

PRAYER DIARY



INTRODUCTION

Human trafficking is the second largest criminal activity in the world, and the fastest growing. As a global organisation, The Salvation Army is committed to bringing an end to human trafficking and modern slavery.

Through practical action and pastoral care, The Salvation Army is supporting communities and survivors of trafficking to overcome their experiences and become resilient to the ongoing threat of trafficking.

We believe prayer is one of our most powerful weapons in the fight against trafficking.

ABOUT THIS GUIDE

This prayer guide is designed to help you learn and pray about the issue of human trafficking, either alone, as a family or a small group. Each section includes a Bible verse, thought and prayer points which can be used to guide/focus your prayer time.

You can use this resource however you like. Maybe you would like to use it as a daily devotional over a couple of weeks, or perhaps you want to spread it out over a longer period of time. It's up to you.

HELPING-HAND 2020

This prayer diary has been created as part of a set of resources for the 2020 Helping-Hand Appeal, *Unseen Promise*. For more information about this Appeal, to watch videos, see the full set of resources, and find out how you can get more involved, visit www.salvationarmy.org.uk/unseenpromise.



INTRODUCTION TO THE THEME – UNSEEN PROMISE



The promise of a better life is a tempting offer.

For those living in poverty, in even the most beautiful parts of the world, the dream of providing for your family becomes a constant and agonising ache.

In the Philippines – a sun-kissed paradise of more than 7,000 tropical islands – one in five people live in poverty and the luscious setting shrouds an ugliness which lies beneath the surface.

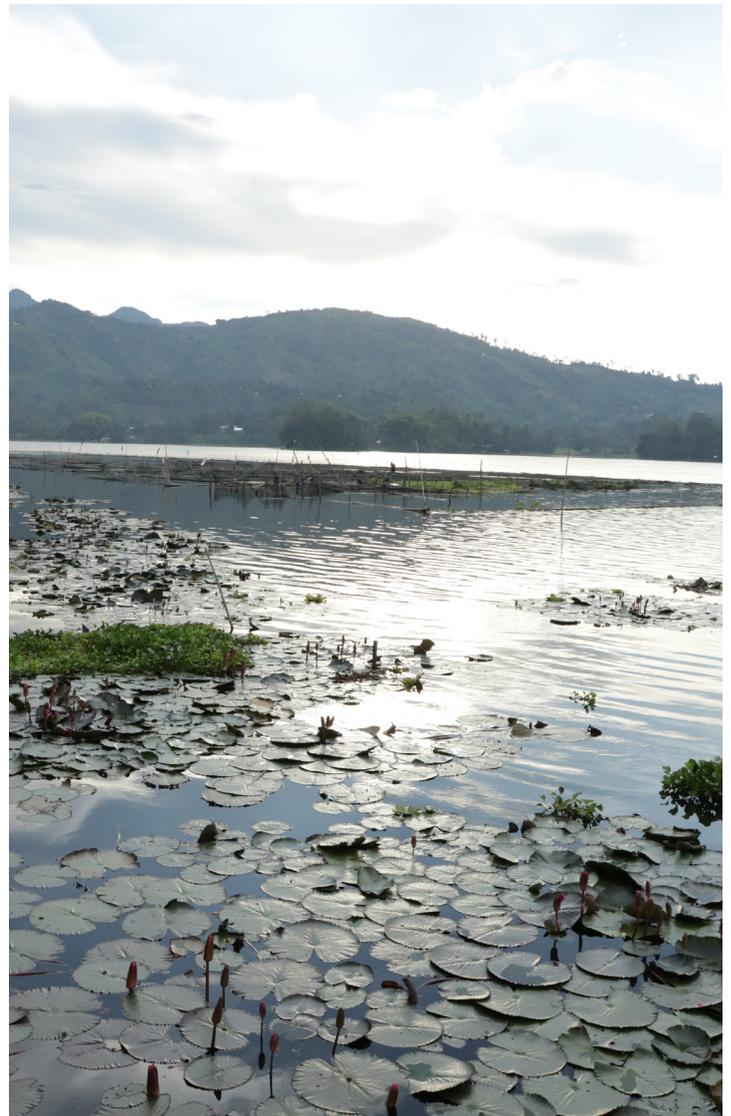
Preying on the vulnerable, traffickers deceive and exploit, enticing people with the promise of dreams fulfilled. People are desperate to support those they love, and so they believe the lies and accept opportunities to journey away from home unaware of the reality which awaits them.

The promises remain unseen and the dreams remain unrealised.

Traffickers see people merely as commodities, ignoring the truth of who they are – children of God, full of promise and dearly loved by the One who created them.

The Salvation Army is raising awareness of the reality of trafficking, mobilising communities to protect themselves, supporting survivors and helping to improve opportunities at home so the drive to leave is lessened.

Through prevention, protection and partnership, we are supporting people to reclaim the promise that exists within them and rebuild their lives.



PRAY FOR VICTIMS – FREEDOM

'Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked' (Psalm 82:4 NIV)

Victims of human trafficking and modern slavery are not always held by physical bonds. They may be held captive by fear, coercion, violence, shame or psychological trauma. We pray that victims will know true freedom, both physically and psychologically, and that our world will be free from this horrendous injustice.

Prayer points:

- That those trapped in slavery will experience freedom and find safety
- That survivors will be free from the psychological impact of their experiences

PRAY FOR SURVIVORS – MERCY



'He upholds the cause of the oppressed and gives food to the hungry. The Lord sets prisoners free' (Psalm 146:7 NIV)

Mercy and her husband were struggling to make ends meet. Desperate to give her children a good life, Mercy accepted an offer to work as a housemaid in Jordan. It was a promise of a better life, but the reality was very different. She was treated poorly and received little food or pay. Eventually, Mercy escaped, and with The Salvation Army's support was able to rebuild her life and support her family.

Visit www.salvationarmy.org.uk/unseenpromise to watch a video of Mercy sharing her story.

Prayer points:

- Praise God that there are stories of survivors which can be shared to give hope to others
- That The Salvation Army will have the provision to support survivors to rebuild their lives
- That families and communities will accept survivors back without judgment or shame



PRAY FOR TRAFFICKERS – JUSTICE

'The Lord works righteousness and justice for all the oppressed' (Psalm 103:6 NIV)

Jesus loved people and treated them with compassion, even those who were doing wrong. He ate meals with criminals and, even at his death, showed them mercy and offered forgiveness. But he did not let wrongdoing go unchecked. He was vocally opposed to the injustices that he witnessed and encouraged people to challenge the unjust practices which had become prevalent in society.

Prayer points:

- For traffickers to be held justly accountable for their crimes
- That traffickers will be truly repentant and know the life-changing love of Jesus Christ
- For just societies, where exploitation is not allowed to flourish

PRAY FOR THE SALVATION ARMY – PARTNERSHIP



'Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil' (Ecclesiastes 4:9 ESV)

Human trafficking is a global and networked crime, so it requires a global and networked response. As an international movement, The Salvation Army is in a strong place to respond to and address the issue of human trafficking. However, we recognise that we can only bring this injustice to an end by working together. This is why we work in partnership with local organisations and alongside communities in various contexts around the world.

Prayer points:

- That opportunities for partnership will emerge and will create strong and resilient communities
- That the networks which are striving for justice will outgrow those of the traffickers

PRAY FOR SURVIVORS – HEALING

'Heal me, Lord, and I will be healed; save me and I shall be saved, for you are the one I praise' (Jeremiah 17:14 NIV)

For survivors of trafficking, the journey to freedom continues even after they have escaped their oppressors. The Salvation Army provides care, support and counselling to survivors as they come to terms with their experiences and heal in the aftermath of their trauma.

Prayer points:

- That those supporting survivors would be given the wisdom to know how to help
- That The Salvation Army would have the resources to provide support
- That survivors find healing, reconciliation and restoration following their experiences

PRAY FOR OURSELVES – VISION

'Learn to do right; seek justice. Defend the oppressed. Take up the cause of the fatherless; plead the case of the widow' (Isaiah 1:17 NIV)

It can be far too easy to turn a blind eye to injustices in our world. In some cases the truth is hidden from us, but sometimes we choose to ignore injustice because the alternative means a more difficult or costly path. We need to be mindful that cheap fashion, coffee or chocolate often has a much higher price, paid by someone else. As consumers, collectively we have great power. We can be critical of companies and urge them to employ fair working conditions, and eliminate forced labour and unjust practices from their supply chains.

Prayer points:

- That my eyes will be open to see injustice in the world, and recognise the part that I play
- That I will see when someone needs help, and I will take action to help
- That I will have the vision to see how to respond to injustice



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PRAY FOR GOVERNMENTS – CORRUPTION TO CEASE



'Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them' (Ephesians 5:11 NIV)

Selfishness and greed aid the proliferation of human trafficking. As long as there are people in power who seek to further their own agenda, grow their personal scale of influence or line their pockets, true justice will not be achieved. We must hold our leaders to account, and demand transparency in order for vulnerable people to be protected.

Prayer points:

- That those in power will pursue what is right rather than personal gain
- That those who witness corruption will be bold enough to expose it
- For fair legislation which effectively protects the vulnerable and administers justice

PRAY FOR VICTIMS – TRUTH

'See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!'
(1 John 3:1a NIV)

People who have been trafficked are consistently told they are unworthy of love and freedom and treated as such. Being bought and sold as a commodity, exploited and abused, means many victims come to believe lies about who they are, and they are robbed of their dignity and self-worth. Yet the truth is that they have inherent worth as children of God, and he longs for them to recognise this.

Prayer points:

- That those trapped in slavery will know that they are cherished and dearly loved by God
- That people will not allow their experiences to define them, but get their value from God

PRAY FOR TRAFFICKERS – FORGIVENESS

'You have heard that it was said, "Love your neighbour and hate your enemy." But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you' (Matthew 5:43-44 NIV)

Traffickers ignore the fact that all humans are precious. Treating people as commodities to be bought and sold is a heinous crime. It may seem impossible for us to show love to people who treat others so inhumanely. Yet this is what Jesus told us to do. There must still be justice for crimes committed, but freedom from bitterness and anger comes only through forgiveness.

Prayer points:

- Help me to follow Jesus' example of loving everyone, no matter their history
- That survivors of trafficking will be able to forgive so they are not consumed by resentment and bitterness
- That justice will go hand in hand with forgiveness so traffickers can move beyond their past crimes and transform their lives for good



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PRAY FOR SUPPORTERS – CECILIA



'I can do all this through him who gives me strength' (Philippians 4:13 NIV)

Cecilia is a retired Salvation Army officer (minister) who lives in General Santos city, Philippines. She takes part in The Salvation Army's Community Awareness and Recovery (CAR) project by serving as a host family. As part of their ongoing recovery journey, Cecilia hosts survivors of trafficking in her home for a short time before they can return to their own families or communities. She also continues to support and uphold them in prayer once they have left her care.

Visit www.salvationarmy.org.uk/unseenpromise to watch a video of Cecilia's sharing her story.

Prayer points:

- Thank God for people like Cecilia who make the brave choice to open their homes to support survivors
- That more people will follow God's call on their lives to love and serve others

PRAY FOR THE SALVATION ARMY – COMMUNITY AWARENESS AND RECOVERY (CAR) PROJECT

'Finally, all of you, be like-minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble.' (1 Peter 3:8 NIV)

The Salvation Army's CAR project in Nigeria and the Philippines uses a host family model as a support mechanism for survivors. They are provided with short-term accommodation with a host family before they are repatriated with their community. This model, which involves non-judgmental, victim-centred support, gives survivors space to come to terms with their experiences and build trusting relationships with the family which in turn enables them to rebuild their self-esteem and become better prepared for reintegration into society.

Prayer points:

- That more people will be willing to serve as host families through the CAR Project
- That the stigma surrounding human trafficking will be diminished so people are accepted back into their home communities without judgment

PRAY FOR COMMUNITIES – TULON

'For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them' (Matthew 18:20 NIV)

The Tulon group meets at The Salvation Army in Lake Sebu, Philippines. This group of women recognised a need to highlight the injustice of human trafficking in their community. Together, they make bracelets and necklaces which they then sell as an awareness-raising tool as well as income generation for group members.

An aware and alert community is safer from the threats and false promises of traffickers, and with opportunities to work together for a decent living, the temptation for individuals to take risky offers is reduced.

Visit www.salvationarmy.org.uk/unseenpromise to watch a video about the Tulon Self-Help Group.

Prayer points:

- That communities are aware of traffickers' methods
- That communities are united so they can protect themselves
- That community members support one another so that no individual is vulnerable

PRAY FOR VICTIMS – HOPE



'May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit' (Romans 15:13 NIV)

An estimated 40.3 million people are trapped in modern-day slavery. In the face of such a statistic, it can be hard to have hope. Though we live in a broken world, God is still present. With God working through us, we must continue to fight for freedom and stand for justice for the oppressed. As long as we continue to act, there is hope. In the darkest times, we can trust in God in whom there is no darkness. We can have hope because God can 'do more than we can ask or imagine'.

Prayer points:

- That each one of the 40.3 million will know they are loved and cherished by God
- That with great hope the fight to bring human trafficking to an end will continue
- That those held in slavery will know peace and hope rather than fear and shame

PRAY FOR OURSELVES – HEART

'He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God' (Micah 6:8 NIV)

This passage in Micah is a clear instruction of how we should live, and Jesus' actions serve as examples which we can follow. Jesus not only saw the forgotten people in society, but he also sought them out and he showed them love. It is easy to intend to follow the call on our lives, as outlined by Micah, but we need conviction, courage and compassion to truly live it out.

Prayer points:

- For the conviction to do what is right when the world around us seems to choose the easy or cheap option
- For the courage to challenge injustice even when it means personal sacrifice
- For the compassion to love everybody, both the trafficked and the traffickers



This session was created by Hayley Still.