



Prayer
Network

Prayer
MATTERS

JANUARY 2025



Dear Prayer Matters readers

A very happy New Year to you,
and welcome to *Prayer Matters* for January 2025.

Our Care for Creation Saturdays this month have gone international, as we pray for a conservation agriculture project in Zimbabwe which The Salvation Army's International Development Team here in the UK are helping to support. We also pause to pray for the United States in this month of presidential change.

Closer to home, we're praying for the South and Central Scotland Division and the London Division, as well as taking a couple of days to pray for sports ministry, the International Staff Songsters, the annual Appointments Conference and the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

Our Sabbath Prayers are adapted from the Covenant Sunday 2025 resources, and our Friday Justice and Reconciliation prayers come from the Billy Graham archives.

We have just started a monthly Territorial Prayer Furnace on Zoom, and we would be delighted to welcome you if you'd like to join us.

It's an hour of praying together with others for the mission and ministry of The Salvation Army. It takes place from 6 pm to 7 pm on the first Monday of each month.

To be sure to receive the Zoom link each month, email gary.lacey@salvationarmy.org.uk and ask to be added to the Prayer Network Bulletin mailing list.

Bookings for our Encounter Prayer Gathering 2025 will still be open until the end of the first week of January. The event is at The Slate Conference Centre in Warwick from 24-26 January. Our theme is 'Stand', and we will be taking a fresh look at the topic of spiritual warfare. If you'd like to join us, please book at the following link:
<https://form-eu.123formbuilder.com/73726/encounter-prayer-gathering-2025>

May God give you peace, joy and hope in this New Year!

Blessings,

Lyndall Bywater
and the UKI Boiler Room Team

JANUARY



WEDNESDAY 1 JANUARY: GROWING IN FAITH A Prayer for the New Year

Our Father and our God, as we stand at the beginning of this new year, we confess our need of your presence and your guidance as we face the future. We each have our hopes and expectations for the year that is ahead of us, but you alone know what it holds for us and only you can give us the strength and the wisdom we will need to meet its challenges. So help us to humbly put our hands into your hand, and to trust you and to seek your will for our lives during this coming year.

(Excerpt from a prayer written by Billy Graham for the *Saturday Evening Post* in 2008)



THURSDAY 2 JANUARY: INTERNATIONAL SALVATION ARMY - International Headquarters

Today we pause from our journey around the territories and commands of the worldwide Salvation Army to pray for all those who work at International Headquarters. We pray for officers and employees alike: those who help to serve the Army's work in the various Zonal Areas around the world; those who work in administration and communication; and those who work to keep the building a safe and welcoming place. We pray particularly for those working in the café, that they will shine the light of Christ through their welcome.

(Lyndall Bywater, UKI Boiler Room Team)



FRIDAY 3 JANUARY: JUSTICE AND RECONCILIATION - Making Right Choices

Lord, in the midst of life's uncertainties in the days ahead, assure us of the certainty of your unchanging love. In the midst of life's inevitable disappointments and heartaches, help us to turn to you for the stability and comfort we will need. In the midst of life's temptations and the pull of our stubborn self-will, help us not to lose our way but to have the courage to do what is right in your sight, regardless of the cost.

(Excerpt from a prayer written by Billy Graham for the *Saturday Evening Post* in 2008)



SATURDAY 4 JANUARY: CARE FOR CREATION **Conservation Agriculture - Growing**

Marble is a participant in The Salvation Army's 'Raising Champion Farmers' project in Zimbabwe, and she has been inspired by the new methods of conservation agriculture which she has been learning. She says: 'We planted two sections, one with mulch and one without. When we came to our garden, we found that the vegetables with the mulch and compost grew better and tasted better than those without.' Marble has been so encouraged that she has shared her new learning with her friends.

Pray for Zimbabwe's farmers, who are having to take a leap of faith in adopting new farming methods.

(Hayley Still, UK Engagement Coordinator - Salvation Army International Development)



SUNDAY 5 JANUARY: SABBATH PRAYER **UKI Boiler Room**

Dear Lord Jesus, we pray for the UKI Boiler Room, this network of individuals and groups ('furnaces') praying for the mission of The Salvation Army. Help us to maintain a healthy rhythm, the perfect soil in which to grow individually and corporately in our dependence upon you. Here we are, your disciples; breathe upon us.

(Captain Cor Van der Woude, Bury Corps)



MONDAY 6 JANUARY: SHARING THE GOOD NEWS **Sports Ministry**

We pray for every community called 'sport': from sports clubs to people using all-weather pitches, community recreation grounds and parks; from those who use gym and leisure facilities to those who volunteer at sporting events. God, may we have opportunities to be an expression of your love and compassion in those places. We also give you our personal sporting and fitness goals. Help us take leaps of faith for you this year.

(Rob Moye, Sports Mission Lead)



TUESDAY 7 JANUARY: SERVING AND CARING **Junior Parkrun**

Lord, we thank you for the gift of community that is Junior Parkrun. Thank you for the volunteers who make these events possible and who provide a safe and welcoming space for our children every Sunday morning, encouraging and cheering them round each and every 2km course. May each child know how loved and how special they are. We pray for your presence at these events each week, that you will grow relationships in this community of sport.

(Rob Moye, Sports Mission Lead)



WEDNESDAY 8 JANUARY: GROWING IN FAITH **South and Central Scotland Division**

As we invest in the development of our young leaders, we ask for prayers for our divisional children's worker and divisional youth worker, as they plan and lead events like Transformers, that there will be a developing and releasing of their gifts and skills for the Kingdom. Also, as we prepare for Design for Life for children, pray that our young people will encounter Jesus and come to love him as he loves them.

(Major Sarah Price, Assistant Divisional Commander – South and Central Scotland Division)



THURSDAY 9 JANUARY: INTERNATIONAL **SALVATION ARMY - Pakistan Territory**

We pray today for the work of The Salvation Army in Pakistan, asking God to renew and strengthen all those who are finding ways to shine the light of Christ. We pray that the Holy Spirit will give them insight to know how to communicate the gospel in ways that connect with those they meet. We pray too for the leadership team: Colonel Diana MacDonald, Colonel MacDonald Chandi, Lieut-Colonel Safdar Iqbal and Lieut-Colonel Asia Safdar.

(Lyndall Bywater, UKI Boiler Room Team)



FRIDAY 10 JANUARY: JUSTICE AND RECONCILIATION - Seeing Those in Need

In the midst of our daily preoccupations and pursuits, open our eyes to the sorrows and injustices of our hurting world, and help us to respond with compassion and sacrifice to those who are friendless and in need. May our constant prayer be that of the ancient Psalmist: 'Teach me, Lord, the way of your decrees, that I may follow it to the end' (Psalm 119:33).

(Excerpt from a prayer written by Billy Graham for the *Saturday Evening Post* in 2008)



SATURDAY 11 JANUARY: CARE FOR CREATION Conservation Agriculture – Water

Water is essential. In places where rainfall is limited or unreliable, conservation agriculture is a method that helps farmers to make the most of this precious resource. A reliable water source can be transformative both to the land and to the lives of the farmers who work on it. Pray for continued access to safe and reliable water sources for the farmers, and for opportunities to drill more boreholes so more communities can access sufficient water to sustain their crops and improve their health.

(Hayley Still, UK Engagement Coordinator - Salvation Army International Development)



SUNDAY 12 JANUARY: SABBATH PRAYER Covenant Sunday Prayer

Loving Father, the depth of your unconditional and unceasing love is beyond my understanding, but today I respond to that love. As your love lives in me, may my thoughts, words and actions courageously reflect you at all times and in every place. May my soul be a place we meet – where all I am becomes all that you want me to be, in heart, mind and spirit; that in being one with you, I might see you, know you, and show you in every part of my life; that in me and through me your Kingdom may come now. May this Covenant of Love draw me deeper and bring others closer to you. Amen.

(Taken from Covenant Sunday 2025 resources found at www.salvationist.org.uk/resources/discipleship/covenant-sunday-2024-resources)



MONDAY 13 JANUARY: SHARING THE GOOD NEWS **Appointments Conference (12-16 January)**

Heavenly Father, we pray for those who are seeking your wisdom and guidance in appointing Salvation Army officers to the places where they will go next to serve, minister and build your Kingdom. Grant clarity, discernment and unity to those entrusted with this sacred responsibility. Bless the officers and their families as they prepare for new roles. Strengthen them to serve with love, humility and courage, bringing hope and transformation to the communities they touch.

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



TUESDAY 14 JANUARY: SERVING AND CARING **International Staff Songsters**

The opportunity to reach far and wide with a gospel-centred message through song, prayer and testimony continues to be a focus for the International Staff Songsters. We give thanks for the opportunity to engage in prison ministry, community choirs and the Broken Chains project in Ayr, when guests from the recovery programme were invited to share their testimonies, and as they did so, they fully engaged in worship. Pray for their ongoing journey.

(Major Lisa Lloyd-Jones, Assistant Secretary for Personnel and Executive Officer to the International Staff Songsters)



WEDNESDAY 15 JANUARY: GROWING IN FAITH **International Staff Songsters – Singing in the New Year (18 January)**

We look forward to Singing in the New Year, which will be a great opportunity to connect again with so many who value music and choirs, but who may have lost relationship with Church. May we all be aware of the Holy Spirit blessing that opportunity. In the next quarter, the ISS will visit Gloucester, Reading Central and Bellshill, and we will also make a CD recording. We pray that this will see the message of its music spread even further.

(Major Lisa Lloyd-Jones, Assistant Secretary for Personnel and Executive Officer to the International Staff Songsters)



THURSDAY 16 JANUARY: INTERNATIONAL SALVATION ARMY - Singapore, Malaysia, Myanmar and Thailand Territory

We pray for the Singapore, Malaysia, Myanmar and Thailand Territory, as Salvationists seek to live out its values of Christ-centredness, humility and sincerity, integrity, compassion and love, justice and respect, accountability and transparency. We pray for the territorial leadership team, Colonel Hary Haran and Lieut-Colonels Nigel and Stacy Cross, as they inspire people in their discipleship journey with Jesus.

(Lyndall Bywater, UKI Boiler Room Team)



FRIDAY 17 JANUARY: JUSTICE AND RECONCILIATION - A Prayer for the USA

As we approach the inauguration of President Donald Trump on Monday, we join in a prayer written many years ago by Billy Graham:

Our Father and our God, we praise you for your goodness to our nation, giving us blessings far beyond what we deserve. Yet we know all is not right with America. We deeply need a moral and spiritual renewal to help us meet the many problems we face. Convict us of sin. Help us to turn to you in repentance and faith. Set our feet on the path of your righteousness and peace. We pray today for our nation's leaders. Give them the wisdom to know what is right, and the courage to do it. You have said, 'Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord.' May this be a new era for America, as we humble ourselves and acknowledge you alone as our Saviour and Lord.

(Taken from www.nationaldayofprayer.org)



SATURDAY 18 JANUARY: CARE FOR CREATION **Conservation Agriculture - Collaboration**

The Raising Champion Farmers project encourages farmers to support one another, not only through peer learning but also by working together on practical tasks such as cultivating compost, planting and harvesting. Through collaboration, community is fostered and strengthened. Pray for a strong sense of community among the farmers as they support one another, share their burdens and celebrate their successes together.

(Hayley Still, UK Engagement Coordinator - Salvation Army International Development)



SUNDAY 19 JANUARY: SABBATH PRAYER **Step Up, Stand Out**

'Have nothing to do with irreverent, silly myths. Rather train yourself for godliness; for while bodily training is of some value, godliness is of value in every way, as it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come.' (1 Timothy 4:7-8, ESV)

Lord, help us to courageously step up and stand out for you in our own settings – whether that's the corps, a workplace, school, the community or family.

Lord, give us courage to open ourselves to your work in our lives, and be willing to undergo training so we can become the people you intend us to be.

Lord, help us to welcome your training in our lives, fostering spiritual discipline and a deep commitment to faith, so that we can live in a godly and committed way.

(Adapted from the Sermon Starter for Covenant Sunday 2025 found at www.salvationist.org.uk/resources/discipleship/covenant-sunday-2024-resources)



MONDAY 20 JANUARY: SHARING THE GOOD NEWS **Territorial Envoy Seminar (19-24 January)**

Territorial envoys come to this training from all over the UK, most in person but a few online; pray for safe travel and clear connections. They spend a week learning, both through taught subjects and also from each other; pray for a deep spiritual connection in all the learning they do. Pray too that they are resourced, equipped and refreshed. Pray that the joy and experience they share will sustain them in their ministry. Give thanks to God for their ministry and all who support them in it.

(Major Tracey Palmer, Learning and Development Officer – William Booth College)



TUESDAY 21 JANUARY: SERVING AND CARING **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (18-25 January)**

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2025 is observed in the northern hemisphere from 18–25 January – between the Church feasts of St Peter and St Paul. Jesus was known for saying some apparently outlandish things; for example, he prayed to his Father about the Church, 'The goal is for all of them to become one heart and mind – just as you, Father, are in me and I in you ... Then the world might believe that you ... sent me' (John 17:21, MSG). Will you join me in praying and working for the unity which Jesus prayed for?

(Major Paul Robinson, Territorial Ecumenical Officer)



WEDNESDAY 22 JANUARY: GROWING IN FAITH **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (18-25 January)**

We celebrate in 2025 the 1,700th anniversary of the Council of Nicaea, the first ecumenical council whose members created the Nicene Creed. Our creeds are the statements of what we believe, at the heart of our faith, and when we affirm our creeds we are called to consider Jesus' question to Martha: 'Do you believe this?' (John 11:26). Having faith, even as small as a mustard seed, changes lives. As we live out the things we believe, let's be confident that God will make Christ known through us.

(Major Paul Robinson, Territorial Ecumenical Officer)



THURSDAY 23 JANUARY: INTERNATIONAL **SALVATION ARMY - Congo (Brazzaville) Territory**

We pray for The Salvation Army's work in the Republic of Congo and Gabon, a region of Africa which has seen violence and unrest over many years. We pray that God will guide Salvationists to those in need, whether physically, economically, emotionally or spiritually. We pray for the leadership team, Colonels Jean Laurore and Elianise Clenat and Lieut-Colonels Celestin and Beatrice Ayabagabo, that you will cause them to know they are surrounded by your love and care today.

(Lyndall Bywater, UKI Boiler Room Team)



FRIDAY 24 JANUARY: JUSTICE AND **RECONCILIATION - Encounter Prayer Gathering** **(24-26 January)**

Father, in the best of times and in the worst of times you are the stability that we need. Thank you for your steadfast resolve in our lives. As we approach the 2025 Prayer Gathering, themed around taking a stand in prayer warfare, we ask that you will prepare our hearts to receive new tools to help us fight for justice. We pray for all those ministering during the weekend, through worship, teaching, prayer and fellowship, and our overriding prayer is that we will encounter your loving spirit and be strengthened to stand for you in our world.

(Major Gary Lacey, Territorial Prayer Coordinator)



SATURDAY 25 JANUARY: CARE FOR CREATION **Conservation Agriculture – Future**

Small-scale farmers are embracing conservation agriculture to sow seeds that will bear fruit for future generations. With each healthy harvest, hope for the future flourishes, inspiring those who will inherit their family's land. Pray for the younger generation to learn and embrace conservation agriculture. May they be inspired by their parents' efforts and continue to practise sustainable farming methods.

(Hayley Still, UK Engagement Coordinator - Salvation Army International Development)



SUNDAY 26 JANUARY: SABBATH PRAYER **Step Up, Stand Out**

Look at your hands. God made them for a purpose. See the touch and usefulness. Will you use them to do God's work?

Look at your feet. God made them for a purpose. See the direction and example. Will you use them to do God's work?

Look into your heart. God made it for a purpose. See the love and determination. Will you use it to do God's work?

Look at the cross. God made it for a purpose. See God's Son, the Saviour. Will you follow him in God's work?

Look at your world. God made it for a purpose. See where God calls you to serve him. Will you go out and do God's work?

May the God who loves you endlessly lead you from belief into action.

(Adapted from Prayer and Worship Ideas for Covenant Sunday 2025 found at www.salvationist.org.uk/resources/discipleship/covenant-sunday-2024-resources)



MONDAY 27 JANUARY: SHARING THE GOOD NEWS **South and Central Scotland Division**

We thank God for our gifted and committed local corps leaders who continue to serve in corps where there is no full-time leadership. We want to pray for their equipping, for physical and spiritual strength, and for them to have a sense of being led by the Holy Spirit as they navigate the necessary tasks and responsibilities, whilst bringing glory to God, so that our corps do not simply survive but thrive.

(Major Sarah Price, Assistant Divisional Commander – South and Central Scotland Division)



TUESDAY 28 JANUARY: SERVING AND CARING London Division

We are thankful for leaders within the division who are 'stepping up' and 'stepping into' ministry. The Growing Leaders course continues to develop and nurture our leaders, together with our 9:38 Prayer Initiative (based on Matthew 9:38). God is answering our prayers as people continue to respond to God's call on their lives. He has given us all that we need; it's just that some people haven't yet seen how they can be the solution to his opportunity.

(Major Steve White, Divisional Leader – London Division)



WEDNESDAY 29 JANUARY: GROWING IN FAITH London Division

We are fervently praying for God's leading, wisdom and discernment as we continue to reimagine The Salvation Army in London. The truth is, it's already happening and we are just catching up! The launch of the divisional Reimagine group at the start of this year will enable us to further hear and see what God is saying and how we should respond.

(Major Steve White, Divisional Leader – London Division)



THURSDAY 30 JANUARY: INTERNATIONAL SALVATION ARMY - USA Central Territory

The USA Central Territory covers 11 states in the Midwest and has its headquarters in Chicago. We pray today for the leadership team, Commissioner Evie Diaz and Colonels Thomas and Julie Loudon, that God will show them his plans and purposes for the territory in this coming year. We pray for corps and social centres across the Midwest, that they will be beacons of hope and joy in their local communities.

(Lyndall Bywater, UKI Boiler Room Team)

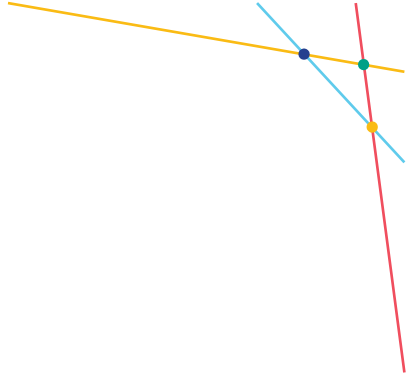


FRIDAY 31 JANUARY: JUSTICE AND RECONCILIATION - Peace and Stability

We pray for all those who are seeking to bring peace and justice to our dangerous and troubled world. We pray especially for your protection on all those who serve in our armed forces, and we thank you for their commitment to defend our freedoms, even at the cost of their own lives. Be with their families also, and assure them of your love for them.

(Excerpt from a prayer written by Billy Graham for the *Saturday Evening Post* in 2008)

NOTES





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