



Prayer
Network

Prayer MATTERS

JUNE 2024

Dear Prayer Matters readers

Welcome to June's edition of *Prayer Matters*.

We continue our UKI Prayer Rhythm, praying for a different 'big theme' each day:



Monday
Sharing the Good News



Tuesday
Serving and Caring



Wednesday
Growing in Faith



Thursday
International Salvation Army



Friday
Justice and Reconciliation



Saturday
Care for Creation



Sunday
Sabbath Prayer

This month we're praying into two big issues: our response to refugees and our care for the planet. Our Sunday Sabbath prayers are all on the theme of fatherhood, since it's Father's Day in the middle of the month; and we focus on the East of England Division and the Wales Division. It's a big month in the Wales Division as they begin 150 days of prayer to mark the 150th anniversary of The Salvation Army in Wales, so please do hold them in your prayers.

We also spend a few days praying for The Salvation Army's Employment Plus service, which helps people to find work, and we also pray for a few important events happening around the territory.

Thank you for taking the time to pray with us. Together our prayers help strengthen the heartbeat of our Salvation Army mission.

Lyndall Bywater on behalf of the UKI Prayer Team

JUNE



SATURDAY 1 JUNE: CARE FOR CREATION **Worship the Creator**

For the month of June, we will be inspired by the new care for creation worship resources published on salvationist.org.uk

This bank of ideas will grow over time and will help us to make time regularly in our worship services to praise our Creator God, to lament for environmental hurt and destruction, to learn more about God as creator, preserver and reconciler, and to live as disciples made in God's image.

Let's begin by praying that our places of worship will be places where we can regularly sing, pray, praise and lament to our Creator, and be inspired and challenged about how we can care for creation as individuals and as church communities.

(Carl Jobson, Head of Mission Resources)



SUNDAY 2 JUNE: SABBATH PRAYER **A Father's Prayer**

Father of all fathers – whose infinite love, patience and forgiveness leave me breathless at my too often floundering attempts to follow – please hold, teach and guide me, that I might rise up to be that better man whom you call me to be.

(Major Adrian Lee, Huddersfield Corps)



MONDAY 3 JUNE: SHARING THE GOOD NEWS **Wales Division**

Loving God, in this 150th anniversary year of The Salvation Army in Wales, we pray for everyone linked to the Movement in the Principality. As the anniversary theme is Dyma Gariad (Here is Love) help them to share the good news of Jesus in whom the love of God is revealed, and to serve people in their communities, so that others may say, 'Here is love'.

(Lieut-Colonel Jonathan Roberts, Divisional Commander – Wales)



TUESDAY 4 JUNE: SERVING & CARING **Divisional Leaders Induction (3-5 June)**

Father God, we offer prayer for those attending the divisional leaders induction. May they sense your blessing and affirmation as they prepare for challenging responsibilities as a leader of leaders. Please equip them for practical service and spiritual ministry. Please continue to place your calling on our lives, wherever we can best minister in the name of Jesus.

(Lieut-Colonel Jayne Roberts, Secretary for Spiritual Life Development)



WEDNESDAY 5 JUNE: GROWING IN FAITH **East of England Division**

Pray for the cadets who will be arriving in the division in July for their summer placement, that they will know they are in God's hands and will be affirmed and empowered by his Holy Spirit. Pray, too, for local leaders who have oversight of unofficered corps, for energy, inspiration and a sense of fulfilment. Thank God for them.

(Major Pam Pitt, Assistant Divisional Commander – East of England Division)



THURSDAY 6 JUNE: INTERNATIONAL SALVATION **ARMY - United Kingdom & Ireland Territory**

As the Salvation Army world holds our territory in prayer this week, we give thanks for the privilege of being part of a global family: for the joy of having brothers and sisters around the world who share our spiritual DNA, and for the blessing of being able to work together to build the Kingdom of God.

(Lyndall Bywater, UKI Boiler Room Team)



FRIDAY 7 JUNE: JUSTICE & RECONCILIATION **Refugee Response: Lament**

We lament over the treatment of people seeking asylum in the UK. We lament over the loneliness and isolation experienced in our communities. We lament over families living in squalor and fear. We lament over the re-traumatisation of those fleeing conflict and violence. We lament over people being put at risk of slavery and exploitation. Forgive us, Lord.

(Ben Still, Refugee Response Manager)



SATURDAY 8 JUNE: CARE FOR CREATION **Breath of God**

Use this simple breath prayer as a reminder of the way that God breathed life into all things and consider how we can breathe out this creativity and care in our lives.

Lord, we thank you for the beauty and wonder that can be seen in all of creation. As you breathed life into this world and into our beings, we ask you to breathe life into us once again.

We pray for you to give us the strength to respond to creation in a way which reflects your loving care and concern for all things.

As we breathe in your love, help us to breathe out your love.

As we breathe in your grace, help us to breathe out your grace.

As we breathe in your beauty, help us to breathe out your beauty.

May we reflect your nature in all that we do.

(Taken from Care for Creation worship resources on salvationist.org.uk)



SUNDAY 9 JUNE: SABBATH PRAYER **Absent Fathers**

Our Father in Heaven, we thank you for the love and example of good fathers. We recognise the societal consequences when fathers are absent physically or emotionally, and we ask you to break through into their lives, teaching them how to be truly present for their families: present in body, heart and mind. We pray too for their children, that you will help them sense your presence and receive your love and healing. May we, as imperfect fathers, point our children to you, their perfect Father, and the real hero.

(Captain Tim Swansbury, Rotherham Corps)



MONDAY 10 JUNE: SHARING THE GOOD NEWS Wales Division

Living God, we pray for the work of The Salvation Army in Wales – through corps, outreach centres, homelessness services, charity shops, prison ministries, fresh expressions, divisional headquarters, and the witness of individuals. We ask you to raise up leaders and provide resources for existing work to flourish and new work to develop. May your name be glorified in every expression of mission and ministry.

(Lieut-Colonel Jonathan Roberts, Divisional Commander – Wales)



TUESDAY 11 JUNE: SERVING & CARING Together 2024 'Dyma Gariad' (13-14 July)

This year's Commissioning and Territorial Gathering is happening in Newport, Wales, next month, and is one of the ways we will be celebrating 150 years of The Salvation Army in Wales. 'Dyma Gariad' means 'Here is love'. Pray that all who attend will capture a sense of God's love, 'vast as the ocean', pouring out as we celebrate his faithfulness through a century and a half of mission and ministry in Wales, and as we ask for more of his love to be poured out over our nation.

(Captain Kathryn Stowers, Divisional Ecumenical Officer – Wales Division)



WEDNESDAY 12 JUNE: GROWING IN FAITH Brenle Institute 2024 (11-19 June)

We pray for the 30 officers attending Brenle Institute 2024 – a week of learning and retreat at Sunbury Court. As their time together gets under way, may they quickly become a community, experiencing deep renewal in spirit and finding much-needed rest and refreshment during these days. Lord, be with and inspire the team who will teach and lead this event.

(Lieut-Colonel Jayne Roberts, Secretary for Spiritual Life Development)



THURSDAY 13 JUNE: INTERNATIONAL SALVATION ARMY - India Eastern Territory

Pray for the India Eastern Territory, its territorial leaders, Commissioners John Kumar and Mani Kumari, and its regional and local leaders. Pray for all those caring for the needs of the poorest in society, for miraculous provision of everything they need to help people find a way out of poverty.

(Lyndall Bywater, UKI Boiler Room Team)



FRIDAY 14 JUNE: JUSTICE & RECONCILIATION **Refugee Week (17-23 June)**

As we prepare for Refugee Week with its theme of 'Our Home', let us reflect on the words of Malala Yousafzai: 'To me, a home is where you feel loved, safe, and cherished.' Grant us the generosity of spirit, Lord, that all sanctuary seekers may have this experience of home at The Salvation Army.

(Ben Still, Refugee Response Manager)



SATURDAY 15 JUNE: CARE FOR CREATION **Great Big Green Week (8-16 June)**

The Great Big Green Week is an annual event which provides a great chance to do something to live out our mission priority to care for creation in our local communities. Let's pray for all those who have taken part over the past week to care for our world and tackle climate change. May God bless all the actions that have taken place and the connections created in local communities. Pray also that people will have seen a glimpse of God's desire to reconcile all things, and that they will have seen that the Church cares about these issues too.

Visit www.greatbiggreenweek.com for more info.

(Carl Jobson, Head of Mission Resources)



SUNDAY 16 JUNE: SABBATH PRAYER **Father's Day**

We pray today for dads:

- New dads, granddads, stepdads, adoptive dads and solo dads.
- Baldy ones, beardy ones, skinny ones and cuddly ones.
- Dads who tell bad jokes and dads who dance to YMCA.
- Dads who know how to fix things, and dads who just pretend.

Father to the fatherless, we pray for those for whom this day is sadder than it is happy:

- Those who feel they have failed.
- Those who are grieving children they never had.
- Those missing their dads, or their children, even more than usual.

And finally, Lord, for all those poor souls everywhere who forgot that today is Father's Day, we ask you to bless them, in your abundant grace and manifold mercy, with the discovery of chocolate and half-decent cards in surprisingly well-stocked convenience stores.

(Pete Greig, Founder of 24-7 Prayer; taken from www.dirtyglory.org)



MONDAY 17 JUNE: SHARING THE GOOD NEWS **East of England Division**

Pray for the Growing Leaders course starting in September; that those God is calling to be a part of it will say 'yes'. Pray too for the team who are preparing to lead it over the next year.

Pray for our new divisional children's worker who will join our other youth and children's workers in discipling and encouraging our youth and children.

(Major Pam Pitt, Assistant Divisional Commander – East of England Division)



TUESDAY 18 JUNE: SERVING & CARING **Launch of 150 Days of Prayer in Wales**

Today The Salvation Army in Wales begins 150 days of prayer to mark its 150th anniversary. Faithful God, we pray that you will pour your blessing on everyone linked to the Army in Wales. May the stories of past blessings inspire them to pray for the moving of your Spirit in the present, and to seek your wisdom and power to serve this generation.

(Lieut-Colonel Jonathan Roberts, Divisional Commander – Wales)



WEDNESDAY 19 JUNE: GROWING IN FAITH **Brengle 2024 (11 – 19 June)**

As Brengle 2024 concludes with a Covenant Service, we pray for all who have participated this year. May they return to their appointments strengthened and encouraged, filled with renewed understanding of their calling to live a holy life. Thank you, Lord, for every opportunity to learn and grow spiritually through the abundant resources available to us.

(Lieut-Colonel Jayne Roberts, Secretary for Spiritual Life Development)



THURSDAY 20 JUNE: INTERNATIONAL **SALVATION ARMY – Indonesia Territory**

Pray for the territorial leadership team, Commissioners Yusak and Widiawati Tampai and Lieut-Colonels Hosea and Liliana Makagiantang. The territory celebrates its 30th anniversary this year. Pray that there will be much joy in looking back over all that God has done, and much hope in looking forward to the dreams which are yet to be realised.

(Lyndall Bywater, UKI Boiler Room Team)



FRIDAY 21 JUNE: JUSTICE & RECONCILIATION **Refugee Response: Giving Thanks**

As we reach the end of Refugee Week, let us give thanks for and celebrate the contributions, creativity and resilience of refugees and people seeking sanctuary. We thank you for the gifts and skills they share with us and our communities. We thank you for the way they help us see you and your story anew. Thank you for bringing them into our families!

(Ben Still, Refugee Response Manager)



SATURDAY 22 JUNE: CARE FOR CREATION **Have Mercy**

Spend some time thinking about the outdoor spaces in your community, or some of your favourite spots to visit. Are you aware of how they have changed over the years? If you have known them for a while, you may have witnessed the changes at first hand, or they may be more subtle and harder to spot.

We know that much of our natural world has been damaged or destroyed due to greed, carelessness or ignorance. We also know we continue to make choices that aren't 'care-full' for reasons of cost or convenience. In a spirit of lament, spend some time bringing these places and our actions to God, and pray: 'Lord, have mercy.'

(Carl Jobson, Head of Mission Resources)



SUNDAY 23 JUNE: SABBATH PRAYER **Healing Fatherhood**

Father God, in a world where some dads are distant, absent or even abusive, we lean into your ever-present love. You are faithful, especially to those of us orphaned, abandoned and hurt. 'Even if my father ... abandon me, the Lord will hold me close' (Psalm 27:10 *NLT*)
Father of comfort, heal our wounds. Restore the dignity, integrity and centrality of fatherhood in our nation. 'I kneel before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name' (Ephesians 3:14,15). 'And I pray that you ... may ... know this love' (vv17-19).

(Pete Greig, Founder of 24-7 Prayer; taken from www.dirtyglory.org)



MONDAY 24 JUNE: SHARING THE GOOD NEWS **Employment Plus Team**

We pray for The Salvation Army's Employment Plus service, helping job-seekers to get a job and stay in work. We pray that the Employment Plus team will continue to demonstrate the good news and love of Jesus in everything they do daily. Pray for wisdom, strength and guidance as they face many challenges, welcoming those who are looking to The Salvation Army for all kinds of support – not just help finding work.

(David Rowlanes, Mission Development Manager)



TUESDAY 25 JUNE: SERVING & CARING **Employment Plus**

We pray for the people who come to Employment Plus for help and support, some from the Church community and some from the Government programmes that Employment Plus delivers. All are important and need prayers. Many are in complex situations, needing support in many ways. We pray that our Employability Advisers will be guided as they support them with whatever help they need.

(David Rowlanes, Mission Development Manager)



WEDNESDAY 26 JUNE: GROWING IN FAITH **Employment Plus: Integrated Mission**

We give thanks for the integrated mission opportunities that are provided by Employment Plus for its clients; for the way in which The Salvation Army is equipped to meet people's needs in a holistic way. We pray for each corps and centre where Employment Plus is run, that God will help them offer love and care, helping their clients to find their way to life in all its fullness (John 10:10).

(David Rowlanes, Mission Development Manager)



THURSDAY 27 JUNE: INTERNATIONAL **SALVATION ARMY - Southern Africa Territory**

The Southern Africa Territory encompasses five countries: South Africa, Namibia, the Island of St Helena, Lesotho and Eswatini (Swaziland). The territory's ministry includes daycare centres for both pre-school children and senior citizens; goodwill centres and health services; crèches; homes for children (including street children) and for abused women, men and elderly people; community programmes; rehabilitation centres, social centres and schools. Give thanks for the many ways in which God's love is being shown to the people of Southern Africa, and pray blessing on all who are serving there.

(Lyndall Bywater, UKI Boiler Room Team; information taken from www.salvationarmy.org.za)



FRIDAY 28 JUNE: JUSTICE & RECONCILIATION **Refugee Response: Our Response**

We pray for the determination and integrity to do our part to bring an end to the causes of displacement. We will pray and act for peace and reconciliation. We will call for justice. We will seek ways to reduce the impact of climate change. We will recognise our privileged position and be generous with what we have. Speak to our hearts, O Lord.

(Ben Still, Refugee Response Manager)



SATURDAY 29 JUNE: CARE FOR CREATION **The Reverse Prayer of St Francis**

We know that tackling both the climate and biodiversity crises requires all of us to step up and take individual action – but that we also need to see large-scale changes take place. These big changes take time, and that means we need to continue to take action and show that these changes are important and necessary. Pray this prayer so that you will be equipped to keep going in your care for creation.

Dear Lord, make me a channel of disturbance.
Where there is apathy, let me provoke.
Where there is compliance, let me bring questioning.
Where there is silence, may I be a voice.
Where there is too much comfort and too little action, grant disruption.
Where there are doors closed and hearts locked,
Grant me the willingness to listen.
When laws dictate and pain is overlooked ...
When tradition speaks louder than need ...
Grant that I may seek rather to do justice than to talk about it.
Disturb us, O Lord,
To be with, as well as for, the alienated;
To love the unlovable, as well as the lovely.
Lord, make me a channel of disturbance.

(Author unknown)

(Taken from the Care for Creation worship resources on salvationist.org.uk)

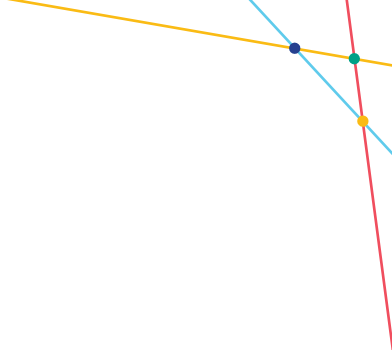


SUNDAY 30 JUNE: SABBATH PRAYER **The Father's Love**

Father in Heaven, so often as fathers we feel inadequate and that we don't measure up to the responsibility. We thank you that, in you, we see the character we should model, and that is the characteristic of love. We pray for fathers who are struggling with feelings of inadequacy, that they will learn to love as you love us.

(Major John Mclean, Bedford Congress Hall Corps)

NOTES





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