



Prayer  
Network

# Prayer MATTERS

**MAY 2024**

# Dear Prayer Matters readers

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

This month we pray for The Salvation Army's Family Tracing Service, for Candidates Sunday and for the Yorkshire and Humber Division and the Central, Southern and Channel Islands Division. We cover various events happening around the territory, including the Territorial Leaders Conference.

Our Thursday prayers for the International Salvation Army take us to almost every continent in the world, and on Saturdays we're pondering and praying around what it means for 'Care for Creation' to be one of our Mission Priorities as a territory. Our Sabbath Prayer Sundays help us reflect on Ascension and Pentecost.

We do hope you will find this an inspiring resource to help you pray for the mission of The Salvation Army, and we thank you for your partnership in prayer. It's a blessing to know that so many of you are praying this Prayer Rhythm with us.

And don't forget – even if you don't know the specific prayer for the day, you can always pray for the theme:



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

Lyndall Bywater on behalf of the UKI Prayer Team

# MAY



## **WEDNESDAY 1 MAY: GROWING IN FAITH** **Musical Theatre Day (4 May)**

An action-packed day of singing and dancing for children aged between 6-17 years, this event at Regent Hall gathers many who have had little contact with The Salvation Army before. Pray for those coming by themselves, that they will have the confidence to join in, be themselves and start new friendships which will flourish. For those already part of a local church, may they take the energy and enthusiasm back to their worshipping community.

(Lyndall Bywater, UKI Boiler Room Team)



## **THURSDAY 2 MAY: INTERNATIONAL SALVATION** **ARMY – Switzerland, Austria & Hungary Territory**

We pray for the territorial leadership team, Commissioners Henrik and Lisbeth Andersen and Lieut-Colonels Daniel and Heidi Imboden, for wisdom in leading a large territory covering three distinctly different countries, and for wisdom to know the best strategy for mission and growth. We pray that the presence of the Holy Spirit will be welcomed wherever Salvationists gather, and that many will come to faith through the Army's work.

(Lyndall Bywater, UKI Boiler Room Team)



## **FRIDAY 3 MAY: JUSTICE & RECONCILIATION** **Family Tracing Service**

God of reconciliation, we pray for those who hold great hope that the Family Tracing Service will create opportunity for reconciliation in their lives. We pray that you will stir their hearts to rest in you and to trust that we will use every available search avenue to support their tracing encounter. We pray that many will come to know that Jesus is the greatest reconciler, because he came to save those who are lost and who call upon him.

(Karen Wallace, Team Leader – Family Tracing Service)



## **SATURDAY 4 MAY: CARE FOR CREATION** **Making it a Mission Priority**

'The Salvation Army is committed to helping change attitudes, resulting in a more responsible use of our planet.' (from The Salvation Army website)

Care for Creation is one of our five Mission Priorities here in the UKI Territory. In a world where it's all too easy to forget the needs of the natural world, either through ignorance or apathy, we give thanks for the decision to name it as one of the most important things we do. Pray that God will help us live out the commitment we have made: helping to change attitudes as well as demonstrating care for creation in all that we do.

(Lyndall Bywater, UKI Boiler Room Team)



## **SUNDAY 5 MAY: SABBATH PRAYER** **Ascension**

This Sunday begins the week in which Ascension Day is celebrated, 40 days after Easter. We remember that Jesus appeared to his disciples many times after his resurrection to give them his final instructions, including to 'go and make disciples'. Luke's Gospel says that Jesus was blessing his disciples even as he left them. Father God, thank you for the gift of Sabbath time to reflect on following your commands in our own discipleship.

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



## **MONDAY 6 MAY: SHARING THE GOOD NEWS** **Central, Southern and Channel Islands Division**

The Central, Southern and Channel Islands Division covers Bedfordshire, Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Channel Islands, Dorset, Hampshire, Isle of Wight and Oxfordshire, including Salisbury. With a division covering such a large area, we need to work towards an area structure. Our heart is that mission should flourish locally. Pray for us as we help corps and centres to develop local mission strategies. Pray particularly for our strategic mission on Portsea Island, West Dorset.

(Major Mike Lloyd-Jones, Divisional Commander)



## **TUESDAY 7 MAY: SERVING & CARING** **Candidates Sunday (12 May)**

Our Scripture this year is Romans 12:1, which talks about offering ourselves wholly to God. For some, this will mean seriously considering Salvation Army officership, territorial envoys, Pioneering or another kind of spiritual leadership role in The Salvation Army. We pray they will be intentional about making a step of faith, going for an interview or having a conversation with someone, and we pray that they will find wise counsel.

(Major Mark Sawyer, Territorial Candidates Director)



## **WEDNESDAY 8 MAY: GROWING IN FAITH** **Candidates Sunday (12 May)**

As a Candidates Unit, we have been encouraging officers to have intentional conversations with people in their congregation about whether God might be calling them into any particular type of leadership. We pray that those already in spiritual leadership will have the courage to open up those conversations, inviting people to explore the will and purpose of God for their lives, and challenging them to brave, bold obedience.

(Major Mark Sawyer, Territorial Candidates Director)



## **THURSDAY 9 MAY: INTERNATIONAL** **SALVATION ARMY - India Central Territory**

We pray for Territorial Leadership: Colonel Yaqoob Masih, Territorial Commander; Colonel Sumitra Masih, Territorial President of Women's Ministries; Lieut-Colonel Masilamony Stalin, Chief Secretary; Lieut-Colonel Y S Keziah Stalin, Territorial Secretary for Women's Ministries. The India Central Territory comprises four regions: North Tamil Nadu (Madras-Chennai), Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.

We give thanks for the thousands of Salvationists making Christ known in the India Central Territory, and pray that God will provide for their needs, heal their wounds and shine his light through their lives.

(Lyndall Bywater, UKI Boiler Room Team)



## **FRIDAY 10 MAY: JUSTICE & RECONCILIATION** **Family Tracing Service**

Lord, we lift before you all those who are separated from their families, either by choice, necessity or circumstance. We pray that, when they hear news of the Family Tracing Service holding an interest in their wellbeing and whereabouts, they will have the courage to speak with us. We pray they will trust us and feel safe in our hands. We ask that you will help us to reflect compassion and kindness in every interaction.

(Karen Wallace, Team Leader – Family Tracing Service)



## **SATURDAY 11 MAY: CARE FOR CREATION** **Joining the dots**

'People will not experience fullness of life unless God's creation is protected and cared for.' (from The Salvation Army website)

One of the reasons our Mission Priority, Care for Creation, is so important is that the health of our planet directly impacts the lives and livelihoods of millions of people. Our lives can feel somewhat disconnected from the condition of the soil, the purity of the water or the vagaries of the weather, because the dual benefits of wealth and technology bring us exactly what we need when we need it.

Pray that God will help us to look beyond our own relatively comfortable lifestyle, to consider the needs of those who cannot avoid the devastating consequences of climate change and the ruthless exploitation of Earth's resources.

(Lyndall Bywater, UKI Boiler Room Team)



## **SUNDAY 12 MAY: SABBATH PRAYER** **Waiting**

Jesus told his disciples to wait for the promised gift of the Holy Spirit. Do you have a 'wait' problem?

God, we pray that we may discern what you are showing us when we are in a season of waiting. May we wait in quiet trust and joyful hope, prepared to listen and respond to the Spirit.

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



## **MONDAY 13 MAY: SHARING THE GOOD NEWS** Central, Southern and Channel Islands Division

Our division brings together areas which were previously part of other divisions, and each of those had its own residential events for children and young people. Pray for us as we move towards fully blending residential events for the whole division. Pray that our youth and children's events will be places where the good news of Jesus is shared and lives are transformed.

(Major Mike Lloyd-Jones, Divisional Commander)



## **TUESDAY 14 MAY: SERVING & CARING** Divisional Youth & Children's Worker Gathering (14-16 May)

This year we'll be welcoming divisional children's workers and officers as well as divisional youth specialists, and we're so thankful to God for them all. Pray that each person will find rest and refreshment, as well as being re-energised and inspired to continue their work. We know that the Holy Spirit will be at work; pray that we will all be open to respond. Pray that relationships will be developed, deepened and strengthened too.

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



## **WEDNESDAY 15 MAY: GROWING IN FAITH** Yorkshire and Humber Division

We are holding a Spiritual Retreat Day (16 May) for all involved in leadership across the division. Pray that, as the leaders gather and share in both worship and teaching, the Spirit of God will move among us. Pray that the Spirit will speak into our minds, but more importantly, reach into our hearts, that we may experience a new touch of refreshing, life-giving grace.

(Major Alec Still, Assistant Divisional Commander)



## **THURSDAY 16 MAY: INTERNATIONAL SALVATION ARMY - Hong Kong & Macau Territory**

Pray for those in territorial leadership: Colonels Deslea and Phil Maxwell and Major Tsui, Heung-Ying (Minnie). This year marks 25 years since the beginning of The Salvation Army's work in Macau. Pray that the celebrations will be an opportunity to look back and see all that God has done, and to look ahead with hope and faith for what God is yet to do.

(Lyndall Bywater, UKI Boiler Room Team)



## **FRIDAY 17 MAY: JUSTICE & RECONCILIATION** **Family Tracing Service**

Gracious God, we pray for every person whose role encompasses family tracing work, both in the UK and overseas. We pray you will keep them strong, and that you will equip them with empathy, wisdom and grace while they support those who are disenfranchised, distressed and hurt. Give them discernment when they need to help those who are disappointed at receiving sad news; inspire them to celebrate the privilege and joy of sharing in the journey which begins at each renewal of contact; and help them to delight in the important part they play in the transformation of the families they work with.

(Karen Wallace, Team Leader – Family Tracing Service)



## **SATURDAY 18 MAY: CARE FOR CREATION** **Eco Church**

Eco Church is A Rocha UK's award scheme for churches in England and Wales who want to demonstrate that the gospel is good news for God's Earth. They offer resources designed to equip churches to express care for God's world in their worship and teaching, in how they look after their buildings and land, in how they engage with their local community and in global campaigns, and in the personal lifestyles of their congregation.

Eco-Congregation Scotland is another programme supporting and encouraging registered churches in Scotland to discover what it means to care about environmental issues linking with the Christian faith and respond with practical action. Eco Church Ireland encourages churches

of all denominations and Christians everywhere to reflect on the beauty of God's world and to consider what practical steps can be taken to prevent further damage to the environment.

Pray that more and more of our Salvation Army corps and centres will give serious thought to what it means to be an 'eco church' and will make the changes they need to make across the UKI Territory.

Find out more about Eco Church: [www.ecochurch.arocha.org.uk](http://www.ecochurch.arocha.org.uk)  
Eco-Congregation Scotland: [www.ecocongregationscotland.org](http://www.ecocongregationscotland.org)  
Eco Church Ireland: [www.ecocongregationireland.com](http://www.ecocongregationireland.com)

(Lyndall Bywater, UKI Boiler Room Team)



## **SUNDAY 19 MAY: SABBATH PRAYER** **Pentecost**

Today Pentecost is often called the birthday of the Church. With great joy we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit who filled the disciples with power and boldness to declare the gospel of Jesus Christ. God, we recognise on this day that you keep your promises to your people! May the flame of your Holy Spirit be kindled in our lives today.

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



## **MONDAY 20 MAY: SHARING THE GOOD NEWS** **Central, Southern and Channel Islands Division**

One of our key initiatives as a division is to help local mission flourish by developing and investing in godly, spiritual, capable leaders. Pray for us as we partner with God in discovering how best to implement this initiative. Pray particularly for corps leaders in the process of changing appointments and ministries, and for corps who will have a change of leader this summer.

(Major Mike Lloyd-Jones, Divisional Commander)



## **TUESDAY 21 MAY: SERVING & CARING** Yorkshire and Humber Division

The Yorkshire and Humber Division continues to reimagine its structure. The current reality is that a third of its corps are without officer leadership and rely heavily on the willingness and availability of leaders in other roles to help them cover meetings and other activities. Some of these leaders are travelling many miles to support these places. One of our strategies is to release people to work to their strengths across multiple corps, which enables local expressions to maximise their opportunities for ministry. Pray for continued vision, wisdom and discernment for all involved in sharing the good news across our division.

(Major Alec Still, Assistant Divisional Commander)



## **WEDNESDAY 22 MAY: GROWING IN FAITH** William Booth College Graduation Day

We give thanks for all those who are undertaking study at William Booth College, particularly today, on this day of celebration for those who have completed diplomas and degree courses. We pray that they will know the joy of a job well done, and that, in the midst of the relief and release, they will see the many ways in which God has worked in their lives throughout their period of study.

(Lyndall Bywater, UKI Boiler Room Team)



## **THURSDAY 23 MAY: INTERNATIONAL** **SALVATION ARMY - Rwanda & Burundi Territory**

Pray for Territorial Leaders Lieut-Colonel Jean Laurore Clenat, Territorial Commander; Lieut-Colonel Elianise Clenat, Territorial President for Women's Ministries; Major Emmanuel Ndagijimana, Chief Secretary; Major Dancille Ndagijimana, Territorial Secretary for Women's Ministries.

The Army's work in Rwanda began in the thick of the civil war, 30 years ago. As Salvationists do the work of sowing love, joy and peace in Rwanda and Burundi, may their hearts be filled with the joyful knowledge that God delights in them.

(Lyndall Bywater, UKI Boiler Room Team)



## **FRIDAY 24 MAY: JUSTICE & RECONCILIATION** **Wales 150: 'Dyma Gariad'**

Pray for this milestone 150th year of The Salvation Army in Wales. Pray that each corps and centre around the nation will reach out to their community in a way that will best connect in their area, sharing the good news of the transforming power of Christ. This special year is a wonderful opportunity not just to gather internally but also to share 'God's story, our story and your story' with communities in innovative ways, and to connect with other Christians in the community for joint outreach activities.

(Based on *Salvationist* interview with Captain Kathryn Stowers, Divisional Ecumenical Officer)



## **SATURDAY 25 MAY: CARE FOR CREATION** **Partnering with others**

'As a member of The Climate Coalition, The Salvation Army is standing alongside over 130 organisations to call for climate action for the sake of all the things that matter most.' (from The Salvation Army website)

With Care for Creation as one of our UKI Territory Mission Priorities, we give thanks that we don't stand alone in such an important battle. Churches, charities, businesses and pressure groups are all working together to keep the need for climate action firmly on the political agenda. Pray that God will give us wisdom to know when, where and how to raise our collective voice, and that the Spirit will cause our message to be heard in high places.

(Lyndall Bywater, UKI Boiler Room Team)



## **SUNDAY 26 MAY: SABBATH PRAYER** **Low Sunday**

The Sunday after Easter is called 'Low Sunday' in the Church calendar. Perhaps the Sunday after Pentecost can also seem like a low point after a special celebration. In the ebb and flow of our days, God is always with us. Let us welcome ordinary days, when we can learn anew that quietness and confidence shall be our strength (Isaiah 30:15).

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



## **MONDAY 27 MAY: SHARING THE GOOD NEWS** **Wales 150: 'Dyma Gariad'**

We pray with and for the Wales Division as they celebrate the loving faithfulness of God over 150 years of Salvation Army history. 'Dyma Gariad' means 'Here is love', and we ask that God will open doors of opportunity for them to share that love in their local communities. We particularly pray for those who will be sharing the good news of Jesus at the Urdd Eisteddford over the coming days.

(Based on *Salvationist* interview with Captain Kathryn Stowers, Divisional Ecumenical Officer)



## **TUESDAY 28 MAY: SERVING & CARING** **Territorial Leadership Conference (28-31 May)**

The leadership of the UKI Territory are meeting this week at the Territorial Leaders Conference. We will engage in conversation, discussion, worship and prayer, and in fellowship over meals. Pray that as we meet, the Holy Spirit will dwell among us, inspiring, encouraging and informing our discussions. We know the responsibility is great. Lord, may your Spirit fall upon us and give us wisdom for the future direction of this territory.

(Commissioner Jenine Main, Territorial Leader for Leader Development)



## **WEDNESDAY 29 MAY: GROWING IN FAITH** **Territorial Leadership Conference (28-31 May)**

At our gathering we will be continuing the conversation around membership, belonging and believing. All soldiers, adherents and friends in The Salvation Army in the UK have had the opportunity to participate in this conversation over recent months. Having listened to wider input, we will begin to make recommendations to Cabinet. We pray again for wisdom and discernment as we consider the way forward.

(Commissioner Jenine Main, Territorial Leader for Leader Development)



## **THURSDAY 30 MAY: INTERNATIONAL SALVATION ARMY - Canada & Bermuda Territory**

The Territorial Leadership Team know that they are sustained by prayer, and ask us to pray for them, for wisdom and grace. Please pray for each of them by name today: Commissioners Lee and Debbie Graves, Colonels John and Lani Chamness, Lieut-Colonel Les Marshall, Lieut-Colonel Roxanne Jennings, Lieut-Colonel John P Murray, Lieut-Colonel Keith Pike, Major Pam Goodyear and Graham Moore.

(Lyndall Bywater, UKI Boiler Room Team)



## **FRIDAY 31 MAY: JUSTICE & RECONCILIATION Riverbank Conference: (31 May-2 June)**

Lord, as women of all ages gather for the Riverbank Conference at Warwick University, we pray that you will enable us to encounter you as we worship, to hear you as we engage in Christian teaching and, with your guidance, each to explore our God-given potential. Help us to know that freedom and fullness of life are found only in your truth.

(Rachel Gotobed, Territorial Outreach Mission Partner)



# NOTES



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