



Prayer
Network

Prayer MATTERS

FEBRUARY 2024

Dear Prayer Matters readers

Welcome to Prayer Matters for February 2024, where we're excited to announce that we have now officially launched the 'UKI Boiler Room' – a new way to connect us in prayer across the UKI Territory and to stoke the fire of prayer at the heart of our mission.

Baptist preacher Charles Spurgeon had boiler rooms – rooms full of people who prayed before and during his preaching. In more recent years, the term 'boiler room' has come to mean a community of people who are intentional about stoking a furnace of passionate, effective, Kingdom-building prayer which brings renewal to the Church and transformation to the world.

There's already plenty of prayer going on around the UKI Territory, but the UKI Boiler Room is a new way to connect anyone who has a heart to pray in or for The Salvation Army. There are hundreds of little fires of prayer burning away in hearts, in homes, in corps, in offices and Lifehouses all over the UK and Ireland. The UKI Boiler Room is about linking them together – a united, co-ordinated energy of prayer at the heart of our mission.

One of the ways you can be part of the UKI Boiler Room is by praying with us in our new Prayer Rhythm. We want to pray for renewal in our worship and mission, and we want to pray for the people God is sending us to. Each day of the week has a theme, and the themes are based on the five following 'Mission Priorities':

- **Monday:** Sharing the good news
- **Tuesday:** Serving and caring (Serve others without discrimination)
- **Wednesday:** Growing in faith (Nurture disciples of Jesus)
- **Thursday:** International Salvation Army (Worldwide prayer meeting)
- **Friday:** Justice and reconciliation (Seek justice and reconciliation)
- **Saturday:** Care for creation
- **Sunday:** Sabbath prayer

You can use the themes themselves as a general guide for praying each day, but what you'll find here in *Prayer Matters* is a more specific prayer for each day, fitting with that day's theme. As we keep cycling through these big themes together, our hope and prayer is that this new Prayer Rhythm will become a heartbeat of prayer to fire our mission.

Lyndall Bywater, on behalf of the UKI Boiler Room Team

FEBRUARY



THURSDAY 1 FEBRUARY: INTERNATIONAL SALVATION ARMY - Singapore, Malaysia, Myanmar and Thailand Territory

In our Worldwide Prayer Meeting this week we pray for The Salvation Army in Singapore, Malaysia, Myanmar and Thailand. We pray for Territorial Commander Colonel Hary Haran, and for Taiwan's Regional Leaders Major Sara Tam (Mei-Shun) and Major A-Tuan (Grace) Weng. Holy Spirit, we pray that you will rest on your people in these lands and encourage their hearts, particularly when misunderstanding and persecution feel close at hand. Comforter, draw near and refresh your faithful servants.

(Lyndall Bywater, UKI Boiler Room Team)



FRIDAY 2 FEBRUARY: JUSTICE & RECONCILIATION Self-Denial Appeal

We pray for this year's Self-Denial Appeal, which focuses on how The Salvation Army supports officers around the world. The money raised will go towards supporting officers in their roles through training, providing the infrastructure that is essential and covering the costs of keeping officers in their appointments. We pray for generous giving, so that officers will be able to flourish in their roles and continue to help people find fullness of life with Jesus.

(Based on text from www.salvationist.org.uk)



SATURDAY 3 FEBRUARY: CARE FOR CREATION Winter wonder

Get outdoors on a hope hunt. At first glance there may not be many signs of life, but listen for birdsong, look for buds and bulbs and early spring flowers. What promises has God given you? Can you see any glimpses of them coming yet? 'As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty,

but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.' (Isaiah 55:10-11)

(Captain Vanessa Coleman, Woking Corps)



SUNDAY 4 FEBRUARY: SABBATH PRAYER **Protection**

Today is the Sunday when many churches will celebrate Candlemas. As well as being the moment to remember Anna and Simeon, the two elderly prophets who recognised the Messiah when he was brought to the Temple for circumcision, it also harks back to the Menorah, the lampstand which stood in the Temple and was never allowed to go out, day or night. Its light symbolised the ever-presence of God as protector and saviour. Lord, help me today to trust in your nearness and your unstinting care.

(Lyndall Bywater, UKI Boiler Room Team)



MONDAY 5 FEBRUARY: SHARING THE GOOD NEWS **Alpha**

Jesus, you told your disciples to go into all the world and preach the gospel. We thank you for the many creative ways in which we can share the good news, and especially for programmes and resources like the Alpha Course. May those who have done such a course, or are doing one at the moment, have their lives transformed by an encounter with Jesus.

(Major Pauline Milner, Officer in Retirement)



TUESDAY 6 FEBRUARY: SERVING & CARING **Addiction Services**

Jesus, you challenged us to serve those in the greatest need. We pray for all those serving in homelessness and addiction services and Core Recovery programmes. Thank you for their servant hearts. Inspire and strengthen them in bringing support, hope and dignity to those struggling to break free from addictions.

(Major Pauline Milner, Officer in Retirement)



WEDNESDAY 7 FEBRUARY: GROWING IN FAITH **Prayer groups**

'Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road?' (Luke 24:32)

Father God, we pray for the many prayer groups meeting regularly across the territory. May they be bold in their praying, and open to all that you want to teach them. May their hearts burn with the fire of your Spirit so that all those they meet see your light.

(Karen Findlay, Wellingborough Corps)



THURSDAY 8 FEBRUARY: INTERNATIONAL SALVATION ARMY - Mali Region

This week in our Worldwide Prayer Meeting we're praying for the Mali Region. We pray for Regional Leaders Lieut-Colonels Blaise and Evelyne Kombo, and for the team who serve alongside them as they give vision and wisdom to the officers and soldiers worshipping and serving in Mali. We pray that the wonderful story of Jesus will be proclaimed with boldness and clarity through all that The Salvation Army does there.

(Lyndall Bywater, UKI Boiler Room Team)



FRIDAY 9 FEBRUARY: JUSTICE & RECONCILIATION **Self-Denial Appeal**

Many officers in other parts of the world have no guaranteed allowance and no stable income. The Self-Denial Appeal gives us the opportunity to bless officers around the world by giving financially. Lord, help us to recognise the ways in which you have blessed us, and to pass on that blessing by giving generously.

(Lyndall Bywater, UKI Boiler Room Team)



SATURDAY 10 FEBRUARY: CARE FOR CREATION **Winter wonder**

Winter is an ideal time for pruning many plants as sap is not as active in the cold, and cutting back will cause less shock to the plant.

'He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful' (John 15:2). Explore pruning a physical plant while reflecting on where God might be making you more fruitful through this season.

(Captain Vanessa Coleman, Woking Corps)



SUNDAY 11 FEBRUARY: SABBATH PRAYER Friendship

Jesus, you welcomed your friends to breakfast around a fire on a beach some 2,000 years ago, and you invite me to that same friendship with you. When indifference or shame cause me to pull away from you, help me to believe that you desire my company and cherish my companionship.

(Lyndall Bywater, UKI Boiler Room Team)



MONDAY 12 FEBRUARY: SHARING THE GOOD NEWS Territorial Youth Band and Chorus

Pray that all involved in this week of music-making will be inspired and helped on their journey of faith in a joyous and safe environment. Our hearts' desire is that each one would experience a deep connection with God and The Salvation Army, so that they go back to their corps energised to make a difference there.

(Dr Stephen Cobb, Director of Music and Creative Arts)



TUESDAY 13 FEBRUARY: SERVING & CARING Half-term holiday

'But those who trust in the Lord will find new strength. They will soar high on wings like eagles. They will run and not grow weary. They will walk and not faint.' (Isaiah 40:31, *NLT*)

Father God, we lift up to you all those who are finding school holidays a challenge. May they open their hearts to the truth of your promise that, as they trust in you, they will thrive. May they find unexpected joys along the way.

(Karen Findlay, Wellingborough Corps)



WEDNESDAY 14 FEBRUARY: GROWING IN FAITH **Ash Wednesday**

The season of Lent begins today – a time when Christians traditionally focus on their faith, choosing to cultivate habits which will help them grow in Christlikeness. Holy Spirit, as winter turns to spring, help us to tend to the new shoots of hope and love which you are growing in us.

(Lyndall Bywater, UKI Boiler Room Team)



THURSDAY 15 FEBRUARY: INTERNATIONAL SALVATION ARMY – USA Southern Territory

This week in our Worldwide Prayer Meeting we're praying for the USA Southern Territory. We pray for Territorial Leaders Commissioners Kelly and Donna Igleheart, and for the team who serve alongside them. We pray that their strength will be renewed and that they will be able to discern God's good and perfect will in each decision they make.

(Lyndall Bywater, UKI Boiler Room Team)



FRIDAY 16 FEBRUARY: JUSTICE & RECONCILIATION **Self-Denial Appeal**

Our Self-Denial Appeal this year focuses on supporting officers in territories where financial constraints mean they often can't get paid their full allowance. We pray today for Captain Nathanael Münch in Greenland's capital Nuuk. The Salvation Army is serving hot food, tea and coffee to members of the homeless community in the city, bringing love and light through the dark winter. Pray for Nathanael as he learns Greenlandic so he can listen, share and pray with people in their own language.

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



SATURDAY 17 FEBRUARY: CARE FOR CREATION Our common home

Lord, make us conscious that we share this home with your creation, and conscious that our actions affect others (human and non-human). Help us, through our deeds, to love the family we may not see, looking to make our home a place where all can thrive, not just survive.

(Major Heather Poxon, Territorial Environmental Officer)



SUNDAY 18 FEBRUARY: SABBATH PRAYER Lent - Let's remember

'God can be trusted to keep his promise' (Hebrews 10:23b, *NLT*)

We begin Lent by reminding ourselves of God's unending, unfailing faithfulness to us. We let ourselves be amazed again at how good God has been and how trustworthy God is. Only then can we begin to consider what our faithful response might look like. So let's take this first week to remember the myriad ways God has blessed us.

(Lyndall Bywater, UKI Boiler Room Team)



MONDAY 19 FEBRUARY: SHARING THE GOOD NEWS Plexus, the online corps

Plexus Salvation Army is the UK's first online corps community. 'Plexus' means a network of nerves or vessels in the body, and it symbolises a network of believers and communities forming one church. Please pray with us for a deep understanding of this evolving context, so we can create something authentic within this unique community space. Find out more about Plexus here: www.salvationarmy.org.uk/plexus

(Major Ian Emery, Project Lead, Online Corps)



TUESDAY 20 FEBRUARY: SERVING & CARING Plexus, the online corps

Plexus is a Fresh Expression of Church which aims to reach people who experience friendship and community in wholly online spaces. We run various projects that are designed to create communities in different

forms on the internet. We give thanks for new connections, and for those rediscovering faith through our virtual communities. We pray for wisdom as we keep looking for new ways to pioneer this new form of mission.

(Major Ian Emery, Project Lead, Online Corps)



WEDNESDAY 21 FEBRUARY: GROWING IN FAITH **Resource Hub**

Father God, we thank you for all the resources produced by The Salvation Army. We pray that these will inspire people to connect with you in a deeper way. We pray for the Resource Hub – the team which creates and publishes so many of these resources; help them stay true to your plans, supporting frontline mission in all its varied and vital expressions.

(Hannah Kingston, Resource Co-ordinator)



THURSDAY 22 FEBRUARY: INTERNATIONAL **SALVATION ARMY - Spain and Portugal**

This week in our Worldwide Prayer Meeting we're praying for the Spain and Portugal Territory. We pray for Territorial Leaders Lieut-Colonels Karina and Rafael Giusti and for the team who serve alongside them. We ask God's blessing on all The Salvation Army is doing to spread the good news of Jesus in those countries, and pray for multiplication: that they will grow in faith, grow in numbers and find all their needs provided for.

(Lyndall Bywater, UKI Boiler Room Team)



FRIDAY 23 FEBRUARY: JUSTICE & RECONCILIATION **Self-Denial Appeal**

We continue focusing our prayers on the Self-Denial Appeal, supporting Salvation Army officers around the world who are working in particularly difficult conditions. Today we pray for Captains Anthony Lalruatfela and Makimi Lalnunkimi, who work in The Salvation Army's Adult Rehabilitation Centre near Aizawl in eastern India.

The centre offers residential places for men who are struggling with addiction. We pray for Anthony and Makimi as they work tirelessly to support these men in their journey to recovery.

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



SATURDAY 24 FEBRUARY: CARE FOR CREATION

Why waste?

Lord, challenge me regarding things I so easily discard. Help me to resist 'throw-away culture', and to consider the endpoint of items I buy. Then, as I carefully ponder the stuff that fills my life, teach me to see the value in things that give vitality and beauty.

(Major Heather Poxon, Territorial Environmental Officer)



SUNDAY 25 FEBRUARY: SABBATH PRAYER

Power

'let us go right into the presence of God...' (Hebrews 10:22, *NLT*)

We may think of faithfulness to God as doing our best, working hard, accomplishing things, but those things ring hollow if there isn't a regular, honest, intimate conversation with God happening right at the heart of our living. Let's make a habit of prayer, in the joyful knowledge that God desires our company far more than our efforts.

(Lyndall Bywater, UKI Boiler Room Team)



MONDAY 26 FEBRUARY: SHARING THE GOOD NEWS

Students

Jesus, thank you for the various ways The Salvation Army is reaching out to students. We pray that you will continue to bless and direct those going into universities to support students, providing breakfasts, offering chaplaincy and encouraging mission activities. We pray for corps which employ student workers, and those who have Sunday lunch rotas for students. We lift up those students who are Salvationists. May they keep shining your light where they are.

(Lyndall Bywater, UKI Boiler Room Team)



TUESDAY 27 FEBRUARY: SERVING & CARING **Belonging and Believing: The Big Conversation**

This event will be held in Warwick this weekend (1–3 March), and will draw together a large and diverse group of people to talk about all sorts of issues relating to membership of The Salvation Army. Let's pray that people will come with open hearts, minds and spirits, and that the Lord will reveal how we can affirm what it means to come into a deeper relationship with Jesus, release his potential in us as disciples, and reimagine what life-giving discipleship might look like.

(Lieut-Colonel Drew McCombe, Secretary for Mission)



WEDNESDAY 28 FEBRUARY: GROWING IN FAITH **Belonging and Believing: The Big Conversation**

We continue to pray for this gathering, happening this weekend in Warwick, to discuss the topic of membership in The Salvation Army. Pray that those present will gain a deeper understanding of what it means to be a people who ensure others are welcomed with a radical spirit of belonging. Pray that God will shape us into a movement that is vital and inspiring, and that makes a real difference in our communities.

(Lieut-Colonel Drew McCombe, Secretary for Mission)

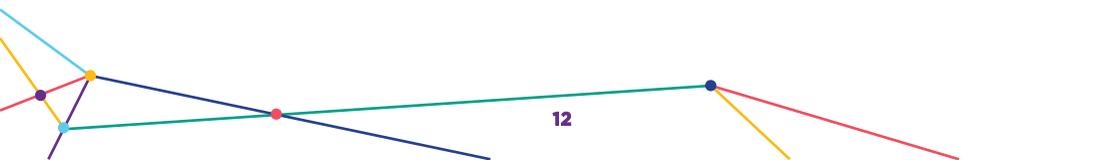


THURSDAY 29 FEBRUARY: INTERNATIONAL **SALVATION ARMY - Sri Lanka Territory**

This week in our Worldwide Prayer Meeting we're praying for the Sri Lanka Territory. We pray for Territorial Leaders Colonels Nihal and Rohini Hettiarachchi, and for the team who serve alongside them. Lord, encourage them when they feel disheartened; fill them afresh with your Spirit; and remind them that you really can do anything.

(Lyndall Bywater, UKI Boiler Room Team)

NOTES





CALLING
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