



Prayer
Network

Prayer MATTERS

JANUARY 2024

Dear Prayer Matters readers

A very happy New Year to you, and a warm welcome to the first *Prayer Matters* of 2024.

You'll notice this January edition of *Prayer Matters* looks a little different, and that's because we're launching our new Prayer Rhythm, which is all part of a new initiative called 'UKI Boiler Room'. Let me explain a little about the Boiler Room first, and then we'll come back to the Prayer Rhythm.

I'm sure you'll agree that The Salvation Army's mission needs the engine of prayer. That's why we're launching an initiative called 'UKI Boiler Room'. 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.

In this issue we'll be finding our way around our new Prayer Rhythm, praying for some important upcoming events, such as the Appointments Conference, the Prayer Gathering and covering various different aspects of our mission: both our evangelism and our work for compassion and justice. Our Sunday Sabbath prayers will help us reflect on the link between fire and the presence of God, and our Saturday Care for Creation prayers are a beautiful exploration of how we can prayerfully engage with nature during winter.

Before I leave you to dig into the new Prayer Rhythm, may I just mention a couple of other ways to be part of the UKI Boiler Room?

- Start a 'furnace'. A furnace is a group of people who pray together – small or large, in person or online. If you sign up your prayer group to be a

Boiler Room Furnace, we'll keep in touch with you, put useful resources your way, give you creative ideas on how to pray the Prayer Rhythm as a group, and help you stay connected with other furnaces around the territory.

Email us to sign up your prayer group as a UKI Boiler Room Furnace:
saprayernetwork@salvationarmy.org.uk

- Come to the UKI Boiler Room launch, which will take place at the Encounter Prayer Gathering, 26–28 January 2024 at The Slate, Warwick University. If you haven't booked to join us yet, why not sign up and help us launch this ground-breaking initiative.

Book your Gathering ticket here:
<https://form-builder.com/61339/encounter-prayer-gathering-2024>

When we stoke the fires of prayer, anything is possible!

Lyndall Bywater, on behalf of the UKI Boiler Room Team

JANUARY

For the first week, most prayers have been written by Lyndall Bywater from the UKI Boiler Room Team.



MONDAY 1 JANUARY: SHARING THE GOOD NEWS **Boldness in the telling**

Happy New Year, and welcome to our new UKI Boiler Room Prayer Rhythm! Every Monday the focus of our prayer is going to be Jesus' call to share the good news with those who haven't yet heard it. Let's begin this New Year by asking God to give us a deeper experience of this good news, and greater boldness in sharing it with others.



TUESDAY 2 JANUARY: SERVING & CARING **Compassion in our doing**

On Tuesdays we will focus our prayers on The Salvation Army's work to serve and care for those in need. Let's begin this year by asking God to renew in us those gifts of compassion and kindness which enable us to serve and care for others.



WEDNESDAY 3 JANUARY: GROWING IN FAITH **Passion in our discipleship**

On Wednesdays we will focus our prayers on growing as disciples. Let's begin the year by inviting the Holy Spirit to fill us with a fresh passion to follow Jesus, and a renewed willingness to encourage others on their journey of faith.



THURSDAY 4 JANUARY: INTERNATIONAL **SALVATION ARMY - Malawi Territory**

Every Thursday we will join Salvationists all over the world in what's known as the 'Worldwide Prayer Meeting'. Each week we will pray for a different territory or region, and this week we're praying for the Malawi Territory. We pray for its leaders, Colonel Samuel Baah, Territorial Commander, and Colonel Theresa Baah, Territorial President for Women's Ministries. We pray that the Army in Malawi will know the abundant grace and provision of God.



FRIDAY 5 JANUARY: JUSTICE & RECONCILIATION

Fighting for fairness and integrity

On Fridays we will focus our prayers on the many ways in which The Salvation Army works to defend the cause of those who are treated unfairly, and to help build a more just world. Let's begin the year by asking God to show us where we can be advocates for justice in our own local community.



SATURDAY 6 JANUARY: CARE FOR CREATION

Winter wonder

It's the darkest part of the year in the UK, with the shortest days and the longest nights, the sparkle of Christmas now past. 'The earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters' (Genesis 1:2). Take time to linger in the dark on a night walk and listen to what brooding creativity God wants to initiate from the darkness.

(Captain Vanessa Coleman, Woking Corps)



SUNDAY 7 JANUARY: SABBATH PRAYER

Covenant faithfulness

God, you made a covenant with Abraham and sealed it with fire. Then, centuries later, you ratified your New Covenant with tongues of fire. As we renew our covenant with you today, help us to draw courage from your unfailing faithfulness, and help us to open our lives again to the presence of your Holy Spirit.



MONDAY 8 JANUARY: SHARING THE GOOD NEWS

New Territorial Leaders

Lord Jesus, we bring Commissioners Jenine and Paul Main, Territorial Leaders and Lieut-Colonels Peter and Julie Forrest. Lord, will you guide them, will you protect them from the enemy, and may your wisdom flow through them, along with your mercy and grace. Fill them with expectation and hope as they lead us to share the good news of Jesus.

(Major Meshiel Brown, Sunderland Citadel Corps)



TUESDAY 9 JANUARY: SERVING & CARING **Core Recovery**

As Core Recovery teams around our territory serve their clients in love, we give thanks for hope in Jesus and for lives in recovery from addictions. Lord, pour out your protection over all who minister, and around all who enter our doors to find acceptance, practical help and spiritual healing.

(Major Jill Miller, Officer in Retirement)

Find out more about Core Recovery here:

www.salvationist.org.uk/faith/our-territory/territorial-directory/core-recovery-church



WEDNESDAY 10 JANUARY: GROWING IN FAITH **Praying for our international leaders**

Today we pray for The Salvation Army's international leaders, General Lyndon Buckingham, Commissioner Bronwyn Buckingham and Commissioners Edward and Shelley Hill. God, give them wisdom, discernment and spiritual power in their leadership and ministry. May they be like the 'men of Issachar', understanding the times and knowing what God's people should do (1 Chronicles 12:32).

(Captain Xander Coleman, Woking Corps)



THURSDAY 11 JANUARY: INTERNATIONAL **SALVATION ARMY - USA Eastern Territory**

In our Worldwide Prayer Meeting this week we pray for the USA Eastern Territory. We pray God's wisdom and insight for its territorial leaders, Commissioners Lorraine and William Bamford, and we pray that every corps and centre will experience the renewal of the Holy Spirit this year.

(Lyndall Bywater, UKI Boiler Room Team)



FRIDAY 12 JANUARY: JUSTICE & RECONCILIATION

Refugees and asylum seekers

Father in Heaven, whose eyes see the hurt and injustice mirrored in those of the stranger from a foreign land fleeing to our safe haven, melt our indifference, flood us with your compassion to embrace the bruised body and crushed spirit in our midst, to show compassion, to seek justice and to love lavishly.

(Major Adrian Lee, Huddersfield Corps)



SATURDAY 13 JANUARY: CARE FOR CREATION

Winter wonder

The trees have shed their burdens, the branches are cold and bare. List what you need to leave behind in this season of dying back, ready to return to fruitfulness as the year progresses. Light a fire (maybe as small as a candle) and burn your list (safely) as God uses what has passed to bring brightness and warmth to the darkness.

(Captain Vanessa Coleman, Woking Corps)



SUNDAY 14 JANUARY: SABBATH PRAYER

Calling

Father God, you called to Moses out of a burning bush; you called Moses to a life of service and leadership. Help me to hear you speaking to me today, no matter how unexpected your voice may seem, and renew in me a fire for the calling you have placed on my life.

(Lyndall Bywater, UKI Boiler Room Team)



MONDAY 15 JANUARY: SHARING THE GOOD NEWS

Appointments Conference

As territorial and divisional leaders gather to seek God's guidance in planning the next set of officer appointments, we pray that their conversations will be characterised by boldness, compassion, passion, respect, integrity and mutual accountability. We pray particularly for the

Secretary for Personnel and the Assistant Secretary for Personnel as they lead these conversations. We pray that the decisions made will result in more people hearing the gospel in the coming years.

(Major Ian Woodgate, Personnel Officer – Administration)



TUESDAY 16 JANUARY: SERVING & CARING **Appointments Conference**

We continue to lift before God those who meet for the Territorial Appointments Conference, for a stirring of the gifts of the Spirit as they worship, pray and talk together. We pray for each officer preparing to serve in a new appointment, and for the corps, centres and other ministries preparing to welcome new leadership.

(Major Ian Woodgate, Personnel Officer – Administration)



WEDNESDAY 17 JANUARY: GROWING IN FAITH **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (18-25 January)**

As the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity begins tomorrow, we pray: loving God, as part of the Church aiming to 'grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ' (Ephesians 4:15), may we willingly give and receive prayer and support to help one another grow in faith, hope and love.

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



THURSDAY 18 JANUARY: INTERNATIONAL **SALVATION ARMY – Russia Territory**

In our Worldwide Prayer Meeting this week we pray for the Russia Territory, its territorial leaders, Lieut-Colonel Alexander Kharkov and Major Inna Khurina, and its people. May God protect and strengthen all those seeking to demonstrate the love of Jesus in difficult circumstances, and may The Salvation Army be free to carry out its mission with joy and confidence.

(Lyndall Bywater, UKI Boiler Room Team)



FRIDAY 19 JANUARY: JUSTICE & RECONCILIATION

Refugees and asylum seekers

Lord Jesus, we thank you that your thoughts are beyond our understanding. Enable us in our desire to seek reconciliation for those strangers, the refugee and asylum seeker. Give us courage to bridge the divides and be bringers of your grace and love.

(Major Adrian Lee, Huddersfield Corps)



SATURDAY 20 JANUARY: CARE FOR CREATION

Winter wonder

Winter gardens are bleak – but now when the ground is hard is the time to plant for summer growth. Basil, aubergine, chilli, geraniums and sweet peas can be planted at this time of year. Plant some seeds as an act of prophetic faith that God will bring newness to life where you can't see it yet. 'Faith makes us sure of what we hope for and gives us proof of what we cannot see' (Hebrews 11:1, *CEV*).

(Captain Vanessa Coleman, Woking Corps)



SUNDAY 21 JANUARY: SABBATH PRAYER

Guidance

The People of Israel journeyed through the wilderness, following a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. Father God, in the night-time of our lives, help us to see your fiery presence leading us through the difficult terrain. Comfort us in the warmth of your tender love.

(Lyndall Bywater, UKI Boiler Room Team)



MONDAY 22 JANUARY: SHARING THE GOOD NEWS

Design for Life (26-28 January)

We thank God for the last DFL (Design For Life) weekend in September, when 39 delegates met together to explore Ministry and Vocation. It was a significant and blessed experience, so we are looking forward to our DFL this weekend. Please pray that people will respond to the invitation

and hear from God as we share in worship, prayer, conversation, teaching and fellowship. Pray that each person will know God's will and purpose for their lives, and will see more clearly their unique part in helping others to encounter Christ.

(Major Mark Sawyer, Territorial Candidates Director)



TUESDAY 23 JANUARY: SERVING & CARING Intercultural ministry

Father, we thank you that all people can be included in and bring their uniqueness to your Kingdom. Therefore, help us to welcome the stranger, reaching across boundaries and making genuine connection. May we care enough to make room for people whose cultural background is different from ours, and may we graciously and humbly communicate the fulness of your gospel.

(Major Carol Young, Southsea Corps)



WEDNESDAY 24 JANUARY: GROWING IN FAITH Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (18-25 January)

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (18-25 January) has focused on the command to 'love your neighbour as yourself' (Luke 10:27). Gracious God, as we reach out in love to others, reach into our lives with your grace, helping us reflect the love of Jesus more and more.

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



THURSDAY 25 JANUARY: INTERNATIONAL **SALVATION ARMY – Pakistan Territory**

In our Worldwide Prayer Meeting this week we join with Salvationists all over the world to pray for the Pakistan Territory. We pray God's richest blessings on Territorial Leaders Colonels Diana MacDonald and MacDonald Chandi, and on all those who worship and serve in the Pakistan Salvation Army. We pray that their love for Christ will grow ever stronger and that many will be drawn to God's Kingdom through their witness.

(Lyndall Bywater, UKI Boiler Room Team)



FRIDAY 26 JANUARY: JUSTICE & RECONCILIATION **Encounter Prayer Gathering**

At this year's Prayer Gathering, entitled 'Ignition', we will launch the UKI Boiler Room, a new initiative to put a furnace of prayer at the heart of our mission. When we pray, we partner with God in the work of bringing justice, hope and renewal. Pray that people will be inspired and transformed by the fire of God as they gather in Warwick this evening.

(Major Gary Lacey, Territorial Prayer Co-ordinator)



SATURDAY 27 JANUARY: CARE FOR CREATION **Winter wonder**

Evergreens have been used by the Church for thousands of years to symbolise hope and God's invitation to eternal life. The season for the holly and the ivy may be passed, but consider gathering some greenery to bring indoors, remembering God's promise: 'I am living and strong! I look after you and care for you. I am like an evergreen tree, yielding my fruit to you throughout the year. My mercies never fail.' (Hosea 14:8 *TLB*)

(Captain Vanessa Coleman, Woking Corps)



SUNDAY 28 JANUARY: SABBATH PRAYER **Power**

Almighty God, who answered the prayers of your servant Elijah by sending fire on his sacrifice on Mount Carmel, remind us today of your power to overcome any obstacle or enemy we may face. As we launch our new prayer initiative, the UKI Boiler Room, give us faith to believe that you will respond to our humble, seemingly insignificant prayers with the fire of your presence and power.

(Lyndall Bywater, UKI Boiler Room Team)



MONDAY 29 JANUARY: SHARING THE GOOD NEWS **UKI Boiler Room**

At the Encounter Prayer Gathering this weekend, we launched our new prayer initiative the UKI Boiler Room – a heartbeat of prayer to fire our mission. Jesus, as your first disciples were empowered for mission by being in prayer when the Holy Spirit came, we pray that as we commence this new boiler room, you will set us on fire for the mission of winning the lost. Give us a boldness to proclaim your gospel, and hearts that burn to reach out with your love and grace.

(Major John Maclean, Bedford Corps)



TUESDAY 30 JANUARY: SERVING & CARING **UKI Boiler Room**

Father, we come to you as your serving and caring disciples, because you called us and gave us loving hearts. In this new UKI Boiler Room, may we use those compassionate and considerate hearts to pray for those who are hurting, those who are broken, those who are in need of Jesus. May we have an impact in our communities and amongst those we minister to.

(Captain Kay Blues, Livingston Corps and Territorial Mission Officer)



WEDNESDAY 31 JANUARY: GROWING IN FAITH **UKI Boiler Room**

Dear Lord Jesus, we continue our prayer for the territorial Boiler Room, for ourselves and our church. We pray that this may create a healthy rhythm, the perfect soil in which to grow individually and corporately in our dependence upon you. Here I am, your disciple; please breathe upon me, upon us.

(Captain Cor Van der Woude, Bury Corps)



NOTES



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