



Prayer
Network

Prayer MATTERS

FEBRUARY 2025



Dear Prayer Matters readers

Welcome to February's *Prayer Matters* where we continue to pray our UKI Prayer Rhythm.

We will be taking a different theme each day, then narrowing our focus to pray for something specific in line with that theme.

This month we pray for families and for marriages as it includes Marriage Week. We're taking time to pray for children and young people and for the Territorial Youth Band and Choir residential event which happens during half-term. We're also praying for the UKI Territory's Mission Conference, and we drop into the Central South and Channel Islands Division and the Yorkshire and Humber Division.

Our Friday Justice and Reconciliation prayers come from the Anti-trafficking and Modern Slavery Team, and our Care for Creation prayers on Saturdays come from liturgies gathered by the Church of England.

Following our Encounter Prayer Gathering at the end of January, where we took a fresh look at spiritual warfare under the theme of 'Stand', we use our Sabbath Prayers on Sundays to reflect on how we resist the lies that so often chip away at our identity, and how to stand steady on the truth of who God says we are.

Thank you for praying along with us, and may you meet with God as you bring these subjects to the throne of grace in prayer.

Blessings,

Lyndall Bywater
and the UKI Boiler Room Team

FEBRUARY



SATURDAY 1 FEBRUARY: CARE FOR CREATION **The goodness of God**

Creator God, in bright light and dull darkness, in the energy of each day and the rest that comes with night, we remember the goodness of God. In the heavens high above our heads, and waters that run deep around the world, we remember the goodness of God. In solid land and flowing seas, in vivid flowers and fruit-laden trees, we remember the goodness of God. In the rising and setting of the sun and the cycles of the seasons, in the patterns of the shining stars, we remember the goodness of God. In oceans teeming with fish, in skies filled with birds, in a world filled with animal life, and in ourselves as human beings, we remember the goodness of God.

(Prayer taken from a selection of Church of England prayers for creation care)



SUNDAY 2 FEBRUARY: SABBATH PRAYER **Steadying our Souls in God - Contentment**

Sometimes the world tries to sell us the lie that 'we are what we have' – that possessions can give us status, that money can solve our problems and that the value of what we own determines the value of who we are. And sometimes our eagerness to treasure what we have, and to make sure that those we care for have enough, can get mixed up with the fear that one day we might not have the things we need. Yet Jesus encouraged his followers to live in the simplicity of birds and flowers, trusting their Father in Heaven to provide for them (Matthew 6:25-33).

Take some time to reflect on whether you've bought into the lie that 'you are what you have'. Then steady your soul, choosing to loosen your hold on material things and standing on the truth that you are loved for who you are. The God who cares for you will meet your every need.

(Lyndall Bywater, UKI Boiler Room Team)



MONDAY 3 FEBRUARY: SHARING THE GOOD NEWS

Central South and Channel Islands Division - Fresh Expressions

Pray for the expressions of Church in our division that are flourishing, where we are seeing a sense of God's refreshing. Pray that even in the cold, dark month of February we will see the birth of spiritual vitality and new life within our corps, our centres and our own lives!

(Major Mike Lloyd Jones, Divisional Commander)



TUESDAY 4 FEBRUARY: SERVING AND CARING

Central South and Channel Islands Division - Leaders' retreat

Pray for the spiritual leaders across the division as they prepare to come together for a time of reflection and spiritual retreat over the coming days, that they will know God's calming presence. Pray that they will be blessed as we look to God through our theme of 'BEHOLD!' 'God, the one and only - I'll wait as long as he says. Everything I need comes from him ... He's solid rock under my feet, breathing room for my soul' (Psalm 62:1-2 *MSG*).

(Major Mike Lloyd Jones, Divisional Commander)



WEDNESDAY 5 FEBRUARY: GROWING IN FAITH

Praying for Children

Heavenly Father, we bring all children before you. They are such a joy and a blessing, and they teach us many things. We ask for your blessing on all children and pray that you will guide them and shine on them throughout their life journey.

(Prayer taken from the February Prayer Focus of the Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Belonging Resource Calendar)



THURSDAY 6 FEBRUARY: INTERNATIONAL

SALVATION ARMY - The Netherlands, Czech Republic and Slovakia Territory

We pray for the various expressions of The Salvation Army across these three contrasting nations. We pray for the leadership team, Commissioner Bente Gundersen and Colonel Donna Evans, that God will give them wisdom to see the shoots springing up, and to know how to tend them in the right way. We pray that God will strengthen the Army in this territory, and that joy will bubble up wherever God's people gather.

(Lyndall Bywater, UKI Boiler Room Team)



FRIDAY 7 FEBRUARY: JUSTICE AND RECONCILIATION – **Anti-Trafficking and Modern Slavery Team - Chaplaincy**

Our survivors are of many faiths and none. Please pray for our chaplaincy support team who do their work for our team alongside other roles; that they will be able to connect with those they meet, and share the light and peace of Jesus in the midst of the darkness and hopelessness felt by many survivors.

(Major Estelle Blake and Major Heather Grinsted, ATMS Team)



SATURDAY 8 FEBRUARY: CARE FOR CREATION **All Praise be Yours**

All praise be yours, my Lord, through all that you have made.
And first, my Lord, through Brother Sun, who brings the day ... how beautiful is he, how radiant in all his splendour! Of you, Most High, he bears the likeness.

All praise be yours, my Lord, through Sister Moon and Stars; in the heavens you have made them, bright and precious and fair.

All praise be yours, my Lord, through Brothers Wind and Air.

All praise be yours, my Lord, through Sister Water, so useful, lowly, precious and pure.

All praise be yours, my Lord, through Brother Fire, through whom you brighten up the night.

All praise be yours, my Lord, through Sister Earth, our mother who feeds us. Praise and bless my Lord, and give him thanks.

(Canticle of the Creatures, St Francis of Assisi)



SUNDAY 9 FEBRUARY: SABBATH PRAYER **Steadying our souls in God – Rest**

Sometimes the world tries to sell us the lie that 'we are what we do' – that achievement, success and productivity are the most important standards by which to measure ourselves. Sometimes our desire to please God can get mixed up with the fear that God will only be pleased with us if we have achieved something, succeeded at something or produced something worthwhile. Yet Jesus encouraged his followers to remember their identity as beloved, precious children of God, and to rest in him (Matthew 11:25-30). Take some time to reflect on whether you have got caught up in the lie that 'you are what you do'. Then steady your soul, choosing to lay down the burden of having to accomplish things and relaxing in the truth that you are loved for who you are. The God who created you will cause you to bear much good fruit.

(Lyndall Bywater, UKI Boiler Room Team)



MONDAY 10 FEBRUARY: SHARING THE GOOD NEWS **Marriage Week (7-14 February)**

National Marriage Week, observed annually in the second week of February, is a time to celebrate the importance of marriage and to encourage couples to invest in their relationships. It draws together media, business, church, government, faith groups – and in fact anyone who cares about marriage. It can be as small as a few friends reaching out to their neighbours, or as much as thousands of local events taking place in bars, restaurants, community halls and churches. Let's pray for churches marking Marriage Week in some way this week, that it will be an opportunity to celebrate the gift of love, and to make known the love of God to those who may never yet have encountered it.

(Prayer based on information from www.marriage-week.org.uk)



TUESDAY 11 FEBRUARY: SERVING AND CARING **Domestic abuse**

Lord, thank you that you love us unconditionally and that you intend for us to live in healthy relationship with one another. In this Marriage Week, we pray for those living with partners who are unkind or abusive; that those who are hurting will discover you are with them just where they are. Thank you for feeling their pain, and for providing others who can walk alongside them. Help us to join in with sharing your love, healing and restoration in this broken world.

(Deborah Juster and Liz Hall, Family Ministries Department)



WEDNESDAY 12 FEBRUARY: GROWING IN FAITH **Generations worshipping together**

Father God, thank you that journeying together spiritually with people of different ages and generations enriches everyone's life. Help us to understand that when we know we belong to, are needed in and can learn from everyone in the body of Christ, we get a glimpse of your Kingdom. Enable us to experience more of you as we find and create opportunities to serve, share, worship and learn together.

(Deborah Juster and Liz Hall, Family Ministries Department)



THURSDAY 13 FEBRUARY: INTERNATIONAL SALVATION ARMY – Sri Lanka Territory

‘Creating a brighter future for individuals, families and communities throughout Sri Lanka has been a driving goal for The Salvation Army for more than 140 years. Begun on 26 January 1883, today this transformative work is carried out from 62 corps (churches) and community centres nationwide.’

We pray for Salvationists as they witness to the saving grace of Jesus Christ in Sri Lanka today, and we pray for strength and courage for the leadership team, Colonels Nihal and Rohini Hettiarachchi and Lieut-Colonels Imran Sabir and Nighat Imran.

(Lyndall Bywater, UKI Boiler Room Team; quote taken from www.salvationarmy.org)



FRIDAY 14 FEBRUARY: JUSTICE AND RECONCILIATION – Anti-Trafficking and Modern Slavery Team – Integrated Mission

Pray for the Integrated Mission Team as they host an online gathering for local leaders who are currently connected with us, or who are interested in working with survivors in their corps and centres. May our connections together help to integrate and inspire others to be involved. We believe that experiencing genuine community can change our corps and centres, and can make a difference in the lives of survivors.

(Major Estelle Blake and Major Heather Grinsted, ATMS Team)



SATURDAY 15 FEBRUARY: CARE FOR CREATION Partners with God

We are sustained and nourished by God’s presence and love. Thanks be to God.

As we mourn the distress and wounds of God’s creation, God weeps with us.

As we face rising waters, hunger and displacement, God suffers with us.

As we struggle for justice, God struggles with us.

As we expose and challenge climate justice, God empowers us.

As we strive to build alternative communities, God works with us.

As we offer our gifts to all, God blesses us.

Sustained by God’s presence and love, we worship God.

(Prayer taken from a selection of Church of England prayers for creation care)



SUNDAY 16 FEBRUARY: SABBATH PRAYER

Steadying our souls - Security

Sometimes the world tries to sell us the lie that 'we are who other people say we are' – that our value is defined by the opinions of others. And sometimes our longing to live a holy life and to shine as a light for Christ can get mixed up with the fear that we will be rejected if we don't do whatever it takes to please people. Yet Jesus encouraged his followers to remember who they were and whose they were: people chosen and loved by God, people in whom God has chosen to dwell (John 15:1-17). Take some time to reflect on whether you've been drawn into the lie that 'other people's opinions of you define your value'; then steady your soul on the truth that God has chosen to set up home in your heart. Let that thought fill you with wonder and rejoice in the fact that God loves you for who you are. Nothing and no one can separate you from that love.

(Lyndall Bywater, UKI Boiler Room Team)



MONDAY 17 FEBRUARY: SHARING THE GOOD NEWS

Mission Conference (20-23 February)

In a few days' time, hundreds of people involved in leadership at local, divisional and national level in the UKI Territory will gather at Warwick University for the Mission Conference. There are two conferences (A and B), to enable as many people as possible to attend. Pray for this event, that it will be a moment when earth and Heaven meet; a time of encounter with God and deeper connection with one another; a watershed moment for mission in the UKI Territory, with delegates going out fired up and freshly equipped for the exhilarating adventure of partnering with God in bringing life and hope.

(Lyndall Bywater, UKI Boiler Room Team)



TUESDAY 18 FEBRUARY: SERVING AND CARING

Mission Conference (20-23 February)

The theme of the Mission Conference is Oikos, which means 'household of faith', with a focus on discipleship. The key text for the weekend is Ephesians 3:14-19. Pray for the main session speakers who will help to unpack this passage: Lieut-Colonel Drew McCombe, Rachel Jordan-Wolf, Adam Johnson, Rich Robinson, Elizabeth Oldfield and Bishop Mike Royal. Pray too for the many electives, optional conversations and taster sessions which will help give people a sense of the vast array of opportunities available for discipleship and mission.

(Lyndall Bywater, UKI Boiler Room Team)



WEDNESDAY 19 FEBRUARY: GROWING IN FAITH **Encounter through music**

Father, we thank you for the gift of music that inspires, comforts, energises and speaks to children and young people. May their discipleship journey be enriched through melodies that communicate your love, beauty and healing. Every note played and lyric sung is an opportunity for a divine encounter with their creator and creative God. As the Territorial Youth Band and Territorial Youth Choir meet this week, inspire them to continue to use their musical talents to seek and reveal your Kingdom here on earth.

(Lieutenant Jonny Whitmore, Territorial Youth and Children's Secretary)



THURSDAY 20 FEBRUARY: INTERNATIONAL SALVATION ARMY - Taiwan Region

'Since 1965, The Salvation Army has been established in Taiwan to serve the underprivileged in the community without discrimination. We have established a wide range of social services to meet the needs of the community, including assisting families with material needs, giving care and protection to vulnerable children and teenagers, caring for the senior citizens in communities and assisting those in need, regardless of age or religion. To us, every life is an individual and is precious.'

As the Taiwan Region celebrates its 60th anniversary this year, we pray that God's Spirit will bring joy and gratitude for what has been, and fresh vision for what is to come. We pray for the leadership team, Major Sara Tam (Mei-Shun) and Major A-Tuan (Grace) Weng.

(Lyndall Bywater, UKI Boiler Room Team; quote taken from www.salvationarmy.org.tw)



FRIDAY 21 FEBRUARY: JUSTICE AND RECONCILIATION – The Anti-Trafficking and Modern Slavery Team

Pray for our team at Territorial Headquarters who, each week, are connecting with staff both within The Salvation Army and in other agencies, to be a voice for all those who need someone to speak up for them. Pray for our Director, Major Kathy Betteridge, our Deputy Director, Major Heather Grinsted and our Contract Director, Ann-Marie Douglas. Pray that they will have vision and direction for our work, and pray for them as they represent the ATMS Department in government and stakeholder meetings.

(Major Estelle Blake and Major Heather Grinsted, ATMS Team)



SATURDAY 22 FEBRUARY: CARE FOR CREATION **Praying for leaders**

God, we pray for you to raise up a generation of leaders with the courage to take responsibility for our changing climate, and the part we have played in it. We intercede for our politicians and leaders; cause them to act in the best interests of all nations today and all peoples in the future, in order to avoid catastrophic changes. We ask for a generation of leaders who will be willing to act justly, so that those who have contributed so little to the problems we are facing, and have fewer resources with which to face them, are not left to shoulder our burden. We ask you to fill the hearts of all who lead rich nations; give them your mercy and compassion on poor countries already suffering the effects of a changing climate. Just as they have been moved to cancel debt in the past, encourage them also to release funds so that poor communities can adapt to the effects of climate change.

(Prayer taken from a selection of Church of England prayers for creation care)



SUNDAY 23 FEBRUARY: SABBATH PRAYER **Steadying our souls – Trust**

Sometimes the world tries to tell us the lie that 'God might not really have our best interests at heart'. We watch bad things happen to good people and we try to make sense of a world where pain and sorrow often seem more present than joy and hope. Sometimes our most heartfelt, faith-filled prayers go unanswered, and the disappointment mixes in with the fear that perhaps God doesn't care after all. Yet Jesus encouraged his followers with the story of a widow woman who kept going, kept praying, kept trusting in God, and who eventually saw God set things right (Luke 18:1-8).

Take some time to reflect on whether your faith has been undermined by the lie that 'God might not be looking after you or those you love'; then steady your soul on the truth that God never leaves us or forsakes us, and choose to put your hand again into the hand of the one who loves you for who you are and who will make all things new.

(Lyndall Bywater, UKI Boiler Room Team)



MONDAY 24 FEBRUARY: SHARING THE GOOD NEWS Yorkshire and Humber Division

Pray for our corps which don't currently have officer leadership. In Yorkshire and Humber, we have 58 expressions of Salvation Army, and over 30 per cent of them are unofficered. It would be good to pray for the local leaders who have stepped up to take on extra leadership responsibilities in our unofficered corps. Pray that they will help their corps to continue to engage in fruitful mission. Pray too for the team at divisional headquarters, that we will have wisdom on how best to support these corps.

(Major Caroline Heward, Assistant Divisional Commander)



TUESDAY 25 FEBRUARY: SERVING AND CARING Yorkshire and Humber Division

Our second prayer request would be for our youth and children, and their leaders. We have a great team based all over the division, who give their time to youth and children's work in lots of different contexts. In the past few months, several of the team have undertaken Starfish training. Starfish is a mentoring programme for children between the ages of 9 and 16, and the ministry is going to be started in several schools across the division this year.

(Major Caroline Heward, Assistant Divisional Commander)



WEDNESDAY 26 FEBRUARY: GROWING IN FAITH Connection through music

Pray for all those who engage children and young people in their corps music programmes around the UKI Territory. We thank God for the gift of music, which brings young people and adults together through brass groups, singing groups, community choirs and other activities in a unique form of discipleship. We pray that relationships will be strong, long-lasting and full of creativity, and we pray that the music that's played in our corps will bring glory and praise to God!

(Richard Prescott, Outreach Mission Partner for Children)



THURSDAY 27 FEBRUARY: INTERNATIONAL SALVATION ARMY - Democratic Republic of Congo Territory

We pray for The Salvation Army's work in the Democratic Republic of Congo, a country which has known much violence and trouble in recent years. We pray that God will give Salvationists grace to sustain them in hardship, faith to believe for miracles, and joy to spring up and overflow to everyone they meet. We pray for wisdom and strength for the territorial leadership team: Colonels Graçia and Lydia Matondo and Lieut-Colonels Dieudonné and Philippine Tsilulu.

(Lyndall Bywater, UKI Boiler Room Team)

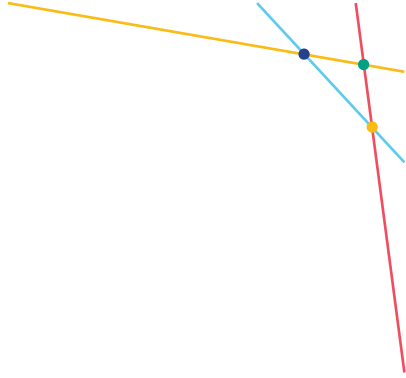


FRIDAY 28 FEBRUARY: JUSTICE AND RECONCILIATION - Anti-Trafficking and Modern Slavery Team - Volunteers

Pray for all our volunteers who support and connect with survivors, driving them to safety, conducting interviews, supporting them with language classes and conversation, mentoring them and being available as they start their new journeys to freedom.

(Major Estelle Blake and Major Heather Grinsted, ATMS Team)

NOTES





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