



Prayer
Network

Prayer MATTERS

OCTOBER 2025



Dear Prayer Matters readers

Welcome to the October edition of *Prayer Matters*, and another opportunity to bless the mission and ministry of The Salvation Army in prayer.

We have a couple of interesting Scripture focuses this month. Our Friday Justice and Reconciliation prayers are based around Jesus' mandate in Luke 4:18-19, and they help us to reflect on what it means to be anointed by the Spirit to bring good news, healing and freedom. Our Sunday Sabbath prayers are based around a verse in 2 Chronicles about the tribe of Issachar being people who 'knew the times'. What does that mean for us?

We're praying for the spiritual life of our territory and for Officers Councils, which will be happening towards the end of the month, and our divisional focus shifts to the South East Division. We're also popping into the Family Ministries Department to pray for some of their projects.

Our Care for Creation prayers consider the links between climate change and human migration, and we're also praying about what it means for us to be good news where we are.

There's much to get our teeth into, and a wonderful opportunity to stoke the fire of mission as we pray together, so thank you for joining us.

Blessings,

Lyndall Bywater
and the UKI Boiler Room Team

OCTOBER



WEDNESDAY 1 OCTOBER: GROWING IN FAITH **Intergenerational Church**

Today we pray for the divisional intergenerational officers and workers exploring the model of all-age discipleship. We think about them equipping local settings to notice the fruit of togetherness, value the wisdom shared across generations, and experience the fullness of life that comes from journeying with people of different generations. Thank you, Father, for the picture of Church in Scripture where everyone gathers to worship, learn, share life and feel welcomed and valued.

Liz Hall (Deputy Director, Family Ministries)



THURSDAY 2 OCTOBER: INTERNATIONAL **SALVATION ARMY - Caribbean Territory**

Disaster relief is a particular focus for the Army in the Caribbean, especially following the recent earthquake in Haiti. Education is also a key focus, with more than 60 schools across the territory. Pray for Salvationists in the Caribbean, that they will share both the joy and the challenge of Christian faith with their friends. Pray for the territorial leadership team of Commissioners Emmanuel and Edeline Supré and Colonels Edward and Jennifer Lyons as they lead this huge territory which spans 16 countries. Pray that they will know how to build cohesion while also honouring its diversity.

Lyndall Bywater (UKI Boiler Room Team)



FRIDAY 3 OCTOBER: JUSTICE AND RECONCILIATION **Anointed to seek justice**

'The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me ...'
(Luke 4:18, *NIV*)

May Salvationists, individually and collectively, courageously step into the public square with confidence that God has called us, prepared us and empowers us to address the cultural and social issues of our time. May we seek justice and reconciliation in our life together.

Major David Cavanagh (Ecumenical and Parliamentary Officer, Scotland)



SATURDAY 4 OCTOBER: CARE FOR CREATION

Feast of St Francis of Assisi

Today the Church remembers St Francis of Assisi, a man who lived in the 12th and 13th centuries and who founded an order of friars who considered caring for creation to be one of their holiest tasks. Perhaps it was because of the amount of time Francis spent in nature that he wrote the most glorious prayers of praise to God. Try reading this one while you look out of a window at the world God has created:

'Lord God, you alone are holy, you who work wonders! You are strong, you are great, you are the Most High, you are the almighty King, you, holy Father, King of Heaven and earth. Lord God, you are Three and you are One, you are goodness, all goodness, you are the highest Good, Lord God, living and true. You are love and charity, you are wisdom, you are humility, you are patience, you are beauty, you are sweetness, you are safety, you are rest, you are joy, you are our hope and our delight, you are justice, you are moderation, you are all our wealth and riches overflowing. You are beauty, you are gentleness, you are our shelter, our guard and our defender, you are strength, you are refreshment, you are our hope, our faith, our love, our complete consolation. You are our life everlasting.'

Lyndall Bywater (UKI Boiler Room Team)



SUNDAY 5 OCTOBER: SABBATH PRAYER

Knowing the times (1 Chronicles 12:32)

Reflect on the times we are living in now. What is happening in our world and in our own lives?

Father, help me to understand the times we are living in. Help me to make sense of the world as it is now. Help me to see people, places and situations through your eyes. Help me to hear what you want to say to me about this season we are living through.

Major Gary Lacey (Territorial Prayer Coordinator)



MONDAY 6 OCTOBER: SHARING THE GOOD NEWS **World Mental Health Day (10 October)**

Creator God, who made us, body, soul, mind and spirit, we give you thanks for this opportunity to celebrate the good work being done by so many organisations in the area of improving mental health, and to thank you that talking about psychological and emotional struggle is no longer as much of a taboo as it once was. As we walk alongside friends and family whose mental health is fragile, help us to be good news: not reciting platitudes or trying to offer solutions, but listening, speaking honestly of our own struggles and praying for hope.

Lyndall Bywater (UKI Boiler Room Team)



TUESDAY 7 OCTOBER: SERVING AND CARING **Riverbank Local**

Father God, we pray that the Riverbank Local movement will become a vibrant community of women from across the United Kingdom and Ireland Territory. Through locally inspired expressions of women's ministry, let this movement be a beacon of grace and belonging that unites all generations, deepens friendships and embraces diversity. May each woman involved be drawn further into a life-giving relationship with Jesus, and discover their worth in him.

Rachel Gotobed (Outreach Mission Partner, Family Ministries)

Find out more at:

<https://www.salvationist.org.uk/events/riverbank/riverbank-local>



WEDNESDAY 8 OCTOBER: GROWING IN FAITH **Spiritual Life – deeper life**

Pray that The Salvation Army will grow in its desire for a deeper relationship with God. Ask the Spirit to draw us closer to God's heart, to help us listen well and to seek God with sincerity. May our shared journey be marked by trust, intimacy and a growing awareness of God's presence in all we do.

Major Gordon Cotterill (Secretary for Spiritual Life Development)



THURSDAY 9 OCTOBER: INTERNATIONAL SALVATION ARMY – Denmark and Greenland Territory

We pray today for the Denmark and Greenland Territory, where the Army is involved in all kinds of social work, including work with homeless people and those in need of debt advice. May God use these ministries to help people journey from despair to hope. We pray for Lieut-Colonel Sandra Stokes, who took up the appointment as Territorial Commander just over two months ago. May God renew her strength, help her build strong relationships with her leadership team and give her a clear sense of the way ahead.

Lyndall Bywater (UKI Boiler Room Team)



FRIDAY 10 OCTOBER: JUSTICE AND RECONCILIATION Sent to proclaim favour

'He has sent me ... to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour'
(Luke 4:18,19, *MV*)

As Salvationists speak in the public square and seek to shape our common life in the 'polis', may our calls on policy always reflect God's all-embracing favour, which confers on everyone a dignity that is worthy of respect.

Major David Cavanagh (Ecumenical and Parliamentary Officer, Scotland)



SATURDAY 11 OCTOBER: CARE FOR CREATION Climate change and migration

The topic of migration has been prominent in the headlines recently, as the question of how to create a robust but fair immigration policy stirs strong feelings on all sides. It seems timely then to reflect on how environmental issues affect the movement of people across borders. Climate change brings with it natural disasters and ecological changes which make certain land less habitable and less productive, and so people move in order to survive.

Gracious God, forgive us when we forget the knock-on effect which our own behaviour has on the poorest in our world. As we make choices about how to live our everyday lives, help us to remember those who feel the effects of climate change every day.

Lyndall Bywater (UKI Boiler Room Team)



SUNDAY 12 OCTOBER: SABBATH PRAYER

Understanding the times (1 Chronicles 12:32)

How can we be like the men of Issachar who understood the times they were living in?

Lord, give me a sharper awareness of what is happening around me – an awareness which keeps me alert and prayerful without leaving me anxious and fearful. Help me understand what I see, hear and read in the news. Guide me to discern what is fact and what is opinion.

Major Gary Lacey (Territorial Prayer Coordinator)



MONDAY 13 OCTOBER: SHARING THE GOOD NEWS

Prayer Furnaces

Prayer Furnaces are prayer groups, usually in corps or divisions, which have a particular focus on praying for the mission and ministry of The Salvation Army. They are part of our UKI Boiler Room prayer strategy: little 'combustion chambers' of prayer that keep our mission fired up and moving forward. Pray for the protection of these Furnaces, that God will help these groups to grow in prayer – praying more effectively together and going deeper in their relationships with God and with one another.

Lyndall Bywater (UKI Boiler Room Team)

Click here for more information on starting a Furnace where you are:
<https://www.salvationist.org.uk/faith/our-territory/territorial-directory/prayer-network>



TUESDAY 14 OCTOBER: SERVING AND CARING

Beacon Churches

Heavenly Father, we thank you for The Salvation Army's partnership with Restored, supporting Salvation Army communities in becoming 'Beacon Churches', equipped to journey with survivors of domestic abuse. Bless every Salvation Army Beacon Church, those established and those becoming a Beacon. Strengthen Beacon volunteers with wisdom and compassion, and surround the individuals and families they walk alongside with healing, hope and restoration. May your light shine through this ministry, bringing peace and transformation.

Deb Juster (Assistant Director, Family Ministries)



WEDNESDAY 15 OCTOBER: GROWING IN FAITH **Spiritual Life – mindful mission**

Pray for The Salvation Army, that we will be a church which learns to listen well to God, to one another and to the world around us. Ask God to help us think deeply, with wisdom and grace, and to live authentically in the public square. May our presence reflect truth, compassion and courage, and may our faith be both thoughtful and visible in everyday life.

Major Gordon Cotterill (Secretary for Spiritual Life Development)



THURSDAY 16 OCTOBER: INTERNATIONAL **SALVATION ARMY – India Western Territory**

We give thanks for the work of The Salvation Army in the west of India, and pray that Salvationists will grow deeper in their faith and bolder in their witness. We pray for the territorial leadership team, Commissioners John William and Ratna Sundari Polimetla, Lieut-Colonel Zothanmawia Khiangte and Lieut-Colonel Vanlalnungi Thiak. Help them to speak the words that sustain the weary, as they minister in local corps and centres.

Lyndall Bywater (UKI Boiler Room Team)



FRIDAY 17 OCTOBER: JUSTICE AND RECONCILIATION **Inspired to bring vision**

‘He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind’ (Luke 4:18, *NIV*)

May Salvationists have a clear vision of how the gospel brings renewed hope, freedom and vision as they seek to contribute to public debate on how policy and practice can best promote the wellbeing and flourishing of all in our society.

Major David Cavanagh (Ecumenical and Parliamentary Officer, Scotland)



SATURDAY 18 OCTOBER: CARE FOR CREATION

Anti-Slavery Day

Today, Lord, as we join with people around the world to mark Anti-Slavery Day, stir our hearts. May we make space to grieve the injustice of human trafficking and modern slavery. And in our lament, let us cry out for a justice that restores, protects and redeems. Move us to respond with compassionate action. As we shop, work and pray, remind us of our shared humanity and help us to choose what is good, speak what is true, and live in ways that mean dignity for everyone. Amen.

Hayley Still (UK Engagement Coordinator, International Development)

Continue to reflect and respond to current global justice issues by joining with The Salvation Army International Development in a seven-day devotional series: <https://www.salvationist.org.uk/resources/key-dates/international-development-week>



SUNDAY 19 OCTOBER: SABBATH PRAYER

Responding to the times (1 Chronicles 12:32)

The men of the tribe of Issachar understood the times and knew what Israel should do. How do I best respond to the world around me in the present age?

Prayer: Amazing God, remind me to consider how your Son, Jesus Christ, responded to the times which he lived through on earth. Though the times I live through may be different in so many ways, help me to be able to shape my responses and actions in line with his wisdom and his ways.

Major Gary Lacey (Territorial Prayer Coordinator)



MONDAY 20 OCTOBER: SHARING THE GOOD NEWS

Being good news

Everlasting God, you set humankind on this earth to be a blessing, and you have set each of us in places where we can be good news. Forgive us when worry, stress or negativity cause us to lose sight of that. Help us to look up from our own preoccupations and notice those around us who need good news today. Help us to do the simple things that bring blessing.

Lyndall Bywater (UKI Boiler Room Team)



TUESDAY 21 OCTOBER: SERVING AND CARING **Family Ministries resources**

Today, we celebrate the diversity of Family Ministries resources – resources which serve people of all ages and help them to share and deepen their faith. We pray too for the further development of new resources to enrich local mission. We pray for anyone using these materials, that they will feel equipped to share God's love across generations, so that everyone will experience a sense of belonging and be inspired to enter a deeper relationship with God.

Sam Thorogood and Faye Lloyd-Jones (Mission Resources)



WEDNESDAY 22 OCTOBER: GROWING IN FAITH **South East Division**

Pray for those corps who now find themselves without officer leadership, and for those whose leaders are soon to be retiring. We thank God for local leaders who are stepping up to take on extra responsibilities, and pray that you will help and strengthen them. Where community mission manager positions are being advertised, we pray for the right candidates to apply.

Major Fiona Broom (Divisional Leader)



THURSDAY 23 OCTOBER: INTERNATIONAL **SALVATION ARMY – Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands Territory**

The Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands Territory has the mission statement of 'actively rebuilding, restoring and renewing where a broken world needs it most'. We pray for all those involved in helping outwork that mission today in Army schools, health centres, community centres and corps. We give thanks for all those who may not be able to help practically, but who support the Army's work in prayer. We pray for the territorial leadership team of Colonels Chris and Tilitah Goa and Lieut-Colonels Garth and Suzanne Stevenson, asking God to give them wisdom as they care for the two different parts of the territory.

Lyndall Bywater (UKI Boiler Room Team)



FRIDAY 24 OCTOBER: JUSTICE AND RECONCILIATION **Called to confront oppression**

'He has sent me ... to set the oppressed free.' (Luke 4:18, *NIV*)

May Salvationists be alert and quick to recognise how oppression and injustice are present in their local settings, and to see what needs to be done to enable those burdened by poverty, deprivation and dysfunctional or toxic relationships to find freedom and new possibilities in life.

Major David Cavanagh (Ecumenical and Parliamentary Officer, Scotland)



SATURDAY 25 OCTOBER: CARE FOR CREATION **Climate change and migration**

Estimates suggest that if climate change continues at its current rate, as many as one million people could be seeking asylum in Europe each year by the end of this century; and that figure doesn't include those who flee their homes because of war, persecution and other causes.

Loving God, you gave us stewardship of the Earth and a mandate to be a blessing to those with whom we share our planet. Forge in us a determination to step outside of our own borders and our own comfort zones to help those whose livelihoods are under threat from climate change and environmental disaster. We pray particularly for those who run the many Salvation Army projects involved in this work today. Give them all they need, and multiply the effectiveness of their work for the good of those who need it most.

Lyndall Bywater (UKI Boiler Room Team)



SUNDAY 26 OCTOBER: SABBATH PRAYER **Influencing the times (1 Chronicles 12:32)**

The men of the tribe of Issachar were a Godly influence on King David with their ability to discern and offer guidance. How can I best influence the world for good today?

Prayer: Father, I want to be an influencer of the best kind – one who makes a difference where you have placed me. Help me to be able to understand the times in which I live, and use me to make a big difference to the lives of others around me.

Major Gary Lacey (Territorial Prayer Coordinator)



MONDAY 27 OCTOBER: SHARING THE GOOD NEWS

Officer's Councils (27-29 October)

Every two years, officers of the UKI Territory gather for two days of worship, prayer and encouragement. As they journey to Harrogate today, let's be praying for them, that the Holy Spirit will use this time set aside to restore their strength and renew their vision. Let's pray for those who will have the privilege of speaking to them in the main sessions, that the word of God will heal and revive. Let's pray for those who will be leading worship and providing music, that the name of Jesus will be lifted high. And let's pray for them as they depart for home on Wednesday, that they will go out with refreshed calling and re-ignited hearts.

Lyndall Bywater (UKI Boiler Room Team)



TUESDAY 28 OCTOBER: SERVING AND CARING

Men's ministry

Father God, thank you for the men you've placed in our churches, families and communities. Stir their hearts with a real hunger for you and for your word. Breathe fresh vision into exploring new expressions of men's ministry. Help us connect meaningfully with men through existing men's groups, parent-and-toddler groups, Messy Church, and every space where faith and family meet. Raise up men of faith – courageous, compassionate and Christ-centred – who lead with love and serve with joy. Amen.

Major David Betteridge (Director, Family Ministries)



WEDNESDAY 29 OCTOBER: GROWING IN FAITH

South East Division

At the start of the year, we challenged the division to pray at 9:38 each day for workers (based on Matthew 9:38 *NLT* – 'Pray to the Lord who is in charge of the harvest; ask him to send more workers into his fields'). Since then, we have had 22 people commence the Growing Leaders course, which finishes in October, and a number of people who are enquiring about or actively pursuing spiritual leadership. We thank God for those who are praying and those who are responding. We pray for more!

Major Fiona Broom (Divisional Leader)



THURSDAY 30 OCTOBER: INTERNATIONAL SALVATION ARMY – Mozambique Territory

Next year marks 90 years since the very first work of The Salvation Army in Mozambique. As Salvationists celebrate this significant milestone, we pray that they will be amazed by all that God has done. As they look to the future, we pray that God will use them even more powerfully, to help people in poverty, rescue people from trafficking and slavery, and tell many more people the good news of Jesus. We pray for the territorial leadership team of Colonels Jabulani and Fikile Khoza and Major Laurindo and Captain Luisa Nombora. When the work feels heavy, pray that they will know that God is the lifter of their heads.

Lyndall Bywater (UKI Boiler Room Team)



FRIDAY 31 OCTOBER: JUSTICE AND RECONCILIATION **Eyes fixed on Jesus**

‘The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him. He began by saying to them, “Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.”’
(Luke 4:20b-21 *NIV*)

May Salvationists’ efforts to promote justice, reconciliation, harmonious relationships and social cohesion always point to Jesus, who offers abundant life to all who trust in him (John 10:10).

Major David Cavanagh (Ecumenical and Parliamentary Officer, Scotland)

NOTES



The background features a large light blue semi-circle at the top, a red semi-circle on the left, and a dark blue semi-circle at the bottom right. These are overlaid with a network of thin, colorful lines (blue, green, yellow, red, purple) connecting small dots. The text is centered in the white space between the shapes.

CALLING CONNECTING

Releasing
DYNAMIC KINGDOM-BUILDING
PRAYER

📍 **The Salvation Army, SA Prayer Network,
1 Champion Park, London, SE5 8FJ**

☎ **020 7369 4539**

🖱 **salvationarmy.org.uk/prayer-network**

📘 **facebook.com/saukprayerpage**

✉ **saprayernetwork@salvationarmy.org.uk**

The Salvation Army is a Church and registered Charity in England and Wales (214779), Scotland (SC009359) and the Republic of Ireland (CHY6399)