



Prayer  
Network

# Prayer MATTERS

**JULY 2024**



## Dear Prayer Matters readers

Welcome to July's edition of *Prayer Matters*, our monthly prayer calendar to help you pray for the mission of The Salvation Army.

Each day we focus on a 'big theme' such as sharing the good news, serving and caring, growing in faith and so on, and within that theme we focus on one specific aspect of Salvation Army mission and ministry.

This month our prayers take us from politics and elections to outer space, from homelessness to the Olympics, and from the West Midlands Division to the East Midlands Division. It's a month of movement for many of our officers here in the UKI Territory, so we spend time in prayer for those who are changing appointment, and of course we pray for Together 2024, our Territorial Gathering in Wales in the middle of the month.

Thank you for your partnership in prayer with us, and please feel free to share this calendar far and wide, so others can join in the praying.

Blessings,

Lyndall Bywater and the  
UKI Boiler Room Team

# JULY



## **MONDAY 1 JULY: SHARING THE GOOD NEWS** **Homelessness Services**

The vision for Salvation Army is 'fullness of life for all in Jesus'. We provide services to some of the most marginalised and excluded people in our society. Pray that more Salvationists will challenge social injustice and commit to reduce, prevent and end homelessness. There are so many ways we can do our part. May we listen carefully to God because he will equip us.

(Major Danièle Norton, Chaplain – Homelessness Services)



## **TUESDAY 2 JULY: SERVING & CARING** **International Heritage Centre**

Today is The Salvation Army's 'Founders' Day', and we pray for the work of the International Heritage Centre, which chronicles and preserves the history of The Salvation Army. The team ask us to pray particularly for their work with individuals who were adopted from Salvation Army maternity homes and hospitals, that the team will not only help them by uncovering some of the facts of their early lives, but that, through their sensitivity and compassion, they will help them experience a sense of healing through the process.

(Major Kevin Pooley, Social Historian – International Heritage Centre)



## **WEDNESDAY 3 JULY: GROWING IN FAITH** **UK General Election**

Take a few minutes today to pray for your Member of Parliament. Pray for them in the rollercoaster of standing for election: for energy for this final day of campaigning, and for peace as they await the results of tomorrow's vote. As the future hangs in the balance for them and their family, pray that they will know the love of God surrounding them. Whether they're your favoured candidate or not, why not send a message of encouragement, assuring them of your prayers in the coming days.

(Lyndall Bywater, UKI Boiler Room Team)



## **THURSDAY 4 JULY: INTERNATIONAL SALVATION ARMY – Caribbean Territory**

Pray for Territorial Leaders Commissioners Devon and Verona Haughton, and for the team who work alongside them, as they face the unusual challenges of leading a territory spread across many different islands. Pray particularly for Salvationists in Jamaica who have recently been helping to care for people fleeing violence in Haiti.

(Lyndall Bywater, UKI Boiler Room Team)



## **FRIDAY 5 JULY: JUSTICE & RECONCILIATION Newly-elected Members of Parliament**

We pray today for all those who have been elected or re-elected to Parliament following yesterday's General Election, giving thanks for the gifts and skills they bring, and for their desire to commit themselves to public service. We pray that they will grasp the opportunity to work for justice and reconciliation in their constituencies.

(Major Nick Coke, Territorial Co-ordinator for Justice and Reconciliation)



## **SATURDAY 6 JULY: CARE FOR CREATION The Responsibilities of Space Exploration**

This month we mark 55 years since the first human beings landed on our Moon, and we turn our thoughts and prayers to the issue of space exploration. The idea of travelling beyond the bounds of planet Earth was unknown to those who wrote the sacred texts of Scripture, but the Bible gives us some important principles to shape our actions and guide our prayers.

The Bible asserts the inherent value of all creation, with Psalm 24:1 declaring, 'The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it.' What's more, the Bible provides a foundational framework for the care of the Earth, emphasising stewardship, respect and responsibility towards creation. Central to this teaching is the concept of stewardship, as illustrated in Genesis 1:26-28, where humanity is given dominion over the Earth and its creatures. This dominion is a call to stewardship, requiring care and wisdom, mirroring God's own care for creation.

Lord God, as technology gives us ever greater possibilities for travelling into space and using the resources we find there, help us not to lose sight of our responsibility to be wise, trustworthy stewards of what you have made.

(Major John Ager, Officer in Retirement; Lyndall Bywater, UKI Boiler Room Team)



## **SUNDAY 7 JULY: SABBATH PRAYER** **Farewell Sunday**

We pray today for officers who are moving to new appointments in the coming week, and for whom today is their last Sunday worshipping with a community of believers they've got to know over the past few years. Amidst the sadness of departures and apprehension about the future, we pray that there will be many moments of joy and gratitude throughout today, opportunities to remember the goodness of God and the treasures which they've unearthed during their time in this appointment.

(Lyndall Bywater, UKI Boiler Room Team)



## **MONDAY 8 JULY: SHARING THE GOOD NEWS** **West Midlands Division**

Pray for the West Midlands Division, which is in transition following the arrival of new divisional leaders at the start of July. Pray that the transition will be smooth for all concerned, and that the new leaders, Major Adrian and Captain Clare Allman, will settle quickly into their roles.

(Major Brian Slinn, former Divisional Commander – West Midlands Division)



## **TUESDAY 9 JULY: SERVING & CARING** **Homelessness Services**

Pray that we will all be more intentional about working together. We need to unite in the different mission expressions of The Salvation Army in divisions and corps. There are many opportunities for Salvationists to do their seemingly small part in our centres to help fight homelessness. Playing board games, doing creative activities or just sharing refreshments and chatting with residents and staff can make such a difference.

(Major Danièle Norton, Chaplain – Homelessness Services)



## **WEDNESDAY 10 JULY: GROWING IN FAITH** **Covenant Day at William Booth College**

Covenant Day is the beautiful time in which cadets enter into their Officer Covenant with God, 'to love and serve him supremely all their days'. A private meeting, led by the territorial leaders and supported by WBC staff and cadets, provides sacred space for the promises that shape an officer's ministry, to be made and sealed before public commissioning takes place a few days later. Please pray that God's Spirit will empower and transform these moments of faith into years of grace.

(Lieut-Colonel Judith Payne, Principal – William Booth College)



## **THURSDAY 11 JULY: INTERNATIONAL** **SALVATION ARMY - Denmark & Greenland Territory**

We pray today for the Denmark and Greenland Territory; for Territorial Leaders Lieut-Colonels Jan and Kjersti Risan, and for Chief Secretary Joan Münch. We pray for corps and centres around the territory as they seek to offer hospitality, meet need and share Jesus Christ. May the Spirit of God bring transformation into the lives of many.

(Lyndall Bywater, UKI Boiler Room Team)



## **FRIDAY 12 JULY: JUSTICE & RECONCILIATION** **Together 2024 (13-14 July)**

Pray for Together 2024 in Newport this weekend, that the Spirit of God will envelop the whole event. Pray for those who will lead, speak, preach and participate in the event, that they will inspire and enthuse those who are present. Pray that The Salvation Army will be blessed through this event, and that people will hear God's call to prayer and action for their local communities.

(Major Gary Lacey, Territorial Prayer Co-ordinator)



## **SATURDAY 13 JULY: CARE FOR CREATION** **The Gifts of Space Exploration**

In the New Testament, Jesus frequently uses nature to illustrate spiritual truths. For instance, in Matthew 6:26-30 Jesus highlights God's provision

through the examples of birds and lilies, encouraging a similar attitude of trust and responsibility. Additionally, in Romans 8:19-22 Paul speaks of creation 'groaning' for redemption, indicating that the natural world is affected by human sin and is yearning for restoration. These teachings underscore the interconnectedness of human actions and the health of the environment.

Creator God, we give you thanks for the many important discoveries and innovations which space exploration has brought us. We pray for the scientists who interpret the research carried out in space and apply it here on Earth, helping us live healthier, fuller lives, and helping us to better understand how to care for our planet.

(Major John Ager, Officer in Retirement; Lyndall Bywater, UKI Boiler Room Team)



### **SUNDAY 14 JULY: SABBATH PRAYER** **Commissioning**

Pray for the Commissioning of officers taking place today as part of Together 2024, that the blessing of the Lord will rest on the second-year cadets being commissioned, and on the friends and family who have come to support them. Pray that the Spirit of joy and hope will fall on all who attend. Pray too for the first-year cadets, that their summer placements will be a time of renewal and of growing in confidence for the ministry God is calling them to.

(Major Gary Lacey, Territorial Prayer Co-ordinator)



### **MONDAY 15 JULY: SHARING THE GOOD NEWS** **East Midlands Division**

Pray for all officers in the division who are moving appointment, and also for the corps involved: Bourne, Leicester South, Nottingham Arnold, Newark and Wollaston. Pray especially for Wollaston as the corps has a cadet for the summer but then will be unofficered. Pray for protection on the practical arrangements, and that the moves will go well, settling will be quick, and that Kingdom growth will be a result.

(Major Mark Rose, Divisional Commander – East Midlands Division)



## **TUESDAY 16 JULY: SERVING & CARING** **Homelessness Services Strategy**

After 12 months of methodical and thorough work, and 1,000 voices consulted, a 10-year Strategy for Homelessness Services has been put together, seeking to discern and follow God's leading, and to have a trauma-informed approach. Quick fixes often don't last, so please pray that this long-term approach, investing materially, relationally, practically and spiritually, will be owned by our Army as a whole, acknowledging God at the heart of everything that we do.

(Major Danièle Norton, Chaplain – Homelessness Services)



## **WEDNESDAY 17 JULY: GROWING IN FAITH** **Homelessness Services Strategy**

We pray that the Homelessness Services Strategy will be owned intentionally by all who work in our services over the next ten years. We need an increase in integrated mission and prevention, and we need to see more non-accommodation-based models developed. Pray that we will continue to work towards harm reduction, and that everything we do will be trauma-informed. We pray that Salvationists will be trained to be more aware of people's needs, and of ways to meet them in their local context, doing so without discrimination.

(Major Danièle Norton, Chaplain – Homelessness Services)



## **THURSDAY 18 JULY: INTERNATIONAL** **SALVATION ARMY - India Northern Territory**

We pray for the India Northern Territory, its Territorial Leaders, Colonels Vanlalafela Chawnglut and Khupchawng Ropari, and all those serving across the 12 states in which the Army is working. The gospel is shared in nine different languages around the territory, and we pray that the message of God's grace will be heard, loud and clear, wherever it is preached.

(Lyndall Bywater, UKI Boiler Room Team)





## **FRIDAY 19 JULY: JUSTICE & RECONCILIATION** **Engaging with Politics**

As the Houses of Parliament recommence their work after the General Election, pray for The Salvation Army, that we will commit to building relationships with our elected politicians and seek to speak truth about the realities of what we experience in our communities. Pray that we will be faithful in prayer and passionate in action as we take our part in the work of justice and reconciliation.

(Major Nick Coke, Territorial Co-ordinator for Justice and Reconciliation)



## **SATURDAY 20 JULY: CARE FOR CREATION** **The Moon**

55 years ago today, Neil Armstrong took his 'one small step', making him the first human being to set foot on our Moon.

As a boy, I was fascinated by the Apollo Moon landings (says John), so much so that I kept a scrapbook and folder of memorabilia at the time. I had a sleepover at a friend's house because we didn't have a television. His father woke us in the middle of the night to watch the first Moonwalk – a wonderful and never-to-be-forgotten memory.

Lord, we thank you for the inspiration which that Moon landing was for so many people, and particularly for the way it inspired children to believe in seemingly impossible things.

The principle of Sabbath rest in the Bible extends to the land itself. In Leviticus 25: 1-7 the Israelites are instructed to observe a Sabbath year, allowing the land to rest and regenerate, reflecting an early understanding of balance, renewal and sustainable environmental practices.

Lord God, maker of the moons and stars, we pray that you will guide those involved in planning lunar exploration and construction projects, that they will know how to care for this unfamiliar land, treating it with respect and preserving its balance.

(Major John Ager, Officer in Retirement; Lyndall Bywater, UKI Boiler Room Team)



## **SUNDAY 21 JULY: SABBATH PRAYER** **Leadership Change**

We pray today for corps who will welcome new officers this week. We pray for a sense of joy and anticipation at the arrival of new leaders, and for a quick forging of friendships. We pray too that there will be a sense of shared vision as they discern the way ahead, and a sense of expectancy for all that God will do.

(Lyndall Bywater, UKI Boiler Room Team)



## **MONDAY 22 JULY: SHARING THE GOOD NEWS** **Paris Olympics (26 July - 11 August)**

As the Olympic Games get under way later this week, we pray:

- for the city of Paris, that it will be a joyful, harmonious place throughout the Games.
- for Salvationists competing in the various Olympic events, that they will know God's peace and share God's love.
- for The Salvation Army in France, that the Games will open a door for all kinds of witness and service.
- for corps and centres around the world running Olympic-themed outreach events, that many will discover the reality of God's love for them beyond the fun of the event itself.

(Lyndall Bywater, UKI Boiler Room Team)



## **TUESDAY 23 JULY: SERVING & CARING** **Salvation Army Youth Summer Camps**

Pray for the various summer camps which will happen around the territory over the coming weeks, offering children and young people opportunities to spend time together, be creative, learn about Jesus and enjoy all kinds of activities. Pray that these will be real high points of the year for all who attend. Pray that friendships will be forged and that young people will have the courage to enter wholeheartedly into worship and prayer. May they meet with the living God in ways that change their lives.

(Lyndall Bywater, UKI Boiler Room Team)



## **WEDNESDAY 24 JULY: GROWING IN FAITH** **West Midlands Division**

As the division faces the reality of not having enough officers for every corps, pray that many will hear the call to step into leadership in whatever way is God's will for them. Pray for a quickening of those who are responding to the challenge of full-time ministry within the division, and pray for a continuing development of thinking around local leadership and the roles everyone has within the Church as the Body of Christ.

(Major Brian Slinn, former Divisional Commander – West Midlands Division)



## **THURSDAY 25 JULY: INTERNATIONAL** **SALVATION ARMY – Japan Territory**

We pray for the Japan Territory today, asking God's blessing on its corps and its social work. We pray for provision and protection for its various social centres caring for those in need, and we pray for joy and boldness as its corps gather for worship. We pray too for Territorial Leaders Colonels Stephen and Wendy Morris, asking God's blessing on their leadership.

(Lyndall Bywater, UKI Boiler Room Team)



## **FRIDAY 26 JULY: JUSTICE & RECONCILIATION** **Public Affairs Team**

Pray for the Public Affairs Team as they support and resource Salvationists to become effective advocates for those who require justice in their lives and communities. As they engage directly with government on justice concerns, pray that they will build helpful relationships with politicians and Members of Parliament, particularly those who were elected for the first time at the recent General Election.

(Major Nick Coke, Territorial Co-ordinator for Justice and Reconciliation)



## **SATURDAY 27 JULY: CARE FOR CREATION** **Keeping Space Tidy**

As we mark the 55th anniversary of the first Moon landing, we pray for the future of space exploration.

Ultimately the Bible's call to care for the Earth reflects God's character and invites humans to participate in sustaining and renewing the world. This stewardship involves adopting ecological practices such as reducing waste, conserving resources and protecting endangered species. By engaging in these activities, believers honour the Creator and fulfil the biblical mandate to 'serve and preserve' the environment, reflecting a commitment to the ongoing work of creation care.

Loving God, we pray for the key decision-makers and investors in space exploration, that they will take seriously the human responsibility to 'serve and preserve' the universe you have given us as our home. Guide them as they work out how to act responsibly in space, particularly dealing with the vast quantities of 'space junk' which has accumulated over the past six decades. We pray too that they will use their wealth and influence to help improve the lives of the poorest here on Earth.

(Major John Ager, Officer in Retirement; Lyndall Bywater, UKI Boiler Room Team)



## **SUNDAY 28 JULY: SABBATH PRAYER** **Welcome Sunday**

We pray today for officers who have moved to a new appointment and for whom this will be their first Sunday in worship with their new church community. We pray that they will feel the peace of knowing that God is planting them in this new soil, and that God will provide for them, no matter what challenges might lie ahead.

(Lyndall Bywater, UKI Boiler Room Team)



## **MONDAY 29 JULY: SHARING THE GOOD NEWS** **West Midlands Division**

Pray for the division as increasing numbers of corps face the challenge of being without officer leadership. A further five officers enter retirement in the next few months, and this will have a significant impact on congregations and on the ongoing mission of The Salvation Army in local communities. Pray for creative opportunities to reimagine how work can progress, and how resources can be pooled to form 'clusters' of mission.

(Major Brian Slinn, former Divisional Commander – West Midlands Division)



## **TUESDAY 30 JULY: SERVING & CARING** East Midlands Division

We are joining with the Wales Division for our Summer Camp. Pray that the young people and staff team will have an amazing time together, that fun will be had and that everyone will be safe – but most of all, that significant moments with God will be realised, and that decisions of faith or further commitment will be a reality.

(Major Mark Rose, Divisional Commander – East Midlands Division)



## **WEDNESDAY 31 JULY: GROWING IN FAITH** Territorial Music School

As young people gather from all over the territory to learn and make music together, pray that they will have true spiritual encounters and that they will go away changed, rather than just having a one-off experience. Pray especially for the 20 or so new delegates, and also for those for whom it is their last year as a student.

(Stephanie Lamplough, Assistant Director, Music and Creative Arts)



# NOTES



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