

# Dear Prayer Matters readers

Welcome to the July edition of *Prayer Matters*.

This month we continue our task of praying for the ministry and mission of The Salvation Army. It's a busy month in the UKI Territory, with a territorial gathering happening in Birmingham and a couple of our biggest residential events taking place too, and we will of course be covering all of it in prayer.

It's also the month when some officers move, when some cadets are commissioned and when others go on summer placement. We will be praying for them through all of these transitions. We will also be praying for corps who don't have any appointed officers at the moment.

Our Friday Justice and Reconciliation prayers help us to pray around the issue of gender identity, and on Saturdays we will be praying for communities in the poorest nations of the world who are affected by climate change. And on top of all that, we will make some flying visits to North Scotland and Ireland in our divisional focus

As ever, we are inordinately grateful for your partnership in prayer, and we frequently get the joy of seeing God at work in answer to what we pray in this calendar. So let's keep going ...

Blessings.

Lyndall Bywater
and the LIKI Boiler Room Team

#### **JULY**



#### TUESDAY 1 JULY: SERVING AND CARING North Scotland Division

We thank God for cadets joining us for the summer, and for new lieutenants preparing for their first appointments. In these new beginnings, we ask God for guidance and direction in shaping the future ministry in the places where cadets and lieutenants will minister and serve, allowing the message of Jesus Christ to be brought into communities

(Major Gillian Jackson, Divisional Leader)



#### WEDNESDAY 2 JULY: GROWING IN FAITH Ireland Division

Our young people's work is going through a period of significant transition. We thank God for our young people, and we are grateful for local and divisional youth teams who are committed to journeying with them as they discover more of Jesus. Pray that God will encourage and build up our young people, and pray for wisdom for our youth leaders.

(Major Jonathan Rouffet, Divisional Leader)



# THURSDAY 3 JULY: INTERNATIONAL SALVATION ARMY - India Northern Territory

Today we pray for the India Northern Territory, asking God's blessing on all those who worship and serve in the corps and centres across this vast area. We pray particularly for those whose families were affected by the partition of India and Pakistan almost 80 years ago, and pray that God will use the Army to bring healing and hope where the wounds of that time are still felt. We pray God's blessing on the territorial leadership team of Colonels Vanlalfela Chawnghlut and Khupchawng Ropari, and Lieut-Colonels Andrews and Sunita Christian.

(Lyndall Bywater, UKI Boiler Room Team)



# FRIDAY 4 JULY: JUSTICE AND RECONCILIATION Gender identity

Dear God, we thank you for the beauty of diversity in creation, including human beings. We pray for The Salvation Army to be a welcoming and safe space for transgender people. May every person be accepted as your beloved child. Grant us strength to speak out against prejudice and to foster understanding.

(Lieut-Colonel Jayne Roberts, Officer in Retirement)



#### SATURDAY 5 JULY: CARE FOR CREATION Zimbabwe - Food security

Pray for farmers in Zimbabwe, often the poorest and hungriest sector of society. Reliant on rain and sunshine for successful harvests, they walk the impossible road between intermittent flooding and droughts. Pray for the Salvation Army team leading the agricultural training programme Farming God's Way, working to mitigate losses and ensure families have good food to eat and sell.

(Major Heather Poxon, Territorial Environmental Officer)



#### **SUNDAY 6 JULY: SABBATH PRAYER** Farewell Sunday

For many officers, today will be the last Sunday in their current appointment before they move to a new corps. We pray that it will be a day of happy memories and helpful reflections, and that there will be joy amidst the sadness of leaving. We pray particularly for officers' children, who may feel confused or uncertain at the prospect of life in a new place. We pray that God will give them peace that surpasses understanding.

(Lyndall Bywater, UKI Boiler Room Team)



#### MONDAY 7 JULY: SHARING THE GOOD NEWS Together 25 (Birmingham, 11-13 July)

As we meet for Together 25, there will be those who witness this event simply because they happen to be around the city this weekend – in the restaurants and walkways, in the hotel lobby, doing their usual Saturday morning run, or resting in the sunshine in Brindley Place. May each person suddenly and strongly feel drawn into your presence, and may we reflect Jesus to them in every way.

(Lieut-Colonel Jane Cowell, Assistant Chief Secretary)



# TUESDAY 8 JULY: SERVING AND CARING Together 25 (Birmingham, 11-13 July)

Holy Spirit, go before us and surround Together 25 with your presence and your mighty power. Inspire all who attend, and open our hearts to your purpose. Encourage and strengthen us. Give us vision to see where you are leading next, and the courage to join you in your mission to bring fullness of life. Amen.

(Lieut-Colonel Jane Cowell, Assistant Chief Secretary)



#### WEDNESDAY 9 JULY: GROWING IN FAITH Covenant Day

Today we bring you our second-year cadets, the Champions of the Mission, as they sign their Covenant. As they kneel and sign, may they recognise the significance of this moment and feel your loving presence around them. Would they know that you are affirming, guiding and sustaining them, both now and throughout their ministry. Lord, we commit their ministry into your hands for your glory and praise.

(Cadet Amy Bayliss-Fox)



#### THURSDAY 10 JULY: INTERNATIONAL SALVATION ARMY - Japan Territory

We pray today for the Japan Territory, where The Salvation Army's work began as far back as 130 years ago. We give thanks for those who have preached the gospel and passed the baton of faith from generation to generation, and we pray that God will raise up a new generation of passionate young evangelists to communicate the love of God in ways

that will reach the young people of Japan. We pray for the territorial leadership team of Colonels Stephen and Wendy Morris, and Lieut-Colonels Tamotsu and Kazue Nishimura.

(Lyndall Bywater, UKI Boiler Room Team)



# FRIDAY 11 JULY: JUSTICE AND RECONCILIATION Gender identity

Dear Lord, we thank you for each person who has found their spiritual home within The Salvation Army. Teach us to listen compassionately to those who have known hurt and rejection because they are transgender. May our corps and centres be places of love and acceptance, where every person is valued and included in Christian fellowship.

(Lieut-Colonel Jayne Roberts, Officer in Retirement)



#### SATURDAY 12 JULY: CARE FOR CREATION Mali - Water security

Mali faces a critical water security crisis as global warming increases the length of the dry season, and women and children must walk further in search of water. We pray for Salvation Army staff preparing to provide boreholes and hygiene education to children and families.

(Major Heather Poxon, Territorial Environmental Officer)



# **SUNDAY 13 JULY: SABBATH PRAYER**Officer commissioning

Lord, as we prepare for the commissioning of new lieutenants, we express our gratitude for your guidance. Grant us wisdom to discern your will, and courage to follow the path you have set for us. Surround us with humility and ground us in your word, enabling us to lead with compassion and serve with integrity. Bless our families with peace, and as we start our ministry, deepen our calling and reveal your purpose in our lives.

(Cadet Emma Scott)

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Throughout the division God is opening new doors of opportunity, particularly as we partner with other churches, schools and community groups. Pray that we will know when to take hold of fresh opportunities and when to let them go, recognising 'There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens' (Ecclesiastes 3:1, NIV).

(Major Gillian Jackson, Divisional Leader)



#### TUESDAY 15 JULY: SERVING AND CARING Age and later life

We join with The Salvation Army's Equality, Diversity, Inclusion and Belonging Team in their prayer theme for this month, which is 'age'. Amazing God, thank you that you have been there for us in the experiences of our lives, both good and bad. For those of us approaching our later years, help us to embrace and enjoy life. We pray for those older people who are struggling with infirmity, illness, limited mobility and loneliness. May they meet you and get to know you even more. Bless those who commit their lives to caring for the elderly. Fill them with energy and teach them how to bring love and support to those finding aging difficult.

(Taken from the Equality, Diversity, Inclusion and Belonging Resource Calendar)



# WEDNESDAY 16 JULY: GROWING IN FAITH Enabled Summer Extravaganza (Northampton, 14-20 July)

This year marks 50 years of the Enabled summer event, and we pray for all those attending the Extravaganza this week. May the presence of God be tangible; may the message of God's love be clear and heart-warming; and may there be more joy and laughter than ever before.

(Lyndall Bywater, UKI Boiler Room Team)

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# THURSDAY 17 JULY: INTERNATIONAL SALVATION ARMY - Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea Territory

We pray for the work of The Salvation Army across Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea today. Guinea is one of the newest countries to receive the Army, and yet it already has 120 officers, 19 cadets and over 8,000 soldiers. We give thanks for this testimony of many lives changed. We pray for peace across this whole region, and ask you, God, to protect and provide for Salvationists there. We pray for territorial leaders Lieut-Colonel Luka and Rasoa Khayumbi, and Lieut-Colonels Dieudonné and Edith Louzolo.

(Lyndall Bywater, UKI Boiler Room Team)



#### FRIDAY 18 JULY: JUSTICE AND RECONCILATION Gender identity

Father God, we ask for strength to stand against intolerance and ignorance directed at transgender individuals. We thank you for transgender members and employees who share their stories with us, fostering understanding and respect. We ask your blessing on them and their families as we journey together in mission, growing as disciples of Jesus

(Lieut-Colonel Jayne Roberts, Officer in Retirement)



#### SATURDAY 19 JULY: CARE FOR CREATION Brazil - Forest fires

The Salvation Army's Arco Verde centre in Brazil owns a large piece of forested land, and part of their ministry is teaching children about caring for creation. Last September, around 4,000 of their trees burnt down and the children, families and participants were devastated. Pray for the staff as they work through this crisis and find ways to continue to be an oasis for their communities.

(Major Heather Poxon, Territorial Environmental Officer)



Heavenly Father, thank you for the Keepers of the Covenant Session. You love them and you have chosen them for your holy work. Father, I ask you to glorify yourself through them, and guide them by your Spirit. Give them wisdom and fill them with your peace. Bless them in the name of your Son.

(Cadet Imrich Carny)



#### MONDAY 21 JULY: SHARING THE GOOD NEWS Ireland Division

We have fledgling ministries in unexpected places across the Ireland Division. Many of these have emerged as a result of local people seeing a need, and responding with practical and spiritual support. Two examples of this are The Haven drop-in in Newry, and the charity shop in Larne. We are just about to have a community chaplain appointed, and also have some opportunities for closer working relationships between our centres and corps in Dublin and Belfast. Pray for an openness to God's leading and local/divisional discernment over next steps.

(Major Jonathan Rouffet, Divisional Leader)



#### TUESDAY 22 JULY: SERVING AND CARING Corps without appointed officers

Today we pray for corps that don't have an officer appointed to leadership. Major Mary Wolfe, in the Wales Division, gives us an example of the challenges such corps might face:

'Cwm is a former mining community and the corps hasn't had an appointed officer for three years. Volunteer local officers give a lot of time to ensure that the mission and ministry continues, and a retired officer from another corps is giving them much-needed pastoral support.'

Let's pray for all those who are working hard to provide leadership in corps that don't have an appointed officer, and let's pray that this season will be a time of glorious new growth in those places.

(Lyndall Bywater, UKI Boiler Room Team, and Major Mary Wolfe, Officer in Retirement)



# **WEDNESDAY 23 JULY: GROWING IN FAITH**Corps without appointed officers

Major Mary Wolfe continues to help us pray for those corps where no officer has been appointed. She offers another example from the Wales Division:

'Coedpoeth and Rhosllanerchrugog are corps in two small villages near Wrexham. They will no longer have an appointed officer after July. Their children's and families' work is their greatest concern. They have a JAM Club at Coedpoeth with 16 children and a parent-and-toddler group at Rhos with up to 25 attending.'

Where officers have previously shouldered much of the burden, let's pray that volunteers will step up, to keep thriving mission initiatives like these alive.

(Lyndall Bywater, UKI Boiler Room Team, and Major Mary Wolfe, Officer in Retirement)



# THURSDAY 24 JULY: INTERNATIONAL SALVATION ARMY - Brazil Territory

Today we pray for the Brazil Territory, its soldiers, officers, employees and all who call it their spiritual home. May the Spirit of the living God fall afresh, kindling fire in hearts. May the love of Christ stir Brazilian Salvationists to compassionate action. We pray for the territorial leadership team of Colonels Wilson and Nara Strasse, and Lieut-Colonels Manuel and Paulina Márquez.

(Lyndall Bywater, UKI Boiler Room Team)



#### FRIDAY 25 JULY: JUSTICE AND RECONCILIATION Gender identity

Lord, we seek your Spirit's guidance as we pray for respect and justice for all people. May your light and truth illuminate our journey of understanding. Teach us to listen, reflect and pray as we face each new challenge. Unite us in embracing the rich diversity of humanity that enriches our lives.

(Lieut-Colonel Jayne Roberts, Officer in Retirement)

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For centuries, indigenous peoples have read well the signs of the times and been sensitive to the rhythms of nature, exercising deep respect for non-human creation and the mutual dependence that existed. Forgive us, Lord, for short-sighted colonialism which saw this as unholy, and give us humility to recognise our need for their wisdom when it comes to caring for creation.

(Major Heather Poxon, Territorial Environmental Officer)



#### **SUNDAY 27 JULY: SABBATH PRAYER**Welcome Sunday

As officers take up new appointments today, pray that they will sense the moving of the Holy Spirit right from the very beginning of their ministry in their new places. Pray that God will help them find people to collaborate with in mission and action, and friends to help them relax and enjoy life. Pray too that they will find people to give them prayer support.

(Lyndall Bywater, UKI Boiler Room Team)



### MONDAY 28 JULY: SHARING THE GOOD NEWS Territorial Music School (26 July to 2 August)

As it says in Matthew 5:14, 'You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden' (*NRSV*). We pray that the Territorial Music School shines with that same light, which is undeniable, unwavering, and deeply inspiring to all it touches.

(Chris Shanks, Territorial Music School Staff Team)





### **TUESDAY 29 JULY: SERVING AND CARING Territorial Music School (26 July to 2 August)**

Pray for the staff team, that God will give us energy, patience and the right words at the right time, and that we will be able to show God to the students through our actions. Pray too that we will have the tools we need to deal with the various situations we find ourselves in during the week, and that God will use us to encourage and support both each other and the delegates.

(Cheryl Northwood and Hilary Bromage, Territorial Music School Staff Team)



# WEDNESDAY 30 JULY: GROWING IN FAITH Territorial Music School (26 July to 2 August)

We pray for those decisions and commitments that will be made during this week, and the fruit they will bear all around the territory afterwards. We also pray that the unique culture which participants of the Territorial Music School experience while they are together will transfer into all expressions of worship in the territory.

(Callum McKenna and Nick Brill, Territorial Music School Staff Team)



### THURSDAY 31 JULY: INTERNATIONAL SALVATION ARMY - Switzerland, Austria and Hungary Territory

We give thanks for the work of The Salvation Army in Switzerland, Hungary and Austria, and pray that its mission will go from strength to strength. We pray for boldness in witness, wisdom in strategy and adventurousness in faith. We pray for the territorial leadership team of Commissioners Henrik and Lisbeth Andersen, and Lieut-Colonels Daniel and Heidi Imboden.

(Lyndall Bywater, UKI Boiler Room Team)

#### **NOTES**



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