



Prayer
Network

Prayer MATTERS

JANUARY - JUNE 2021



Greetings, partners in prayer.

Welcome to this January–June 2021 edition of *Prayer Matters*.

Unbelievably, as I write this introduction, we are six months into our 'new normal' of living within the restrictions of Coronavirus, and with a fresh wave upon us we are set for a challenging winter season.

Most Territorial Headquarters (THQ) staff continue to work from home and some remain on restricted hours under government schemes which means once again this edition of *Prayer Matters* has not been printed and sent out as hard copy to our subscribers. If the situation changes in the spring, we may consider mailing out then.

In the meantime, what we aim to do is to make this edition of *Prayer Matters* available as widely as possible by electronic means. We realise that this is disappointing to many as it will not reach all our 7,000 plus postal subscribers, and so I ask if you are able to share with others please do so.

In this edition you will find daily inspiring topics to help you reflect personally and pray for the diverse areas of mission and ministry in our territory. I particularly commend to you our January Vision and Commitment themes, written by the Secretary for Spiritual Life Development, Lieutenant-Colonel Jayne Roberts. Also, the excellent 40 days of Lent section, linked to our Into the Wild prayer series themes and written by Lyndall Bywater, a freelance author on all things prayer.

My grateful thanks to Hannah Kingston (Resource Hub, THQ) who has collated and edited this issue, and of course to all our guest writers, without whom we couldn't provide this resource and who bring rich perspectives to our prayer focus.

By the time you reach the end of this edition of *Prayer Matters* I will have retired from active service – a sobering thought for me. It has been my great blessing and privilege to serve the Prayer Network these five years and, as ever, I thank God for you and for your partnership in prayer.

'Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful'
(Colossians 4:2).

Major Pauline Milner,

SA Territorial Prayer Co-ordinator

JANUARY

'GOING FORWARD TOGETHER – LIVING IN GOD'S COVENANT' FOCUS

🗂 LIEUT-COLONEL JAYNE ROBERTS (SECRETARY FOR SPIRITUAL LIFE DEVELOPMENT)

🕒 **SETTING THE SCENE**

At the beginning of 2021 as we greet each other with 'Happy New Year', let this traditional greeting be accompanied by a fervent prayer from all *Prayer Matters* readers, that in the coming year we will move forward into happier circumstances, beyond the Covid-19 pandemic with all the restrictions and challenges encountered so unexpectedly in 2020.

During the first part of January we will focus on 'Going Forward Together – Living in God's Covenant'. May God speak to us and guide us as we continue our journey of faith and prayer.

📅 **FRIDAY 1 JANUARY – ISAIAH 43:18,19**

Lord God, as we come before you in prayer on this first day of a new year, help us to perceive the new thing you are doing; to listen, to understand and be willing to participate. May we seek to let go of past fears and embrace new possibilities, guided by your Holy Spirit and strengthened by your grace.

📅 **SATURDAY 2 JANUARY – ISAIAH 43:19B**

'God will make a way where there seems to be no way' is a line from a song (SASB 492) that reflects God's enabling power and encourages us to trust him. In Scripture the wilderness is often a place of encounter with God and his transforming power. God is present with us in the darkest circumstances and the deepest sorrows. As you pray today, place your situation in God's hands and resolve to move forward in faith.



SUNDAY 3 JANUARY

On this first Sunday of the new year, whether you are praying at home or able to gather with other people, the territory's theme for this season is 'Going Forward Together – Living in God's Covenant'. May we each encounter the presence of God this day, praising and thanking him that he calls us into covenant relationship with him and with each other. Pray for those with whom you worship regularly. Perhaps you could send a message this week to one or two people to let them know they are in your prayers.

MONDAY 4 JANUARY – GENESIS 8:22

Isn't it amazing that God our creator invites us to partner with him in the agreement known as covenant? God's creative, sustaining and redemptive acts are promised to us, his people. In Genesis 9:8-17 God establishes his covenant, through Noah, with all life on Earth. Let us consider this day how God's covenant has been fulfilled to his creation unconditionally. God keeps his word.

TUESDAY 5 JANUARY

The first covenant in Scripture that God made with Noah and for all generations to come is symbolised by the rainbow. These days we know that a rainbow can be explained scientifically as reflected and refracted sunlight shining through water droplets to create a spectrum. We may understand more about this meteorological phenomenon than Noah did but we still cannot create a rainbow. Take time in prayer to recognise God's gifts to us in creation and our response to his covenant as stewards of his provision.

WEDNESDAY 6 JANUARY

Many words are used to define a covenant – agreement, bond and contract are among them. The Hebrew word used in Scripture meaning to seal a covenant literally translates as 'to cut'. In Genesis 15 God revealed himself to Abraham and promised to make him the father of a great nation. His descendants would eventually inhabit the land of Israel. God instructed Abraham to prepare animal sacrifices and arrange them in a particular way. Heavenly fire passed between the cut pieces of flesh, sealing the covenant that God was making with Abraham. A spiritual relationship was sealed in a practical way, although it would be many years before God's promises were fulfilled. Let this prompt us to pray for patience and faith in God's promises to us.

📅 THURSDAY 7 JANUARY

👉 ‘**ABRAM BELIEVED THE LORD, AND THE LORD WAS PLEASED WITH HIM.**’ (GENESIS 15:6 CEV)

One week into 2021 – how are you doing with keeping any new year resolutions? We can make ourselves all kinds of promises and write long lists of good intentions as a new year approaches. On the one hand it is good to believe that significant change is possible; on the other we may place unrealistic expectations upon ourselves. When God revealed to Abraham how his life would unfold, his response was incredulity – and many questions! Through listening to the Lord and believing him Abraham saw God’s will realised. May our prayer be ‘O for a deeper, O for a greater, O for a perfect trust in the Lord.’

📅 FRIDAY 8 JANUARY

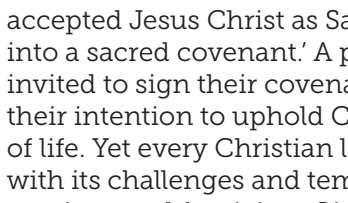
Unlike the covenants made with Noah and Abraham, God’s covenant with Moses and the Israelites was conditional. Speaking to Moses, their leader on Mount Sinai, God made an agreement to protect them if they kept his Law and were faithful to him. If Israel is obedient, then God will bless them; but if they disobey, God will punish them. This covenant set the nation apart from all others as God’s chosen people. At that time the response was ‘We will do everything the Lord has said’ (Exodus 19:8). The surrounding nations would know that they worshipped Yahweh, the covenant-keeping God. Pray that your life is a witness to the Lord who keeps his promises.

📅 SATURDAY 9 JANUARY – EXODUS 19:5

These were the words spoken directly to Moses confirming God’s choice of Israel to be his holy people, his ‘treasured possession’. How could they fail to hear and obey every word from God who loved and valued them? How could they disobey the Lord who had rescued them from slavery in Egypt and given them laws to observe governing every part of life? Yet time and again they failed, they turned to other gods, they neglected the commandments. Time and again God was merciful and restored his people as they bowed in repentance. Is there a need for personal repentance this day as you spend time with God? Pray that the Holy Spirit will reveal this to you as you turn your mind and heart to him.

📅 SUNDAY 10 JANUARY

The theme of Living in God’s Covenant might prompt some Salvationists to look again at their soldier’s covenant, or Articles of War as it was formerly known. The opening paragraph declares: ‘Having



accepted Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord... I now by God's grace enter into a sacred covenant.' A person being enrolled as a soldier is usually invited to sign their covenant in a public ceremony, having declared their intention to uphold Christian standards and values in every area of life. Yet every Christian lives out their promises to God in daily life with its challenges and temptations. Let us remember that our God is gracious and forgiving. Give thanks to him today.

MONDAY 11 JANUARY

January is often a month when days can seem dark and dreary. God has covenanted to us that winter will give way to spring and summer, but his love and faithfulness are unchanging. May we experience his presence and power today.

*Dear Lord, I lift my heart to thee,
My helplessness I own;
The way before I cannot see,
I dare not walk alone.*

*More clearly would I realise
Thy presence and thy power,
Not only under summer skies,
But in the darkest hour.*

John Izzard (SASB 489)

TUESDAY 12 JANUARY

*Not only when I sense thee near
Art thou most surely nigh,
Nor hast thou, Lord, a quicker ear
Because my faith is high.*

*My changing moods do not control
Thy covenanted aid;
Thou hast the guarding of my soul,
And I am not afraid.*

John Izzard (SASB 489)

Let the truth of these words so beautifully expressed by John Izzard strengthen you today. May your soul find its resting place in God, our rock and redeemer.

WEDNESDAY 13 JANUARY

In the time of Nathan the prophet, God made a further unconditional covenant. This would not depend upon human obedience but on God's sovereign activity and faithfulness. It began as a promise that a permanent home would be provided for Israel and that David's son Solomon would be blessed and build the Temple. The covenant expands into the divine promise to establish an everlasting kingdom through the lineage of King David. Eventually his line of succession would result in the birth of Jesus Christ, the Messiah.

Having now glimpsed four of the Old Testament covenants, take time to reflect on what you have learned about God through his promises to his people. Focus on prayers of gratitude today.

THURSDAY 14 JANUARY

The Gospel writers record the life and teaching of Jesus Christ, the one who came to establish God's new covenant with all humankind. Yet long before the birth of Jesus, the prophet Jeremiah speaks of the new covenant:

'The days are coming... when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel... I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people.' (Jeremiah 31:31,33)

What a beautiful picture of hope and restoration this is, based in a personal relationship with God! Pray for this transforming hope to bless your family and friends this day. Pray for those you long to know the Lord for themselves.

FRIDAY 15 JANUARY

On the evening before his death on the cross, Jesus spoke to his disciples of the new covenant. As they broke bread and drank wine in the upper room, Christ told them, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you' (Luke 22:20). Through the sacrificial death of Jesus, Son of God, we can know forgiveness of sins and the empowering ministry of the Holy Spirit. The new covenant means that we can call God 'Abba, Father'. Thank you, Lord, for your amazing love and grace. Father God, may we live in the truth of the new covenant, as your redeemed people.



SATURDAY 16 JANUARY

We are nearly at the end of this theme Living in God's Covenant, culminating in the new covenant established by Jesus. These days may prompt you to read Scripture and study the various covenants in more detail. The book of Hebrews, chapters 8–10, compares the Old Testament system of priestly sacrifices with the atoning sacrifice of Christ and confirms the fulfilment of God's promise to forgive sin and restore fellowship with those who seek him. Thank you, God, that the way is open to all who will respond in faith. Thank you, God, for your love and grace poured into our lives every day.

SUNDAY 17 JANUARY

One of the shortest songs in *The Song Book of The Salvation Army*, 604, is written by Charles Wesley. It forms the perfect benediction to these days reflecting on and praying about covenant. These verses encapsulate the joy of making and renewing our covenant relationship with God. Let us make this our prayer today:

*Lord, in the strength of grace,
With a glad heart and free,
Myself, my residue of days,
I consecrate to thee.*

*Thy ransomed servant, I
Restore to thee thine own,
And from this moment live or die
To serve my God alone.*

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY FOCUS

**MONDAY 18 JANUARY - MAJOR DAVID EVANS,
TERRITORIAL ECUMENICAL OFFICER**

In this time of uncertainty and distress,
keep us together as your people.
As a mother cares for her children,
keep us together under the shadow of your mercy.
We ask that you open our eyes to others' needs,
recognising those who are anxious and fearful.
Help us, together, to sustain those who are brought low,
sharing your care and love, and by our togetherness
reveal the image of Christ in word, thought and deed!
In Christ Jesus our Lord.
Amen.

📅 TUESDAY 19 JANUARY - MAJOR KATRINA GREETHAM, SWANAGE CORPS, CHAIR OF CHURCHES TOGETHER IN DORSET, DIVISIONAL ECUMENICAL OFFICER, SOUTHERN DIVISION

Loving God, you call us to live in harmony. Anoint us with your Spirit as we seek to mirror your glory in a world so affected by Coronavirus. Where we cannot be physically together, may the unity of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit hold us as we commit to praying for each other, as together we serve you.
Amen.

📅 WEDNESDAY 20 JANUARY - REV PHIL BROOKS - NEO URC SECRETARY FOR ECUMENICAL AND INTERFAITH RELATIONS

Loving God, we hear your call to live together in unity. We bring before you a world which continues to wrestle with Covid-19, praying for those facing uncertain futures and those who grieve. May we learn the lessons of pandemic and bring about a 'new normal' where our togetherness flows like precious oil on the beard of Aaron in our shared actions and witness.
Amen.

📅 THURSDAY 21 JANUARY - BOB FYFFE - GENERAL SECRETARY OF CHURCHES TOGETHER IN BRITAIN AND IRELAND

Loving and faithful God,
You are there in times of fear and brokenness,
You are there as the world seems a place of terror and disease,
You are there when our soul sighs and we long for better days;
You are there.
Our unity is broken when we follow our own path,
And you call us back as children to her mother's breast.
We know you are always there.
Forgive us for a lack of faith,
Make us aware of your love.
Sing in our hearts that you are there,
Bind our wounds and our divisions,
And we will proclaim your grace
Because we know you are there.
Amen.



📅 FRIDAY 22 JANUARY - REV ALED EDWARDS OBE - CHIEF EXECUTIVE, CYTUN (WALES)

Loving Father,
during troubling times may we find contentment and comfort in your loving embrace.

As the world around us strives for stark contrasts and conflict,
may we seek understanding and a bringing together.

Where we are in grief, give us comfort.

In the face of illness and fear, grant us faith to heal,
and may we love others as we would be loved.

We ask for these things in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ,

and by the power of the Holy Spirit.

May we be one.

Amen.

📅 SATURDAY 23 JANUARY - REV DR PAUL GOODLIFF BATH - GENERAL SECRETARY, CHURCHES TOGETHER IN ENGLAND

Gracious and loving God, whenever we find our unity in Christ, we experience the oil of the Spirit anointing our head and spreading throughout the Body of Christ. But in these times of grief, bewilderment and uncertainty, that oil has been accompanied by the tears we shed, running down our cheeks. Enable us to share in our hopes and fears, our joys and sadness, so that we find our love for one another deepened, our encouragement of one another renewed and our compassion for all in need rekindled, through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

📅 SUNDAY 24 JANUARY - MAJOR DAVID EVANS, TERRITORIAL ECUMENICAL OFFICER

Lord Jesus, teach us how to love one another as Christ has first loved us,

As we represent different Christian expressions, keep us from doing anything out of selfish ambition or vain conceit.

As we learn to work together as the body of Christ, enable us in our interactions to have hearts of humility, placing others before ourselves.

May our diversity lead others to see the love of God which motivates us.

This we ask in the precious name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Amen.

KEYWORKER FOCUS

👤 KAREN MERCER, NEW ADDINGTON CORPS

Karen is a liver disease nurse specialist and the liver transplant coordinator at Kings College Hospital, London.

🕒 SETTING THE SCENE

The rapid spread of COVID-19 gave us little time for preparation. The NHS across primary and secondary care went to war and served in the most challenging circumstances of its history. Human beings went above and beyond to serve others. The cost was enormous – physically, emotionally, mentally. As I write, a second national lockdown is being considered. People are tired, the NHS continues to play catch-up and to rebuild. As you pray this week, you are encouraged to listen to the song ‘The Potter’s Hand (Beautiful Lord)’ by Darlene Zschech (*SASB 355*); listen to the words and allow them to resonate deep within as you consider all who work within the NHS. As a banner at the front of Kings College Hospital, London, reads...

‘Keep going, guys, all of you, the cleaners, porters, admin, security, paramedics, nurses, doctors, consultants, surgeons, every last one of you is flippin’ amazing.’

📅 MONDAY 25 JANUARY

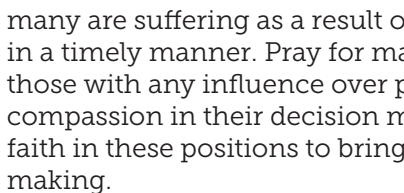
🔍 ‘ALL OF MY DAYS ARE HELD IN YOUR HAND’

How many more of these COVID days do we have? Fear of the unknown can cause deep anxiety for many. Will we ever return to ‘normal’ or will we move to a new rhythm of daily life? Lord, bring blessing and peace to all working across the NHS this week. Help us to remember that you hold the future and to allow your Spirit to guide through these times.

📅 TUESDAY 26 JANUARY

🔍 ‘CRAFTED INTO YOUR PERFECT PLAN’

The NHS faces a difficult task in trying to ‘catch up’ with patients who have missed treatments, operations and screening tests, while simultaneously being prepared for another surge in COVID admissions. Resources are stretched, patients feel worried, and



many are suffering as a result of not being able to access NHS care in a timely manner. Pray for managers, budget holders, politicians, those with any influence over policy, that they will show wisdom and compassion in their decision making. Pray that God will use people of faith in these positions to bring calmness and clarity into the decision making.

WEDNESDAY 27 JANUARY

‘TEACH ME, DEAR LORD, TO LIVE ALL OF MY LIFE THROUGH YOUR EYES’

Many people including healthcare workers are frightened of COVID-19. PPE provides physical protection, but emotional protection is more of a challenge. Families have been kept away from their loved ones needing hospital care, and physical contact has been provided from behind screens or layers of protective clothing. Yet God knows each individual and each circumstance. Pray for all in society whose work is focused on meeting the needs of others, that they would see what God sees and be able to show kindness and compassion to all they meet, whatever the circumstance.

THURSDAY 28 JANUARY

‘I’M CAPTURED BY YOUR HOLY CALLING’

To serve others on the front line comes at a cost. The NHS is already short of staff; and as a result of COVID, and the need for social isolation until tested if symptomatic, there are days when personnel continue to be severely stretched. Some workers feel they want to leave the NHS and the impact of this will be felt for a long time after the pandemic passes. Ignatius of Loyola prays this: ‘Lord, teach me to be generous. Teach me to serve you as you deserve; to give and not to count the cost; to fight and not to heed the wounds; to toil and not to seek for rest; to labour and not to ask for any reward except to know that I am doing your will.’

FRIDAY 29 JANUARY

‘LEAD ME, LORD, I PRAY’

We are all looking to be led out of the impact of COVID and to have hope in a brighter future. So many questions have been raised, so many lessons have to be learned, that at times it can feel overwhelming. Pray for all who wrestle with these bigger questions and consider how the NHS can deliver healthcare in new ways in the future. Lord, we place our trust in you.

📅 SATURDAY 30 JANUARY

👉 'WALK BESIDE ME'

'It takes a village to raise a child' is an African proverb that means an entire community of people must interact with a child to allow them to experience and grow in a safe and healthy environment. This can apply to adults too. Lockdown has afforded the opportunity for us to have more connection with neighbours, and many have developed support networks that would not have previously existed. Get to know your neighbours; how can you serve others and demonstrate Christ's love through your actions and kindness? Pray that God will open up opportunities for you this week.

👉 'I GIVE MY LIFE TO THE POTTER'S HAND'

COVID has featured in our daily rhythm for a long time. Those of us working on the front line are sometimes required to switch off our own emotions to be strong enough to help others. The day will come, though, when we need to talk, to process what we have seen, to grieve for colleagues and friends we have lost, to express the fear we felt about exposing our families and friends to the virus, the physical toll of long hours in PPE with short breaks between shifts. Pray for this process, that healing will come. Be open to God using you to reach out to a healthcare worker this week.

PERSPECTIVE FOCUS

👤 TONY HORSFALL, RETREAT LEADER AND AUTHOR

📅 SUNDAY 31 JANUARY

'For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain' (Philippians 1:21). With these simple words the apostle Paul presents his philosophy of life. This is deeply personal, an outlook that shaped everything he did. Pray that you may share the same perspective of desiring to glorify God in all you do and say.

FEBRUARY

📅 MONDAY 1 FEBRUARY

'For to me, to live is Christ' – here is a philosophy that affects how we live every day, seeking to be as much like Jesus as possible in the way we live. Pray for that Christlikeness to be developed in you and expressed in your ministry today.

📅 TUESDAY 2 FEBRUARY

'For to me, to live is Christ' – we cannot live the Christian life unless Christ lives his life in us and through us. Express your dependency on him today in your prayer, asking that as a branch abides in the vine so you may abide in Christ and be fruitful by sharing his life.

📅 WEDNESDAY 3 FEBRUARY

'And to die is gain' – death is not the end for the believer, but the beginning of sharing the glory of God in Heaven. Paul was not afraid to die because of this great hope. Pray that you may share his perspective and help others to have the same confidence.

📅 THURSDAY 4 FEBRUARY

'And to die is gain' – grief is real and painful, even with this perspective. Pray today for anyone you know who has suffered bereavement, that they may experience the comfort of God and the assurance that Paul possessed.

SELF-DENIAL FOCUS

👤 CHRISTINE THOMAS, TERRITORIAL APPEALS OFFICER

📅 FRIDAY 5 FEBRUARY

The principle of self-denial has been central to the life of The Salvation Army and its founder, William Booth, who, when recording a series of resolutions by which he planned to live, on 6 October 1849, made this prayer: 'God help me, enable me to cultivate a spirit of self-denial...'

Lord, as we follow the prayer of our Founder, help us and enable us to cultivate a spirit of self-denial. We give our money to you with a sacrificial heart and mind. Help us to give the best we can and offer it to you in love.

Amen.

SATURDAY 6 FEBRUARY

Lord, the poverty and suffering in certain countries around the world where your Army serves is massive. We pray that the leadership of those nations will take a stand and make decisions that will improve the quality of life for all. We pray for safer buildings and resources so that families are protected from the extremes of weather. We pray that growth in your Church will continue and that the Holy Spirit would move deeper in people's lives. Amen.

SUNDAY 7 FEBRUARY

Dear Lord, help us to remember how our sacrifice can make all the difference to people in places around the world. As followers of Christ, however, our responsibility does not end there. As an act of prayer, inspire our imaginations, Lord, to take the time to think about how people's lives may change as a result of our giving. Giving sacrificially and praying boldly go hand in hand. Bless our acts of self-denial and help transform lives as a result. Amen.

MONDAY 8 FEBRUARY

Dear Lord, we pray for the UK Salvation Army personnel serving overseas. We may know some of them personally, others we may not, but we lift them all up to you right now and ask that you will bless their ministries with your grace. Keep them safe in those countries in which they are serving. Help us to think of practical ways in which we may be able to help and support them. In your name we pray. Amen.

DIVISIONAL PRAYER FOCUS (CENTRAL NORTH DIVISION)

 **CAPTAIN GARY LACEY, MANCHESTER CENTRAL CORPS AND DIVISIONAL PRAYER CO-ORDINATOR**

TUESDAY 9 FEBRUARY - NUMBERS 6:24-26

PRAY FOR LOCAL LEADERSHIP IN ALL CENTRAL NORTH SETTINGS.

Lord, bless each leader in every setting in Central North. Pour out blessings upon them and equip them with the energy, vision and drive to touch this region with your power. In Jesus' name. Amen.



📅 WEDNESDAY 10 FEBRUARY - ISAIAH 54:2

👉 PRAY FOR AN INCREASED FOCUS AND IDENTITY FOR THE SALVATION ARMY RIGHT ACROSS MANCHESTER.

Father, we pray for an increase in The Salvation Army's mission across Manchester. It is dry land. Pour out your living water and revive our work, O Lord, in every part of the city. Give us the joy of seeing the broken and the lost restored and transformed in your name. Amen.

📅 THURSDAY 11 FEBRUARY - MATTHEW 18:20

👉 PRAY FOR THE NEW CLUSTER GROUPS - GROUPINGS OF OFFICERS AND CORPS INTO STRATEGIC LOCAL CLUSTERS.

Lord, we ask that you bless this new approach in the division. We pray that your Spirit will compel us to work together to influence our missional objectives from the ground up. Thank you, Jesus. Amen.

📅 FRIDAY 12 FEBRUARY - JOEL 2:28

👉 PRAY FOR THE PROJECT IN STRETFORD, A COMPLETELY NEW FOCUS FOLLOWING A PERIOD OF FALLOWNESS FOR STRETFORD CORPS.

Jesus, we bring before you Ashley Bowles as she leads this exciting project into a brand-new future. We pray that as the vision unfolds, great favour will fall on this project. We pray that through it, mighty victories will be won. Amen.

📅 SATURDAY 13 FEBRUARY - EZEKIEL 37

👉 PRAY FOR THE SALVATION ARMY'S INPUT TO GOD'S MISSION IN SALFORD.

Father, we pray for Mick and Verity and family as they undertake this new project in Salford. Lord, breathe vision into them and breathe life into people who do not know you in that area, through the outcomes of this mission. Bless the project, Lord, with your holy fire. In Jesus' name. Amen.

📅 SUNDAY 14 FEBRUARY - PROVERBS 2:6

👉 PRAY FOR THE DIVISIONAL LEADERSHIP TEAM.

Lord, we simply ask for wisdom, guidance, energy, discernment and spiritual vitality to be showered on all members of the divisional team. Give them real clarity on the direction that you would have the mission take in the Central North Division. In Jesus' name. Amen.



📅 MONDAY 15 FEBRUARY - EXODUS 25:8-9

➤ PRAY FOR THE NEW PRAYER UNIT AND PROJECT AT MANCHESTER CENTRAL CORPS.

Lord, raise up your Army in the city centre of Manchester. Guide and equip Gary, Dawn and their team to raise the mission of prayer across the division and the City of Manchester. We pray for the people already at Manchester Central, that they would be receptive and challenged to join in the mission of transformation through the power of prayer. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

📅 TUESDAY 16 FEBRUARY - DEUTERONOMY 5:24

➤ PRAY FOR EVERY CORPS IN THE CENTRAL NORTH DIVISION.

Lord, bless every person of every corps and centre in the Central North Division. May we receive your fire and catch your voice in it. Help us to listen to you and follow your direction. Help us not to be fearful of change, and always look to join Jesus in his mission to this world. In Jesus' name. Amen.



LENT PRAYER DIARY: INTO THE WILD

👤 LYNDALL BYWATER

🕒 **SETTING THE SCENE**

Welcome to the Into the Wild Lent Prayer Diary. For the past nine months, the UK Salvation Army Prayer Network has been on an adventure of encounter, exploring what it means to go beyond the safe and familiar into the unknown, uncharted places where we meet God in new ways. Pandemic and lockdown have taught us much about loss, leaving and letting go, yet we cling gratefully to the Easter story where death always gives way to resurrection and new life. As you journey through, we hope and pray that, no matter how hard this winter has been, you will find shoots of new life breaking through.

The Lent Diary is a carefully-constructed rhythm of centuries-old prayer practices leading you through seven different themes, all drawn from Jesus' own journey 'into the wild' after his baptism. All are designed to help you to engage with those themes in prayer, reflection and action.

If you were journeying into the wilderness, you'd need a set of disciplines to keep you strong and sane, and the same is true of the spiritual journeys we make. As you journey through these themes the prayer practices of silence, meditation, fasting, walking, connecting, journaling and prayerful reading will stretch different sets of 'prayer muscles', helping you stay focused and grow stronger. And the story of Jesus will help you move from being Spiritfilled to being Spirit-empowered

WEEK ONE: PACKING UP

The best journeys deserve good preparation. This week we think about the things which happened to Jesus just before he left to journey into the wilderness (Luke 3:21-37), and we consider how we might prepare for our own Lent journey.

📅 **WEDNESDAY 17 FEBRUARY**

We begin our Lent journey in deep gratitude for all that God has done for us over the years of our lives so far. Sit in silence for a few minutes



today, allowing your thoughts to roam over the many ways you've experienced the goodness of God. Take delight in remembering.

THURSDAY 18 FEBRUARY

Jesus didn't set foot in the wilderness until he knew who he was. 'You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased' (Luke 3:22). Those were the words the Father spoke over him at his baptism, and they must have become even more precious as he trudged through the wilderness.

Meditate on a Bible verse today – one that has meant a lot to you in the past. Carry it around in your mind (and even in your pocket), calling it to mind in each situation you face.

FRIDAY 19 FEBRUARY

Luke chose this moment in Jesus' story to tell us his family line (Luke 3:23-37). It's as though he imagined Jesus stepping out into uncharted territory, consoled and inspired by the earthly family God had placed him in.

Connect with some of your family today – whether blood relations or 'chosen family'. As you pray for them, send each a message thanking them for the blessings they've brought into your life.

SATURDAY 20 FEBRUARY

What did Jesus pack for the journey? There's no way to know, but we can do our own 'packing', before we set out. What have you learnt over recent months? What new gifts have you received? What old blessings have you rediscovered? What do you know God is telling you to hold on to in this season?

Do some journaling today, writing down five things you want to take on your Lent journey.

SUNDAY 21 FEBRUARY

We assume Jesus travelled his wilderness journey alone, but it's notable that it began in a public place with lots of onlookers (Luke 3:21). It's easy to get caught up in our own concerns, but the people around us are on a journey too, and we all need the encouragement of fellow-travellers.



Go for a walk with friends or family today. Talk to each other about the journeys you're on and where you'd like to have got to by Easter.

WEEK TWO: SETTING OUT

'Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, left the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness...' (Luke 4:1). This week we think about leaving home, embarking on a new journey and being led to unexpected places.

📅 MONDAY 22 FEBRUARY

We begin this week's reflections with some reading. As you read these words, sung by the hobbit Bilbo as he sets out on a journey at the start of Tolkien's *The Lord of the Rings*, notice what stirs in you.

'The Road goes ever on and on down from the door where it began. Now far ahead the Road has gone, and I must follow, if I can, pursuing it with eager feet, until it joins some larger way where many paths and errands meet. And whither then? I cannot say.'

📅 TUESDAY 23 FEBRUARY

Luke tells us that the Spirit led Jesus into the wilderness (Luke 4:1). Does that mean Jesus set out without knowing where he was going, or did the Spirit overrule his plans? If you're the sort of person who likes to be in control, it can be hard to let the Spirit lead you.

Fast from one of your regular daily activities today – a meal, a TV programme you normally watch or your time on social media. See where the Spirit leads you in the time you free up.

📅 WEDNESDAY 24 FEBRUARY

Whether he'd planned it or not, the wilderness must have felt like a daunting destination for Jesus, yet Luke tells us he emerged transformed – in the power of the Spirit (Luke 4:14).

Do some journaling today about a time in your life when you found yourself in a place you didn't want to be. How did you get there? What did God do in you? How were you different afterwards?



THURSDAY 25 FEBRUARY

Forty days is a long time to be away from home. The Gospels make it clear that Jesus loved people and parties, so he must have missed being with his loved ones.

Take time today to connect with someone who is away from home. Ask how they're doing and ask how you can pray for them. Hold them in your prayers today.

FRIDAY 26 FEBRUARY

'Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland' (Isaiah 43:18-19). These words would have been familiar to Jesus. What might they have meant to him as he journeyed into the wilderness?

Meditate on these Isaiah verses today. What do you learn from them as you set out on your Lent journey?

SATURDAY 27 FEBRUARY

If you gave God an hour of your day, where might the Spirit take you? Go on a prayer walk around your local community today, but don't plan your route in advance. See where the Holy Spirit prompts you to go, and pray for each street you walk down. You could invite a few friends to go on their own prayer walks, then compare notes afterwards to see where God led you all.

SUNDAY 28 FEBRUARY

Luke tells us that Jesus was 'full of the Spirit' and 'led by the Spirit' (Luke 4:1). It's difficult to be filled or led when we're rushing around. As we come to the end of this week of reflecting on 'setting out', let's open a space in our lives, sit still and welcome the refreshing, renewing Spirit of God.

Spend ten minutes in silence, holding an empty cup in your hands. Each time your mind wanders, bring it back by focusing on that empty vessel ready to be filled.



MARCH

WEEK THREE: LETTING GO

'Now Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, left the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wild. For forty wilderness days and nights he was tested by the Devil' (Luke 4:1-2, *The Message*).

The wilderness may well be the place where we come face to face with all that is most destructive to us, but it's also the place where the Spirit can purify and refine us.

MONDAY 1 MARCH

Jesus was tempted. Jesus, who preached and healed, saved and was raised from the dead, was as human as we are, and he was tempted to do things that would put up barriers between him and the Father. Is there something in your life which you've chosen but which has become a barrier between you and God? In your journal, write a letter to God, the Father who loves you so much, telling him how you feel and asking for help to find your way back to him.

TUESDAY 2 MARCH

Addiction can be described as being in the grip of a habit that's stronger than you are, and those who live with addictions often feel oppressed by darkness and hopelessness.

For your prayerful reading this week, look up some information about local addiction services and read it through slowly, stopping to pray whenever the Spirit prompts you to.

WEDNESDAY 3 MARCH

Is there something in your life which feels like it's stronger than you are – maybe a fear, an addiction, a coping mechanism or a feeling of hopelessness? So often we end up shut away in shame, but we all have our struggles and we don't have to face them alone. There's great power in talking and praying together.

Connect with someone you trust this week by telling them what you're struggling with. Ask them to pray for you regularly, and agree to pray for them too.



THURSDAY 4 MARCH

Jesus was tempted by the Devil, but some of the testing came with the circumstances. There were no creature comforts, no reassuring company, none of the familiar pastimes – nothing to make the desert more bearable. We only know how much we depend on things and people when they're not there.

What are you depending on too much? Find a way to fast from it today – or maybe for the coming week. Take time to stop and pray, asking God to help you develop new, healthier habits.

FRIDAY 5 MARCH

If you know someone who's battling addiction, you may have found it difficult to know how to pray for them, especially if the battle has been a long, drawn-out one. That's where silence can be very helpful.

Spend time today sitting still in silence, holding that person in your mind. Don't try and form a prayer or think of a solution; just picture their face and imagine you're sitting together at Jesus' feet.

SATURDAY 6 MARCH

Another word we use for temptations and dependencies is 'idols'. Idols are things which have come to have too much power and authority in our lives. When we demote them, we find real freedom.

Find three or four stones/bricks to represent 'idols' in your life which you want to topple. Walk to a quiet place, carrying them with you. Notice how heavy they feel. When you get there, lay each one on the ground as a sign of your desire to be free. Then walk home without them and enjoy the feeling of lightness.

SUNDAY 7 MARCH

What would freedom look like in your church community? Are there fears or tensions that hold people back? Are there idols – things that seem to be more important than God?

'Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.' (2 Corinthians 3:17)

Spend some time today meditating on this verse and praying for your church community.



WEEK FOUR: DOING WITHOUT

'He ate nothing during those days, and at the end of them he was hungry. The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to become bread." Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone.'"' (Luke 4:2-4)

God is our provider. We get a taste of that truth in the times of plenty, when every need is met with abundance and every prayer is answered. But it's in the wilderness that we truly learn God is enough.

📅 MONDAY 8 MARCH

Having left behind every other human comfort, Jesus chose to fast for 40 days. It was a bold choice – even a life-threatening one – and it left him utterly dependent on God in every way. In a pale imitation of Jesus, we fast as a sign of our desire to rely on God more than we rely on food and physical comforts.

If you're able to fast safely, fast from at least one meal today, spending the time in prayer. You could also work out the cost of your meals and give the money to a charity working with those in food poverty.

📅 TUESDAY 9 MARCH

Hunger may be an uncomfortable experience for us when we fast, but for some people it is an unavoidable daily reality. Lent is a time when churches often work together to raise money for those living in poverty.

Find out what fundraising is happening in your area and connect with it this week, either by contributing financially or attending an event. Whatever you do, make sure prayer is part of your response.

📅 WEDNESDAY 10 MARCH

To walk in the wild is to be willing to have our lives stripped back; to go without; to slow down; to empty ourselves in order that God might work in us. Sometimes circumstances do the stripping back for us and sometimes we do it ourselves by choosing disciplines like simplicity.

Today, choose simplicity by walking somewhere instead of driving. If you would normally walk anyway, walk a longer route and slow down, giving time for prayer and reflection as you go.



THURSDAY 11 MARCH

In a relatively wealthy society, our first experience of 'lack' often comes when our prayers aren't answered in the way we'd like. The pain of unanswered prayer is a deep hunger and a true wilderness experience.

Take time today to journal about some of the prayers you still haven't seen answered in the way you'd hoped, writing honestly about your feelings and your questions. Then pause and listen to what God wants to say to you. You may still not get the answer, but God wants you to know you're not alone.

FRIDAY 12 MARCH

Jesus had grown up in a relatively busy, prosperous town in Galilee. In contrast, the desert must have been an eerily silent place to be for so long. There was no comforting buzz of activity to anaesthetise him against the pain of loss and grief. There was just the space to feel.

We're very good at anaesthetising our pain with noise and activity. Read over yesterday's journal entry, and then sit in silence for half an hour, letting the feelings come. Remember, you're not alone.

SATURDAY 13 MARCH

'There are, no doubt, passages in the New Testament which may seem at first sight to promise an invariable granting of our prayers. But that cannot be what they really mean. For in the very heart of the story we meet a glaring instance to the contrary. In Gethsemane the holiest of all petitioners prayed three times that a certain cup might pass from him. It did not. After that the idea that prayer is recommended to us as a sort of infallible gimmick may be dismissed.' (C.S. Lewis, *A Grief Observed*)

Read this quote through prayerfully, noticing which words or ideas the Spirit draws your attention to.

SUNDAY 14 MARCH

'Can a mother forget the infant at her breast, walk away from the baby she bore? But even if mothers forget, I'd never forget you – never. Look, I've written your names on the backs of my hands. The walls



you're rebuilding are never out of my sight.'
(Isaiah 49:15-16 *The Message*)

Meditate on these verses today, giving thanks to the one who will always be with you and who will always be enough.

WEEK FIVE: LOSING CONTROL

'The devil led him up to a high place and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And he said to him, "I will give you all their authority and splendour; it has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to. If you worship me, it will all be yours." Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Worship the Lord your God and serve him only.'"' (Luke 4:5-8)

Jesus has all power and authority, but he didn't get there by claiming his right to it. He got there through surrender and submission, through pouring himself out and losing control, even unto death.

📅 MONDAY 15 MARCH

Power and authority are tempting because being in control feels safe, whereas being out of control can feel like the scariest thing in the world.

Connect today with someone who's in a situation where they feel completely out of control. Ask how you can pray for them. Assure them of your love and care.

📅 TUESDAY 16 MARCH

Are you facing a situation where you feel powerless and out of control? Maybe it even feels like the Devil holds all the cards. Jesus' response to that feeling was simply to worship.

Sit a while in silence today, acknowledging your weakness and your inability to change what needs changing, but declaring from the depths of your soul that Jesus is King of kings and Lord of lords.

📅 WEDNESDAY 17 MARCH

Jesus lived in a society where some had great power and others had no power at all. So do we.



Go on a 'power walk' today, planning your route to pass the places of power in your community (council offices, law courts, prosperous businesses etc) as well as the places of deprivation and powerlessness.

THURSDAY 18 MARCH

John the Baptist knew what it was to live in a wilderness and to submit to God. Here's what he said about Jesus: 'Therefore, I am filled with joy at his success. He must become greater and greater, and I must become less and less' (John 3:29-30 *NLT*).

Meditate on these words today. What does it mean for Jesus to become greater and for us to become less?

FRIDAY 19 MARCH

Power, authority and control are seductive. Perhaps it's no surprise, then, that one of Jesus' temptations was the offer of being put in charge of everything straight away. Yet he chose the humbler, harder way.

Is there a situation where you know you cling on to power or control? What could you do to fast from doing that today? Could you stay silent, delegate something or let someone else choose?

SATURDAY 20 MARCH

Leaders come in all shapes and sizes, and we admire some more than others. Think of a famous person (living or dead) whose leadership you admire.

For your prayerful reading this week, read about that person, researching their life, the circumstances they faced and the choices they made. What do you hear God saying to you through their example?

SUNDAY 21 MARCH

The Church has a mixed record when it comes to power, authority and control. Sometimes we've used it well, speaking out for the powerless. At other times we've used it manipulatively and abusively.

Spend some time today journaling – writing about the ways in which power has been used well and badly in your church community.



WEEK SIX: LOSING FACE

'The devil led him to Jerusalem and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. "If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down from here. For it is written: 'He will command his angels concerning you to guard you carefully; they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.'" Jesus answered, "It is said: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" (Luke 4:9-12)

A dramatic high-dive followed by an angelic rescue would have been a short-cut to fame and acclaim for Jesus, but the wilderness is where we dare to say 'no' to human notions of success.

MONDAY 22 MARCH

In the seclusion of the desert, the Devil showed Jesus Jerusalem – that bustling city where a budding rabbi might make his name. If Jesus was doubting himself, that kind of popularity must have seemed tempting.

You are enough. Whatever you've achieved in life; whatever others think of you; whatever you think of yourself – know today that God says you are enough. Spend some time in silence, letting that truth sink in.

TUESDAY 23 MARCH

'Be there for me, God, for I keep trusting in you. Don't allow my foes to gloat over me or the shame of defeat to overtake me. For how could anyone be disgraced when he has entwined his heart with you?' (Psalm 25:2-3 *The Passion Translation*)

Meditate on these words today. They help remind us what really matters and where our security really lies.

WEDNESDAY 24 MARCH

If Jesus had jumped from the top of the Temple in the middle of Jerusalem, a lot of people would have been impressed. It's tempting to want to do something just because you know it will impress people.

If you're honest, are there things you know you do only because you want to impress others? Could you fast from those things today?



THURSDAY 25 MARCH

The Devil knew the Psalms as well as anyone worshipping at the Temple. If Jesus had jumped, it would have been a sure-fire way to prove his credentials as Son of God. Yet somehow he knew that wasn't the Scripture to be putting into action at that moment in time.

How do we know which Scripture is right for which situation? How do we interpret the word of God? Connect with some friends and talk about how you apply the Bible in your everyday lives.

FRIDAY 26 MARCH

We humans tend to fear failure. Perhaps that's why it's so tempting to conform to society's view of what success should look like... or perhaps the Church's view of what success should look like.

Spend some time journaling about failure. What do you consider to be your greatest failures? How did they happen? What do you wish you'd done differently? What do you think God would say about them?

SATURDAY 27 MARCH

The Devil took Jesus to two high places, a mountain and the Temple roof; but Jesus knew his route was downwards: down from glory, through humanity, even to death on a cross (Philippians 2:5-8).

Go on a walk today, starting in a high place (the top of a hill, for instance) and walking downwards. As you walk, reflect on what it means to refuse the temptations of the high places – popularity, wealth and worldly success – and to choose the self-emptying way of Christ.

SUNDAY 28 MARCH

'He came in peace to give the people peace. They preferred salvation from taxation to salvation of their souls – and so in a few days they would prefer Barabbas to be freed instead of Jesus. Jesus could see that this was their mindset, and so in the midst of this praise, with people waving the palm branches like a national flag, Jesus wept.' (Paul Wallace, 'Palm Sunday')

Read and ponder these words as you celebrate Palm Sunday today.



WEEK SEVEN: HOLY WEEK

'Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread through the whole countryside. He was teaching in their synagogues, and everyone praised him.' (Luke 4:14-15)

In the coming days, we will journey with Jesus through a far deeper wilderness than the one we've just been reading about. As we track with the Easter story, let's look back over our wilderness wanderings and learn how these losses and letting-go enable us to live more fully in the power of the Holy Spirit.

📅 MONDAY 29 MARCH

The wilderness experience depleted Jesus' resources considerably. Matthew's Gospel tells us that angels came and attended him before he returned home (Matthew 4:11).

Spend some time journaling today, writing about several moments when you've seen God's supernatural provision over the past six weeks, either in your own life or in the lives of those around you.

📅 TUESDAY 30 MARCH

In Week Two of this Lent journey, we considered what it must have been like for Jesus to choose to set out from home, leaving friends, family, work and worship rhythms, to go wherever the Spirit might lead him.

Go for a walk and a ponder today. Where has the Spirit led you over the past six weeks? What have you discovered about yourself and about God?

📅 WEDNESDAY 31 MARCH

In Christian tradition, today is the day when we remember the story of the woman who gave up her most precious possession for the sake of worship. She broke her jar of priceless nard, the heirloom which would have secured her future, and anointed Jesus with the perfume in an extravagant demonstration of her love.

Meditate on her story (Mark 14:3-9). What might costly, sacrificial worship look like for Jesus' Church today? What might we need to be ready to let go, in order to love with that same joyous extravagance?

APRIL



THURSDAY 1 APRIL

'Desert spirituality is characterised by the pursuit of abundant simplicity – simplicity grounded in the possession of little – and the abundance of God's presence.' (Laura Swan, *The Forgotten Desert Mothers: Sayings, Lives, and Stories of Early Christian Women*)

Read these words today and reflect on what it means to live simply in the midst of God's abundance.

FRIDAY 2 APRIL

Good Friday is the day when we remember that Jesus relinquished all control, allowing himself to fall into death, in order that we might fall into the arms of everlasting love, forgiven, healed and renewed.

Over the centuries, Good Friday has also been a day when God's people would fast. Now that we mark it as the start of a holiday weekend, it's easy to forget the significance of it. Can you find a way to fast from something today, to remind yourself that love holds you, even when you feel out of control?

SATURDAY 3 APRIL

It's Holy Saturday, the day when all fell silent. Jesus had died and his disciples were coming to terms with having lost their teacher and their friend. Grief is always a wilderness.

Spend some time in silence, holding in your heart before God all those you know who are walking the deserts of grief today.

SUNDAY 4 APRIL

Setting out, letting go, doing without, losing control, losing face... these are all a kind of death, yet they're also the way to resurrection life. Jesus came out of the wilderness in the power of the Spirit; Jesus came out of the tomb with resurrection life in his veins. As you celebrate Easter today, may you know that, through Jesus Christ, God himself has raised you from the dead and the power of the Spirit is at work in you.

Connect with others today, praying for each one by name as you wish them Happy Easter.

THE PERSECUTED CHURCH FOCUS

👤 MAJOR JILL MILLER, SA PRAYER NETWORK SUPPORT

📌 CONTEXT

At this time over 260 million Christians are persecuted. Muslims who convert to Christianity are among the most vulnerable for persecution. Declaring faith in Jesus could mean death from within their own families. (Open Doors)

📅 MONDAY 5 APRIL

'I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people.' (Ephesians 1:18)

Faithful God, we pray that our persecuted brothers and sisters would know with certainty the hope you give. May hope grow and fear be subdued.

📅 TUESDAY 6 APRIL

'I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith.' (Ephesians 3:16,17)

Holy Spirit, we ask you to strengthen Christians facing persecution. We pray for protection from all evil which surrounds them and faith to overcome every circumstance.

📅 WEDNESDAY 7 APRIL

'And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ...' (Ephesians 3:17-18)

Loving Father, we ask you to fill all who are persecuted with your overwhelming love. May our brothers and sisters in Christ be enveloped in your love.

📅 THURSDAY 8 APRIL

'Pray also for me, that whenever I speak, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel...' (Ephesians 6:19)

Enabling Spirit, give courage to persecuted Christians as they seek to share the gospel with their family and friends. Protect them from

verbal, social, psychological and physical persecution from those they are closest to.

FRIDAY 9 APRIL

'Pray that I may declare it [the gospel] fearlessly, as I should.'
(Ephesians 6:20)

Gracious God, as persecuted Christians declare their faith in you, we ask you to give them a spirit of fearlessness. Protect them from extremist groups who would seek to kidnap them rather than allow them to share their faith.

SATURDAY 10 APRIL

Father God, we reach out to you on behalf of the persecuted Church. We remember that many Christians do not have a Bible and have the desire to read your word. We realise that many Christians need courage to remain in their homeland rather than leave everything behind and flee for their lives. Bless them with Bibles to encourage every part of their lives.

SUNDAY 11 APRIL

Loving God, we mourn with the many Christians who have been rejected by their families because of converting to Christianity. O Lord, may they find a new family of love within your Church to help meet their emotional and physical needs. We also remember before you the mothers who have lost custody of their children because of converting to Christianity. Bless them, we pray, and give them courage.

OVERSEAS SERVICES FOCUS

 **MAJOR SIMON CLAMPTON, OVERSEAS SERVICES UNIT**

SETTING THE SCENE

Avalon in Chislehurst, Kent, is the home of the UKI Territory's Overseas Services Unit which supports personnel while they are on international service and houses them during their transitions to and from appointments abroad.

MONDAY 12 APRIL

Thank you, Lord, for calling us to follow you, to be your disciples, to serve you and others in your name, and to 'Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation' (Mark 16:15). Be with our personnel



on international service, and through your Spirit strengthen them and uplift their hearts in their appointments. Amen.

TUESDAY 13 APRIL

Lord, we recognise that serving in different parts of the world comes with challenges of language, culture, health, housing and climate. There are so many things to grasp and understand, but we know that you give your willing servants 'full equipment for the task' (SASB 34). Reassure our personnel abroad that you are with them in all things. Amen.

WEDNESDAY 14 APRIL

Lord, we know that we are all part of your family as brothers and sisters in Christ. Please bless the children who live with their parents on international service and be with them in their young lives. Bless, too, the families who remain in the British Isles and are separated across the miles from their loved ones. Amen.

THURSDAY 15 APRIL

Transitions between the British Isles and places abroad are not always straightforward when personnel cross international borders. Covid-19 has added challenges to this process. Lord, be with those who are at the forefront of treating this virus, those who are suffering from its effects and those who are responsible for managing the transit of people across the globe in your service. Amen.

FRIDAY 16 APRIL

Jesus told his disciples that they would be his 'witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth' (Acts 1:8). Thank you, Lord, for those who have responded to your call to serve beyond their home country. May those you are calling for future service be attentive to your voice in their hearts and respond. Amen.

SATURDAY 17 APRIL

Lord, may Avalon continue to be an oasis and place of rest for body, mind and soul, a home from home for those preparing to go abroad and those returning for furlough or re-appointment back to their home territory. Bless the Avalon officers and staff as they support our personnel on international service. Amen.

SUNDAY 18 APRIL

Wherever we are in the world, today is the day that God has given to us and we sing:

*As o'er each continent and island
The dawn leads on another day,
The voice of prayer is never silent,
Nor dies the strain of praise away.*

(SASB 1039)

May God bless our Army, home and abroad. Amen.

SCRIPTURE FOCUS - EPHESIANS 6: THE ARMOUR OF GOD

 MAJOR JOHN MCCLEAN, CORPS OFFICER, MAIDENHEAD

MONDAY 19 APRIL - BE STRONG IN THE LORD

'Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power.'
(Ephesians 6:10)

In which areas of my life do I need to confess a lack of reliance on the Lord's strength and might? Ask Jesus to help you trust and walk in his strength. Give thanks for his Spirit gifting us with his power.

TUESDAY 20 APRIL - STAND FIRM, SOLDIER

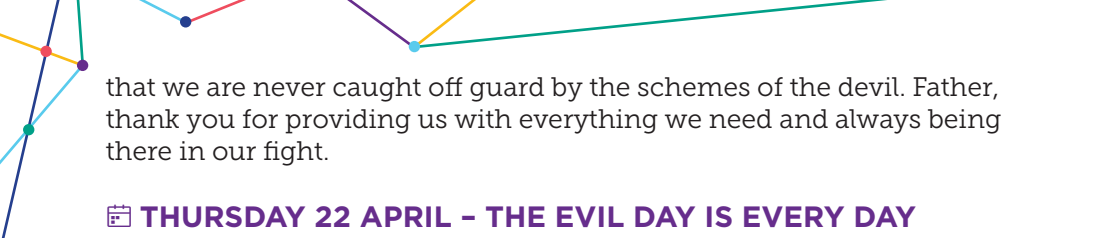
'Put on the full armour of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes.' (Ephesians 6:11)

Am I a threat to the enemy because of my devotion to Christ? In what ways has he schemed in my life this week to distract me from honouring God? Father, reveal any deception that I am holding on to in my life that is hindering me from victory. Father, I want to have the heart of the psalmist in Psalm 20:7-8.

WEDNESDAY 21 APRIL - OUR BATTLE PLAN

'For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.'
(Ephesians 6:12)

Am I diligently reading Scripture so that I can recognise and be ready to defend against the attacks of the enemy? Am I honing my skills with my weapon of prayer? Almighty God, keep us alert and diligent so



that we are never caught off guard by the schemes of the devil. Father, thank you for providing us with everything we need and always being there in our fight.

THURSDAY 22 APRIL - THE EVIL DAY IS EVERY DAY

'Therefore put on the full armour of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.' (Ephesians 6:13)

Am I wearing the armour God has provided for me? Am I actively standing and resisting in this evil day? Whose strength am I relying on to resist the schemes of the Devil? Ask God for help as you purposefully stand and resist in this evil day. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you commit Scripture to memory and then to recall it when you most need help.

FRIDAY 23 APRIL - TRUTH AND PREPARATION

'Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled round your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace.' (Ephesians 6:14-15)

Am I standing firm because of the truths of God's word, or am I wavering in my faithfulness because I am swayed by my doubts? Do I understand how the gospel is peace? Do I prepare myself regularly by dwelling on the gospel of peace? Do I take the gospel to others? Pray that God would help you to solidify within your heart and mind the truths of his word. Ask God to show you with whom you can share the gospel of peace and ask for boldness to do it.

SATURDAY 24 APRIL - FAITH AND TRUTH

'In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.' (Ephesians 6:16)

Do I take every circumstance I am in and apply the word to it? Do I believe that no matter what my circumstances are, God is enough? Father, remind me that you are my shield, that it is faith in you that destroys the lies of Satan (Psalm 91:4-5).

SUNDAY 25 APRIL - FINAL WEAPONS

'Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.' (Ephesians 6:17)

Do I take hope in my salvation? Would I be able to use the Bible to defend myself against an attack of Satan? What do I need to change to prepare for the battle? Take time to thank God for the Bible (Hebrews 4:12) and for the hope we have in Jesus for salvation.

A PRAYER FOR INTERCULTURAL MISSION -

JOHN 4:1-42

👤 MAJOR JONNY SMITH, INTERCULTURAL MISSION ENABLER

🕒 **SETTING THE SCENE**

For many years we have lived in towns and cities where people from many different cultural groups have lived together. As we reflect on being Jesus in these places, how do we approach this opportunity? Do we expect that people, perhaps outside our own culture, need not only to enter our unique way of doing things but perhaps also to inconvenience themselves, to change and drop their own unique cultural identity? Or do we approach things in an intercultural way, where as much as we want people to enter our own culture, equally we are willing to enter theirs? Are we willing to be mutually inconvenienced on this journey, and in so doing create something different from what was originally intended from each group?

Over the next few days we are going to journey with Jesus, as he enters another culture and engages in an intercultural way not only with the 'woman at the well' but also the larger community. As we journey through this, may we be willing to be challenged and perhaps changed as we seek the Spirit's guidance on how we live like Jesus in the places where we dwell.

📅 **MONDAY 26 APRIL**

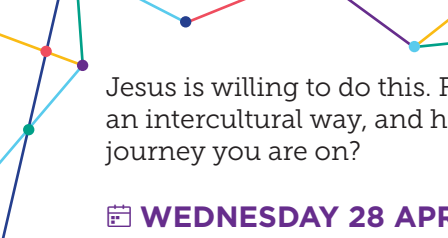
👉 **JOHN 4:4 - 'HE HAD TO GO THROUGH SAMARIA.' - DIRECTION**

The Scripture is clear: Jesus had to go through a place that many Jews simply would not go anywhere near! Today, is God directing you to places where others would perhaps not want to venture? Is God calling you to a place in your community, city, country or even the world, where not many would choose to go?

📅 **TUESDAY 27 APRIL**

👉 **JOHN 4:7 - 'WILL YOU GIVE ME A DRINK?' - INTERCULTURAL**

Not only does Jesus go in the direction of a place where few would choose, he also strikes up a conversation with a woman who is all by herself. In those days this was breaking several taboos, yet



Jesus is willing to do this. For you, how do you live out your life in an intercultural way, and how can you pray for more of this on the journey you are on?

 **WEDNESDAY 28 APRIL**

 **JOHN 4:9 - 'YOU ARE A JEW AND I AM A SAMARITAN.' - RACIAL JUSTICE**

We learn from this Scripture, and from plenty of others, that the Samaritan people felt they were left out from meeting with the Hebrews' God. We live in a world where so much injustice dwells, particularly when it comes to racial justice. In your setting, pray for racial justice; yet also be the prayer, and by the Spirit's prompting, be someone who plays a part in bringing about racial justice.

 **THURSDAY 29 APRIL**

 **JOHN 4:14 - 'WHOEVER DRINKS THE WATER I GIVE THEM WILL NEVER THIRST.' - INCLUSION**

Being excluded is not a nice feeling, yet Jesus is clear in this passage that he wants to include all people. Wherever you are right now, there will be people who feel excluded in many ways. Once again, as you pray, be the prayer and play a part in bringing about inclusion.

 **FRIDAY 30 APRIL**

 **JOHN 4:20 - 'OUR ANCESTORS WORSHIPPED ON THIS MOUNTAIN, BUT YOU JEWS CLAIM THAT THE PLACE WHERE WE MUST WORSHIP IS IN JERUSALEM.' - RESTRICTION**

As we journey in an intercultural way, we will inevitably meet people who worship very differently. Pray today that people, as they gather together, will be free to worship God in a way that is culturally relevant to them, that does not restrict, yet empowers them to be who they are.

MAY

📅 SATURDAY 1 MAY

🔗 **JOHN 4:23,24 - 'YET A TIME IS COMING AND HAS NOW COME WHEN THE TRUE WORSHIPPERS WILL WORSHIP THE FATHER IN THE SPIRIT AND IN TRUTH, FOR THEY ARE THE KIND OF WORSHIPPERS THE FATHER SEEKS. GOD IS SPIRIT, AND HIS WORSHIPPERS MUST WORSHIP IN THE SPIRIT AND IN TRUTH.'** - FREEDOM

Freedom comes through Jesus so clearly in this Bible passage, and it's beautiful to see. Pray today for those who are held back by something that restricts them from being free and from experiencing Jesus to the full.

📅 SUNDAY 2 MAY

🔗 **JOHN 4:39 - 'MANY OF THE SAMARITANS FROM THAT TOWN BELIEVED IN HIM BECAUSE OF THE WOMAN'S TESTIMONY.'** - INFLUENCE

From a woman who has been cut off from her community, we see the power of Jesus and the influence he has through people. Arguably the first evangelist in the Bible is a socially excluded Samaritan woman who is changed through Jesus! Pray today that you will be of good influence in the places where you are, that through you the Kingdom will grow.

📅 MONDAY 3 MAY

🔗 **JOHN 4:40 - 'SO WHEN THE SAMARITANS CAME TO HIM, THEY URGED HIM TO STAY WITH THEM, AND HE STAYED TWO DAYS.'** - INCARNATIONAL

What a tremendous intercultural story! It shows Jesus entering a land that few Jews would enter, talking to a person that many would have ignored, and finally moving into the village for a few days' stay! We are called to be like Jesus, and so may we pray for courage today to be Jesus in the places where we dwell, to engage interculturally, and be willing to be mutually inconvenienced so as to help create a fresh story of hope in the communities where we dwell.



IHQ FOCUS

👤 LAUREN WESTWOOD, DIGITAL CONTENT PRODUCER, IHQ

📌 **SETTING THE SCENE**

Lauren is a Salvationist of Bromley Corps who works at International Headquarters. In her role she works closely with international Women's Ministries, supporting them as they develop their online community for Christian women via their recently launched social media platforms (Salv Army Women on Facebook and @salvarmywomen on Instagram).

📅 **TUESDAY 4 MAY**

Sarah Bessey writes that, as followers of Christ, we have a responsibility to 'remember the big story of women in the world and to pay attention to their voices'. Lord, let us not take a single voice for granted in your Kingdom, regardless of gender. Equip us to help the voiceless find a voice and then to truly listen to their stories.

📅 **WEDNESDAY 5 MAY**

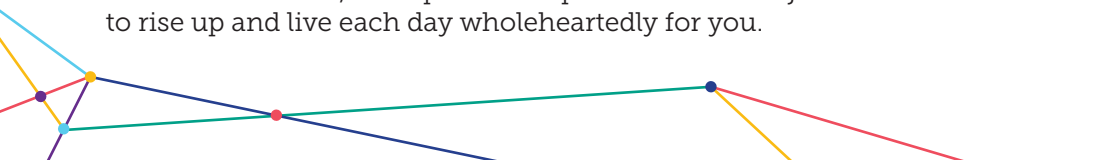
Women around the world face injustices of many kinds. Each day more women are wronged, abused and discriminated against just because of their gender. Lord, let the injustices committed against these women not just be statistics that fall upon deaf ears. Instead fill us with a holy anger against gender inequality and inequity and stir us into action in your righteous name.

📅 **THURSDAY 6 MAY**

It must break your heart, Father, to see your children neglect to protect each other. We repent if at times we have allowed the world's broken and twisted view of women to be reflected in our own relationships and actions. Banish any wrong, dangerous or hateful feeling harbouring in our hearts and in the hearts of those we encounter.

📅 **FRIDAY 7 MAY**

Lord, seeking justice in our broken world can be exhausting; we cannot do it in our strength alone. You have taught us that rest is important. Today, we ask that you would both comfort and strengthen us. Bless our homes with warmth, but also grant us the courage to step out of those warm, safe spaces into places rife with injustice. We want to rise up and live each day wholeheartedly for you.



SATURDAY 8 MAY

Father, we know that you love each one of us with a deep, unconditional love. We admit that we fall short of showing that same love to others at times. May we learn to love without prejudice. May we affirm the people around us as worthy of your love and show them that they are precious in your sight, and so too in ours.

SUNDAY 9 MAY

We pray for those ministering to and for women in their communities, their countries and internationally, including the World President for Women's Ministries in The Salvation Army, Commissioner Rosalie Peddle, and the World Secretary, Commissioner Bronwyn Buckingham. May their hearts always be tuned to the song you are singing over them and the women they serve. Grant them wisdom, clarity and sound judgment as they advocate for women of The Salvation Army.

MONDAY 10 MAY

May we be so bold as to pray for protection over the lives of women who face injustice, not losing sight of our heavenly hope for a fair, just and loving world. Let us not become complacent in our fight for justice for marginalised and oppressed people, or blind to the struggle of those around us. Jesus, we need you now more than ever. Amen.

NATURE FOCUS

 **STEPHANIE CHAGAS-BIJL, RESOURCE HUB, THQ**

TUESDAY 11 MAY

'...And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labour or spin' (Matthew 6:28). Lord, thank you for the way in which you have made each plant and flower to grow perfectly. Help me to remember today that if you care for them in such a way, then how much more do you care for me! Amen.

WEDNESDAY 12 MAY

Take time today to look up at the clouds in the sky, to watch the sun set, to smell the scent of a flower or observe the ants at work! As you do this, pause, take it in and give thanks to God for the beauty of nature.



📅 THURSDAY 13 MAY

Lord, forgive us for the times when we don't care for your creation as we should. Help us to reevaluate our choices and to make changes that will have a positive impact on nature, instead of a detrimental one. Teach us how to care for all you have made so that we can enjoy it for many years to come.
Amen.

THY KINGDOM COME, MY KINGDOM GO FOCUS

👤 CAPTAINS TIM AND CHRISTIANNE SWANSBURY,
CARSHALTON

🕒 CONTEXT

We've probably prayed 'Thy Kingdom come' many times, but have we truly prayed it until we can honestly also say 'my kingdom go'? 'Thy Kingdom come' is all too familiar; however, the implications of 'my kingdom go' should really make us think. Throughout the ten days of Thy Kingdom Come you are invited to pray for God's Kingdom to come in various ways, as well as reflecting on the personal submission and surrender this may require.

📅 FRIDAY 14 MAY

👉 ME (LUKE 22:42)

Lord Jesus, thank you for everything you are and for all you have done, especially for your life and example. Please help me to follow you today, to be like you, and to pray like you, 'Not my will, but yours be done.' Thy Kingdom come; thy Kingdom come in my life, and my kingdom go.

📅 SATURDAY 15 MAY

👉 FAMILY (JOSHUA 24:15)

Loving Father, we thank you for your wonderful idea that is family. Please use me to bring more of your life, joy and peace into my family through your life in me and my decision that 'as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord'. Thy Kingdom come; thy Kingdom come in my family, and our kingdom go.

SUNDAY 16 MAY

FRIENDS (PSALM 86:11)

Jesus Christ, thank you for calling me your friend. May the friendship that you and I share be the means by which your Kingdom comes among my circles of friends. Jesus, use me, start with me. Teach me your way, Lord; I will walk in your truth. Thy Kingdom come; thy Kingdom come in my friends, and our kingdoms go.

MONDAY 17 MAY

NEIGHBOURS/COLLEAGUES (JEREMIAH 6:16)

Holy Spirit, may your Kingdom come among my neighbours and colleagues. May we find rest for our souls as we 'stand at the crossroads and look; ask for the ancient paths, ask where the good way is, and walk in it'. Thy Kingdom come; thy Kingdom come among my neighbours and colleagues, and our kingdoms go.

TUESDAY 18 MAY

CORPS/CHURCH (2 CORINTHIANS 4:5)

Lord God, how we long for more of your Kingdom to come in and through our church. Let this be so as we commit to preach 'not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake'. Thy Kingdom come; thy Kingdom come in and through our corps, and our kingdoms go.

WEDNESDAY 19 MAY

COMMUNITY (ISAIAH 2:3)

Spirit of God, today I ask for your blessing on my community, my village/town/city. Give me opportunity in some way to say, 'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord...' that he may 'teach us his ways, so that we may walk in his paths'. Thy Kingdom come; thy Kingdom come in my community and our kingdoms go.

THURSDAY 20 MAY

NATION (ISAIAH 55:8-9)

Creator God, we remember that you have said, 'My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways... As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.' May your Kingdom come in our nation as we look to you for wisdom and guidance. Thy Kingdom come; thy Kingdom come in our nation, and my kingdom go.



FRIDAY 21 MAY

➤ **WORLD (1 CORINTHIANS 2:16)**

Our Father in Heaven, may your will be done on earth as in Heaven, for 'who has known the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?' And strengthen me today with the knowledge that I can 'have the mind of Christ'. Thy Kingdom come; thy Kingdom come in this world, and my kingdom go.

SATURDAY 22 MAY

➤ **IN ALL THINGS (COLOSSIANS 1:17)**

Almighty God, you are 'before all things', and in you 'all things hold together'. Help me to recognise and live in a way that recognises you are the King of all kings, the King of all things and that you are in control. Thy Kingdom come; thy Kingdom come in all things, and my kingdom go.

SUNDAY 23 MAY

➤ **ALL (JOHN 3:30)**

Eternal God, we join to say that you 'must become greater, I must become less'. Thy Kingdom come; thy Kingdom come in us, and our kingdoms go.

CHAPLAINCY FOCUS

⌘ MAJOR GRAHAM DANIELS, TERRITORIAL CHAPLAINCY OFFICER, HOMELESSNESS SERVICES UNIT

Seeing your Homelessness Services Unit Chaplain as a servant who...

MONDAY 24 MAY

➤ **SEES POSSIBILITIES**

Across our service, chaplains are seeking and seeing possibilities for ministry and mission. Jesus said, 'With God all things are possible' (Matthew 19:26). Please prayerfully support your local expression of chaplaincy asking that this truth will inspire both patience and courage as they serve the community.

TUESDAY 25 MAY

➤ **ENCOURAGES POTENTIAL**

The Homelessness Services Unit is all about the whole person. It is about supporting people to realise the fullness of life which Jesus

draws them into – for which he came. Please pray that we will all experience, enjoy and share this abundant life; and that in sharing this joy, potential will be realised in Christ.

WEDNESDAY 26 MAY

REMAINS POSITIVE

It is sometimes hard to remain positive when faced with challenging circumstances. A chaplain will, now and then, be confronted with negative feelings, emotions or actions. Please join with us in praying that we would resolve to regard people and situations positively – neither hardened to the pain of others nor overcome by our own response.

THURSDAY 27 MAY

VALUES PERSPECTIVE

We work with many experts, including the clients themselves. In valuing the perspective of others, we acknowledge that we are working in partnership towards the good. 'None of us, including me, ever do great things. But we can all do small things, with great love, and together we can do something wonderful' (Mother Teresa). Please pray for unity of purpose, appreciation of the perspective of others and an understanding of how God sees things – in us and our work.

FRIDAY 28 MAY

ALTERS PLANS

Our chaplains must be flexible. Among other set tasks, a chaplain is also the pastoral first responder in cases of serious incident or sudden deaths. This will often mean plans are changed as support is offered to staff and residents, and perhaps family and friends too. Please pray for everyone involved when faced with this type of situation. May God bring his peace to hearts and minds.

SATURDAY 29 MAY

NEEDS PRAYER

In a section of his letter to the Colossian church Paul writes: 'Pray, and *keep praying*. Be alert and thankful when you pray. And while you are at it, add us to your prayers. Pray that God would open doors *and windows and minds and eyes and hearts* for the word so we can go on telling the mystery of the Anointed, for this is exactly why I am currently imprisoned. Pray that I will proclaim this message clearly and *fearlessly* as I should. (Colossians 4:2-4 *The Voice*)
Thank you for taking time to pray for us.



SUNDAY 30 MAY

TRUSTS PROMISES

The promise of God's presence is key to the mission and ministry of the chaplain. That 'God is with us' strengthens every interaction and inspires every contact. Please pray this familiar prayer by Dallas Willard:

'Dear Father always near us, may your name be treasured and loved, may your rule be completed in us – may your will be done here on earth in just the way it is done in Heaven. Give us today the things we need today, and forgive us our sins and impositions on you as we are forgiving all who in any way offend us. Please don't put us through trials but deliver us from everything bad. Because you are the one in charge, and you have all the power, and the glory too is all yours – forever – which is just the way we want it!'

SCRIPTURE FOCUS - WAITING

 STEPHANIE CHAGAS-BIJL, RESOURCE HUB, THQ

MONDAY 31 MAY

'I wait for the Lord, my whole being waits, and in his word I put my hope. I wait for the Lord more than watchmen wait for the morning.' (Psalm 130:5-6)

Lord, thank you for the truths that are found in your word – for the fact that we can trust in you, no matter what is happening around us. Help us to be alert to what you are doing, looking out, faithfully keeping watch. Speak to us today. Amen.

JUNE

TUESDAY 1 JUNE

'For the revelation awaits an appointed time; it speaks of the end and will not prove false. Though it linger, wait for it; it will certainly come and will not delay.' (Habakkuk 2:3)

Lord Jesus, so many prophets of old waited for your coming. They believed without seeing. What are you saying to us in these present times? How do you want to work out your plans? in and through us? May you find us available and obedient. Amen.

WEDNESDAY 2 JUNE

'Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord.'
(Psalm 27:14)

Lord, there are times when everything feels too much: grief, death, pain, uncertainty, loneliness... But you told us to take heart for you have overcome these things, you have overcome the world. Give us grace, healing, wisdom, boldness and stamina for today. Amen.

THURSDAY 3 JUNE

'Therefore the Lord waits to be gracious to you; therefore he exalts himself to show mercy to you. For the Lord is a God of justice; blessed are all those who wait for him.' (Isaiah 30:18 RSV)

Father God, these words of Isaiah help us understand the simple fact that you are always available, always ready to show your love. Help us to use this time you have given us wisely, to draw nearer to you, to spend time with you. Amen.

FRIDAY 4 JUNE

'But as for me, I will look to the Lord; I will wait for the God of my salvation; my God will hear me.' (Micah 7:7 RSV)

Lord, as we pray for those who are sick, who are struggling financially, who are isolated, it feels overwhelming that you would hear us. Turn your face towards us as we look to you. Do not abandon us during this time of great need. Increase our faith to believe that all is in your hands. Amen.

SATURDAY 5 JUNE

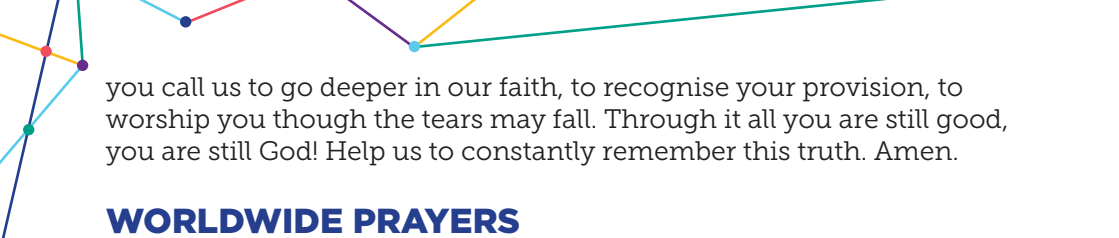
'And while staying with them he charged them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father.' (Acts 1:4 RSV)

Holy Father, at times we may feel like the disciples just before Pentecost – bereft, scared, waiting for your promised presence. We ask that your Holy Spirit would come and fill our hearts, fill our homes, move among our streets and stir up the nation to come before you. Come, Holy Spirit. Amen.

SUNDAY 6 JUNE

'The Lord is good to those who wait for him, to the soul who seeks him.' (Lamentations 3:25 RSV)

Lord Jesus, it's easy to see your goodness when all is well. But when life seems to get out of hand and problems come, it is then that



you call us to go deeper in our faith, to recognise your provision, to worship you though the tears may fall. Through it all you are still good, you are still God! Help us to constantly remember this truth. Amen.

WORLDWIDE PRAYERS

👤 MAJOR JILL MILLER, SA PRAYER NETWORK SUPPORT

These prayers are inspired by songs/hymns featuring aspects of our world.

📅 **MONDAY 7 JUNE**

'Come into our world' (Joy Webb)

'All around us seemingly, darkness holds its sway, truth and love are faltering, peace in disarray; and if we needed you, we need you now. Come into our world, now, Lord Jesus.'

Father, Son and Holy Spirit, we recognise your world is in deep need of the touch of your creative hand to heal and renew the erosion of the natural world and the pain of humanity. We pray you will break through the darkness of our minds and hearts and light a fire of hope that will shine through every shadow.

📅 **TUESDAY 8 JUNE**

'He's got the whole world in his hands' (trad)

'He's got the little tiny baby... He's got you and me brother/sister... He's got everybody here in his hands, he's got the whole world in his hands.'

Lord, how we rejoice in your overwhelming power, for you are everywhere at all times and you see and know everything about your amazing creation. Thank you that you have this world in your hands. Give us courage to believe your amazing all-knowing presence is all around us.

📅 **WEDNESDAY 9 JUNE**

'Help us build a loving world' (Keith Banks)

'Help us build a loving/caring/sharing/peaceful/happy world, a new and better loving world.'

Gracious God, we thank you for entrusting us with your world. We feel the responsibility as we seek to change the way the world's resources

are used. We feel the responsibility for the way mankind interacts, often with love but sometimes with hatred. Show us how to build love, care and sharing into our everyday lives.

THURSDAY 10 JUNE

'All over the world the Spirit is moving' (Roy Turner)

'All over the world the Spirit is moving, All over the world as the prophet said it would be; All over the world there's a mighty revelation of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.'

We praise you, Lord, for the power of your Holy Spirit at work in our lives and in the world. We praise you for the places where there is revival, where there is an opening of hearts to your love and salvation, where there is an outpouring of your Holy Spirit to bring about transformation.

FRIDAY 11 JUNE

'Light of the world' (Tim Hughes)

'Light of the world, you stepped down into darkness, opened my eyes, let me see beauty that made this heart adore you, hope of a life spent with you. So here I am to worship.'

We worship you, Lord Jesus, and bow down in your presence recognising you are King of kings. Thank you for being our light in the darkness of this world. We bring to you all who need hope and light right now: the refugees, the trafficked, the orphans and the persecuted. Show them your beauty.

SATURDAY 12 JUNE

'Let us go out into the world with love in our hearts' (Derek Hartopp)

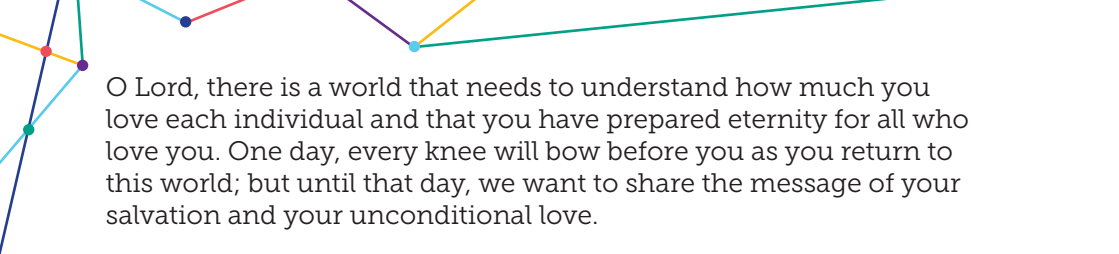
'Let us go out into the world with love/joy/faith/Christ in our hearts'

Father God, we pray that your Spirit of love, joy and faith will fill our hearts so that everyone we meet will be encouraged and feel valued. Our world needs us to be ambassadors of the gospel, not in words only but in deeds of love and compassion. Fill us up every day as we live for you.

SUNDAY 13 JUNE

'We're an Army fighting for a glorious King' (William James Pearson)

'All the world to save, to battle we will go... There's salvation for the world.'



O Lord, there is a world that needs to understand how much you love each individual and that you have prepared eternity for all who love you. One day, every knee will bow before you as you return to this world; but until that day, we want to share the message of your salvation and your unconditional love.

FATHER GOD FOCUS

👤 MAJOR PAULINE MILNER, TERRITORIAL PRAYER NETWORK CO-ORDINATOR

🕒 **CONTEXT**

Scripture presents many references to the names for God. Some names God chose for himself and some were ascribed by his people. Each name of God brings an additional revelation of his character – the who and what of God that we can know and relate to. 'Father' is a distinctive New Testament revelation of God brought through Jesus, where God becomes our personal father.

📅 **MONDAY 14 JUNE**

👉 **JEHOVAH - THE SELF-COMPLETE, 'I AM WHO I AM' (EXODUS 3:14)**

Our Father God is the great 'I am', the Holy One, a name once held so sacred that it was often only written in Hebrew with four letters and no vowels (YHWH). Surely our only proper response is to bow down in awe and to worship him. Pause a moment now in silent prayer and worship 'I am'.

📅 **TUESDAY 15 JUNE**

👉 **JEHOVAH-JIREH - THE GOD WHO PROVIDES (GENESIS 22:14)**

Heavenly Father, thank you that you see our every need, and that just as you provided yesterday, you will provide today and tomorrow. You have lavished us with your love, grace and salvation. Create in us your character of generosity that we may bless others as you bless us.

📅 **WEDNESDAY 16 JUNE**

👉 **JEHOVAH-M'KADDESH - THE GOD WHO SANCTIFIES (EXODUS 31:13)**

Father God, Jehovah-M'Kaddesh, the one who sanctifies me, cleanse and purify me that I may live a holy life consecrated to you in every

area: thought, word, behaviour, work, home, finance, relationships, recreation, ministry, and in all that you have entrusted to me.

THURSDAY 17 JUNE

JEHOVAH-SHALOM - 'THE LORD IS PEACE' (JUDGES 6:24, 1 CORINTHIANS 14:33)

Heavenly Father, you are Jehovah-Shalom. Thank you that we can know the fulness of your perfect peace in Jesus. Help us to receive your peace, let it invade our hearts and minds and reign over us amidst every challenge, worry, place of chaos and uncertainty.

FRIDAY 18 JUNE

JEHOVAH-RAPHA - THE LORD WHO HEALS (EXODUS 15:26)

Father God, the Great Physician, we declare that you are our healer! Ultimately you alone provide the remedy for all mankind's brokenness through your son, Jesus Christ. We thank you that your healing extends to every area of our lives – physical, emotional, mental and spiritual. Let us pray for someone in need of healing today.

SATURDAY 19 JUNE

EL-SHADDAI - 'LORD GOD ALMIGHTY' (GENESIS 17:1-2, 49:22-26)

Father God, the all-sufficient one, the all-bountiful source of every blessing, we proclaim that you are more than enough! We rest in that knowledge today and in your absolute power to triumph over every obstacle, injustice and circumstance.

SUNDAY 20 JUNE

ABBA, FATHER - 'DADDY' - AFFECTION, CONFIDENCE AND TRUST (MARK 14:36, ROMANS 8:15)

Today is Father's Day and many will honour wonderful relationships with their earthly father. But for some it's been less than wonderful, and for others, no relationship at all. Yet, through faith in Jesus, we all gain a perfect Heavenly Father who is always good and always there for us. Abba Father, you are a good, good, Dad and we honour you today. We thank you that you love us unconditionally, you provide for us, you protect us, you lift us up and call us your precious children.



SILVER LININGS FOCUS

👤 ANDREW WILEMAN, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, OLDER PEOPLE'S SERVICES

📅 MONDAY 21 JUNE - DEMENTIA AND RESIDENTIAL CARE

Lord, we pray for people living with dementia and for their loved ones. We think of their daily struggles: not remembering can bring fear and anxiety; their families are already grieving. We pray for the families at the end of their tether and who face the painful decision of whether their loved one should go into a care home.

📅 TUESDAY 22 JUNE - LONELINESS

Lord, we pray for older people who are lonely. Many are imprisoned within their home, watching through the window the life that once they were part of. We pray for The Salvation Army's befriending groups, and that those who volunteer in this service will remind those who are lonely that they are loved and precious in your sight.

📅 WEDNESDAY 23 JUNE - MINISTRY

Lord, today we thank you for those older people who are a positive influence on others. We thank you for older Salvationists who choose to be a source of encouragement to those who need it, and we thank you for those who choose to take active roles within Salvation Army corps or who, in some small way, make those around them feel better for having met them. Their ministry is valued.

📅 THURSDAY 24 JUNE - GRIEF

Lord, we pray today for older people who mourn the loss of their spouse. We thank you for the happy times they shared together. We recognise how lost and bereft they must feel now. Enfold them in your love. We ask that you send them the right people to comfort them and that, through the process of time, the memories of their loved one will be joyful.

FAMILY MINISTRIES FOCUS

MAJOR DAVID BETTERIDGE, DIRECTOR OF FAMILY MINISTRIES

SETTING THE SCENE

Family Values

The Family Ministries Unit centres everything in Christ. Our seven Bible-based values are evidence of this, affecting the decisions that we make and the work that we do; they are the essence of our mission. We shall use these seven values to guide our prayers over the next six days.

FRIDAY 25 JUNE

HOSPITALITY: A WARM WELCOME FOR EVERYONE

'Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.' (Romans 15:7 *ESV*)

Pray that our corps and centres will be places of welcome – places where people will not only feel the warmth of our welcome but also the warmth of God's love and hospitality.

Lord Jesus, you came into the world seeking hospitality. But you were given very little; a manger and a cross are stark reminders of that. But because of these you offer a hospitality in which the entire world can be at home with you and know salvation in their hearts and lives. Lord, you offer a warm welcome to everyone. Please, Lord Jesus, help us to be more like you. Amen.

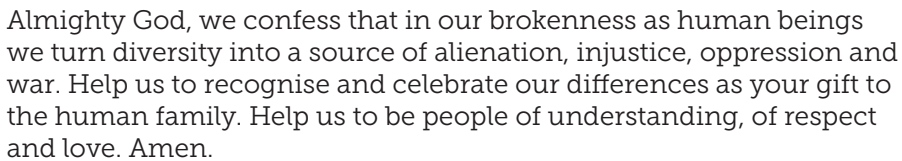
SATURDAY 26 JUNE

DIVERSITY: VALUING OUR DIFFERENCES

Celebration: Rejoicing in God and one another

'Be devoted to each other like a loving family. Excel in showing respect for each other.' (Romans 12:10 *God's Word translation*)

It was Winston Churchill who said, 'Diversity is the one true thing we all have in common... celebrate it every day.' No two families are the same and even in a family no two people are exactly alike. We all have our own identity and personality. This is the way God meant it to be. What he didn't want was for those differences to be a source of division. Rather he intended that we celebrate and value each other's differences in the knowledge that together we are stronger and able to do so much more.



Almighty God, we confess that in our brokenness as human beings we turn diversity into a source of alienation, injustice, oppression and war. Help us to recognise and celebrate our differences as your gift to the human family. Help us to be people of understanding, of respect and love. Amen.

 **SUNDAY 27 JUNE**

 **INTERGENERATIONAL: ALL AGES TOGETHER**

'One generation commends your works to another; they tell of your mighty acts.' (Psalm 145:4)

Being intergenerational is more than all ages meeting up and accommodating one another. It is about being together, sharing in a common experience, learning from each other and enjoying each other's company and contributions, whatever the age or heritage. Family Ministries thrives in this environment.

Father God, help us as individuals, and in all corps and settings, to truly value and encourage each and every generation. Help us to see and know that the Kingdom grows when we honour God, and as we honour each other. Amen.

 **MONDAY 28 JUNE**

 **CREATIVITY: EXPRESSING FULLY OUR GOD-GIVEN PERSONALITY**

God has created each one of us with a unique personality. He has given each of us talents and creative minds. The Bible tells us that 'In the beginning God created the heavens and earth' (Genesis 1:1). God is a creator; he is the Creator. Again, the Bible tells us that he formed us in his image (Genesis 1:27); that means that we must be creative too, and because we are all unique, we each express this creativity in different ways. Do we feel free to be the person God created us to be? Do we allow others to express their personalities without expecting them to conform to our preferences and prejudices?

Creator God, we thank you for making such an amazing and beautiful world. Thank you too for creating each of us as a unique person. Help us to fully embrace who we are and use all our creative talents and abilities to honour you and so add to the beauty of this world. Help us to enjoy and allow the creative personalities of others to be expressed and so to enrich our own lives and the lives of others. Amen.

📅 TUESDAY 29 JUNE

➤ JUSTICE: ALWAYS DOING WHAT PLEASES GOD

'There is joy for those who deal justly with others and always do what is right.' (Psalm 106:3 *NLT*)

Every year the Family Ministries Unit works in partnership with The Salvation Army International Development UK to create resources for and implement the Helping-Hand Appeal. The appeal for this year is called Feeding Hope and seeks to support The Salvation Army's food security programmes in Zimbabwe and around the world. These programmes provide training and build confidence so that individual families from one generation to another can thrive, ultimately benefiting the whole community. Please pray for the success of the Helping-Hand Appeal which raises funds for many different projects around the world moving towards addressing the need for social justice.

O Lord, we pray that you will bless this year's Helping-Hand Appeal and all those involved in raising funds for it. May they have a sense of joy as they seek to do what is right. We ask that you also bless those who will benefit from the projects it will support, give them all that they need to feel secure and to thrive for generations to come. Thank you for being a God of Justice who always wants the best for us and rejoices when we live to please you in thought and deed. Amen.

📅 WEDNESDAY 30 JUNE

➤ CHRIST-CENTRED: CHRIST IN EVERYTHING

'He is also the head of the church.... He is the beginning, the first to come back to life so that he would have first place in everything.' (Colossians 1:18 *God's Word translation*)

Is Christ the centre of our lives and the life of our church community?

Lord Jesus Christ, help us every day to put you at the centre of it all. Help us to show hospitality without prejudice, embracing diversity and celebrating with others of all backgrounds and generations. O Lord, you have created each one of us with a unique personality. Help us to use it to please you, always desiring to do what is right and just in this world, through the grace and strength that you give to us day by day. Amen.



CALLING
CONNECTING
Releasing
DYNAMIC KINGDOM-BUILDING
PRAYER

 **The Salvation Army, SA Prayer Network,
101 Newington Causeway, London, SE1 6BN**

 **020 7367 4539**

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

 **facebook.com/saukprayerpage**

 **saprayernetwork@salvationarmy.org.uk**

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