIDAY 1 MARCH: JUSTICE & RECONCILIATION **Self-Denial Appeal**

We come to the end of our Self-Denial Appeal for 2024, praying for officers in territories where financial constraints mean they often can't get paid their full allowance. We pray for Lieutenants Kayla and Jose Ortuste, in the city of Salto, Uruguay. Every Saturday The Salvation Army runs Bible clubs for children and young people from the streets nearby. We pray for Kayla and Jose as they bring love, warmth and stability to young people from troubled households.

(Information provided by the UKI Video Production Unit who have made the Self-Denial video series)



SATURDAY 2 MARCH: CARE FOR CREATION **Shalom**

Lord, your ineffable peace is broader and deeper than anything this world can give. Help me to live a life intent upon treading softly on this Earth; one which demonstrates your indwelling Shalom. Then, by your grace, others too may receive and enact your peace.

(Major Heather Poxon, Territorial Environmental Officer)



SUNDAY 3 MARCH : SABBATH PRAYER **Let's make a habit of hope**

'Let us hold tightly without wavering to the hope we affirm'
(Hebrews 10:23a *NLT*)

The world is listening out for voices of hope in the midst of war, crisis, poverty and injustice, and we have a message of hope to tell. In our faithful response to God, we choose to be those who look for hope and who hold tightly to it, that others might get hold of it too. At the close of our Self-Denial Appeal, we pray that God will use our financial gifts to bring hope to officers all over the world who serve despite not always having enough money to live on.

(Lyndall Bywater, UKI Boiler Room Team)



MONDAY 4 MARCH: SHARING THE GOOD NEWS **Messy Church**

Father God, we are so grateful for the way Messy Church reaches out to enable people of all ages to learn about you in inclusive and creative ways. May your love and goodness continue to be shared through Salvation Army Messy Church in the UKI Territory and beyond.

(Major David Betteridge, Director of Family Ministries)



TUESDAY 5 MARCH: SERVING & CARING **Parent-and-Toddler Groups**

Dear Lord, we thank you for all the parent-and-toddler groups that operate through The Salvation Army. Being the parent or carer of a young child is a great privilege and joy, but it can be hard at times. May those who attend our parent-and-toddler groups find them to be places of love and acceptance, places where they feel supported and cared for.

(Major David Betteridge, Director of Family Ministries)



WEDNESDAY 6 MARCH: GROWING IN FAITH **Parenting and grandparenting**

Thank you for resources that equip and empower people to express their growing relationship with you to their families. Thank you that we can grow as disciples, whatever age or stage of our lives, telling of your faithfulness from one generation to the next.

(Major David Betteridge, Director of Family Ministries)



THURSDAY 7 MARCH: INTERNATIONAL SALVATION **ARMY - Taiwan Region**

The Salvation Army in Taiwan is led by the Regional Commander and Regional President of Women's Ministries, Major Sara Tam. There are five corps, two outposts, one day centre and three community services. Their heart is to constantly explore new relevant initiatives to serve the people of Taiwan, endeavouring to meet their physical, social and spiritual needs.

(Taken from the Taiwan Region webpage)



FRIDAY 8 MARCH: JUSTICE & RECONCILIATION **Partnership with Restored**

Father God, we pray your protection over those who experience abuse from those who should love them. Thank you for calling The Salvation Army to partner with Christian charity Restored, to enable local corps to be 'Beacon Churches' journeying with survivors of domestic abuse. We pray that many will find safety and new hope through this partnership.

(Major David Betteridge, Director of Family Ministries)



SATURDAY 9 MARCH: CARE FOR CREATION **Our interdependence**

Lord, the poet John Donne said that 'no man is an island', but we have pushed people away from us – those that make our lives uncomfortable – forgetting that we only ever isolate ourselves, and are therefore impoverished. Lead us back to each other, to bear our vulnerabilities and work together for healthy communities.

(Major Heather Poxon, Territorial Environmental Officer)



SUNDAY 10 MARCH: SABBATH PRAYER **Let's make a habit of kindness**

'Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works' (Hebrews 10:24 *NLT*)

On this Mother's Day we give thanks for the kindness we've been shown in our lives – by a mother figure, by other caregivers, by friends and colleagues, by our church family, and of course by God. Every act of kindness has nurtured and 'mothered' us, and so our faithful response to God is to keep the kindness going. We 'pay it forward', choosing to shower kindness on those around us.

(Lyndall Bywater, UKI Boiler Room Team)



MONDAY 11 MARCH: SHARING THE GOOD NEWS **Cadets on the move**

11 residential cadets and 4 distance learners are waiting to receive news of their first appointments as officers. They have committed to trust God

and The Salvation Army to send them out for service, but trusting God does not mean that they don't have flutters of nervousness. Please pray for peace as they wait, for deep joy as they move into the plans God has for them (Jeremiah 29:11), and for excitement as they look ahead to the many ways they will share Jesus with those they meet.

(Lieut-Colonel Judith Payne, Principal, William Booth College)



TUESDAY 12 MARCH: SERVING & CARING **Officers on the move**

For officers expecting news of a change of appointment, there can be a host of changing emotions. It is good that we can trust in a God who goes before us, who follows us and who places his hand of blessing upon us (Psalm 139:5 *NLT*). Pray that all officers moving this year will experience the presence of God in this way, particularly as they receive news of their new appointments this week.

(Lieut-Colonel Judith Payne, Principal, William Booth College)



WEDNESDAY 13 MARCH: GROWING IN FAITH **Corps and centres on the move**

Many officers and cadets will receive news of a geographical 'move' tomorrow as new appointments are announced. For corps and centres awaiting news of their future leadership, the move may not be geographical, but it is no less real. Pray today for corps and centres journeying towards a change in leadership; for peace and joy as they prepare for a new season.

(Lyndall Bywater, UKI Boiler Room Team)



THURSDAY 14 MARCH: INTERNATIONAL **SALVATION ARMY - Mozambique Territory**

In our Worldwide Prayer Meeting we pray today for the Mozambique Territory; for Colonel Jabulani Khoza, Territorial Commander, Colonel Fikile Khoza, Territorial President of Women's Ministries, Lieut-Colonel Mario Nhacumba, Chief Secretary and Lieut-Colonel Celeste Nhacumba, Territorial Secretary for Women's Ministries. We pray for wisdom in decision-making and courage in planning.

We pray for faith to believe for the 'greater things' which God wants to do in Mozambique (John 14:12).

(Lyndall Bywater, UKI Boiler Room Team)



FRIDAY 15 MARCH: JUSTICE & RECONCILIATION **Discerning justice**

Just as many of Jesus' followers had different ideas about the kind of justice he was bringing to the world, so today we see people fighting for justice in different ways. Let's pray that God will help us to discern what justice and reconciliation look like, when the Kingdom of God comes on earth as it is in Heaven.

(Major Nick Coke, Territorial Co-ordinator for Justice and Reconciliation)



SATURDAY 16 MARCH: CARE FOR CREATION **Our shared hope**

Lord, it's easy to feel despair as we view a groaning world. Help us to remember that you are a God of redemption, restoration and healing. With you, all things are possible. Teach us to work with you to bring about a new Heaven and a new earth. Your Kingdom come!

(Major Heather Poxon, Territorial Environmental Officer)



SUNDAY 17 MARCH: SABBATH PRAYER **Let's make a habit of unity**

'Let us not neglect our meeting together ... but encourage one another' (Hebrews 10:25 *NLT*)

It can be hard to know what 'unity' means when we come up against issues that we don't agree on. It can be hard to know how to be united when division or discord eat away at our sense of community. Part of our faithful response to God is to learn how to keep 'meeting together' ...to keep finding one another, hearing one another, loving one another, no matter what our differences may be. Lord, help us, we pray.

(Lyndall Bywater, UKI Boiler Room Team)



MONDAY 18 MARCH: SHARING THE GOOD NEWS **Schoolswork Conference**

The Children and Youth Schoolswork Conference has been exploring The Salvation Army's presence in schools. Thank you, God, that you have inspired people, stirred up passions and spoken into many hearts. Spirit, guide us to discern your will for how best to share the good news in schools, and equip us for the task.

(Lieutenant Kat Whitmore, Territorial Youth and Children's Secretary)



TUESDAY 19 MARCH: SERVING & CARING **Shining God's light in school**

Jesus, we pray for your disciples who spend time in schools as staff, students and volunteers. In the classroom, the staffroom and the playground, may the way they love and care for others be a demonstration of your loving kindness that glorifies and points others to you.

(Lieutenant Kat Whitmore, Territorial Youth and Children's Secretary)



WEDNESDAY 20 MARCH: GROWING IN FAITH **Schools resources**

God, we pray for those who work to create resources and programmes for schools. Thank you for their influence. May you continue a deep work in them personally, so that their growing faith overflows into all they create. Through their work, may others encounter you and come to know you.

(Lieutenant Kat Whitmore, Territorial Youth and Children's Secretary)



THURSDAY 21 MARCH: INTERNATIONAL **SALVATION ARMY - USA Western Territory**

We pray for the USA Western Territory, and its leaders, Commissioners Douglas and Colleen Riley and Colonels Eddie and Genevera Vincent. We pray particularly today for those who are seeking to pioneer new ways of being The Salvation Army, seeking to reach those who have little or no interest in church. Give them bold, innovative hearts.

(Lyndall Bywater, UKI Boiler Room Team)



FRIDAY 22 MARCH: JUSTICE & RECONCILIATION **Territorial Youth Justice and Reconciliation Forum**

Please pray for the new Territorial Youth Justice and Reconciliation Forum which is gathering for the first time this evening. Pray for strong relationships to be built between the members, a willingness to listen to one another's perspectives, and a real sense of God's presence throughout.

(Major Nick Coke, Territorial Co-ordinator for Justice and Reconciliation)



SATURDAY 23 MARCH: CARE FOR CREATION **Justice**

Lord, we are called to an uncompromising rebellion against those things which are causing suffering, pain and poverty. Give us the courage to speak up and speak out, in your name, for your world. Make us warriors at this time of global crisis. Help us to find our voice.

(Major Heather Poxon, Territorial Environmental Officer)



SUNDAY 24 MARCH (PALM SUNDAY): SABBATH **PRAYER - Let's bring ourselves**

'Many in the crowds spread their garments on the road ahead of him'
(Mark 11:8 *NLT*)

As Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey, he found himself enveloped in celebration and devotion. This crowd were keen to make their faithful response. Whether it was to calm the donkey or give Jesus the 'red carpet' treatment, they responded by offering their clothes. Clothes in those days were handmade, unique and precious; in laying them down, they laid down something of themselves. Our habits matter; habits of prayer, hope, kindness and unity bring great joy to God's heart and help to build God's Kingdom, but the faithful response God loves most is when we bring our unique, precious selves.

(Lyndall Bywater, UKI Boiler Room Team)



MONDAY 25 MARCH: SHARING THE GOOD NEWS Easter outreach

'I am the way' (John 14:6)

Lord Jesus, our way, you are the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, and you have said that no one comes to the Father except through you. Forgive us when we have bypassed you, settling for religion rather than proclaiming the amazing good news of your gospel of grace. Give us boldness to speak about you, our Saviour.

(Captains Tim and Christiane Swansbury, Rotherham Corps)



TUESDAY 26 MARCH: SERVING & CARING Easter welcome

'I am ... the truth' (John 14:6)

Saviour Jesus, our truth, you came to us full of grace and truth, and made your dwelling among us. Give us courage to follow your example by going to those who need to know you, your grace and your truth. Give us compassion to speak and serve in your name.

(Captains Tim and Christiane Swansbury, Rotherham Corps)



WEDNESDAY 27 MARCH: GROWING IN FAITH Easter disciples

'I am ... the life' (John 14:6)

King Jesus, our life, we declare with you that you are the resurrection and the life, that the one who believes in you will live, even though they die, and whoever lives by believing in you will never die (John 11:25,26). We believe this! Help us, Jesus, in our unbelief, and help us to grow in faith and fullness of life with you.

(Captains Tim and Christiane Swansbury, Rotherham Corps)



THURSDAY 28 MARCH: INTERNATIONAL **SALVATION ARMY - Sweden and Latvia Territory**

We give thanks for The Salvation Army in Sweden and Latvia; for Colonel Bo Jeppsson, Territorial Commander, and for Colonel Christina Jeppsson, Territorial President of Women's Ministries. We give thanks for

the recent celebrations in Latvia, marking 100 years since the beginning of The Salvation Army's work there. We pray that The Salvation Army in Sweden and Latvia will go from strength to strength.

(Lyndall Bywater, UKI Boiler Room Team)



FRIDAY 29 MARCH: JUSTICE & RECONCILIATION **Good Friday**

On this Good Friday, let's acknowledge how the death of Jesus on the cross is a transformative, cosmic moment in the history of creation. Let's praise God for Jesus' willingness to go to the cross to defeat evil, and bring justice and reconciliation to all things.

(Major Nick Coke, Territorial Co-ordinator for Justice and Reconciliation)



SATURDAY 30 MARCH: CARE FOR CREATION **Sabbath**

Lord, you established rhythms of rest and work which are beautifully mirrored in creation. Give us eyes to see how we can move with you, to seek first your Kingdom, acknowledging your ongoing work of creative regeneration. 'Praise with elation, praise every morning, God's recreation of the new day' (from 'Morning has broken' by Eleanor Farjeon).

(Major Heather Poxon, Territorial Environmental Officer)



SUNDAY 31 MARCH (EASTER SUNDAY): SABBATH **PRAYER - Let's live!**

'The Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from the dead, lives in you.'
(Romans 8:11 *NLT*)

Happy Easter! May you know the resurrection life of Jesus filling you and overflowing from you today. May it renew you deep inside. May it be your motivation and your energy, as you live out your faithful response to God, and may it cause your habits of faithfulness to be shot through with joy.

(Lyndall Bywater, UKI Boiler Room Team)



NOTES



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