



Prayer
Network

Prayer MATTERS

SEPTEMBER 2024



Dear Prayer Matters readers

Welcome to September's edition of *Prayer Matters*.

As the UK's holiday season draws to a close and the weather gradually reminds us that autumn is around the corner, we continue our UKI Prayer Rhythm this month with a focus on the new lieutenants from the Defenders of Justice session who were commissioned at Together 2024 in July. Each cadet wrote a prayer request to help us pray for them, and we thought it would be helpful to feature them here in *Prayer Matters* so we can continue to pray for them all as they get settled into their new appointments.

Our divisional focus takes us to the North Division and the South West Division, and most of our Friday Justice and Reconciliation prayer requests are provided by Older People's Ministries.

It's *The Big Connection* this month – formerly known as 'The Big Collection' – so our Sabbath Prayers on Sundays give us a chance to bathe this important season in prayer. On Saturdays, for our Care for

Creation theme, we dig into a brilliant article written a couple of years ago by Yelena Grase Jurkenas from Addlestone, all about how we can change our lives to bless the planet.

Thank you for partnering with us, and may God bless you as you pray for the mission of The Salvation Army this month.

Blessings,

Lyndall Bywater
On behalf of the UKI Boiler Room Team

SEPTEMBER



SUNDAY 1 SEPTEMBER: SABBATH PRAYER **The Big Connection**

The Big Connection is our annual fundraising initiative for The Salvation Army's Social Work Trust. This appeal is about more than just raising funds – it's about sharing our vision and inviting others to join our mission. On this Sabbath day, let's pray that all we do to collect and connect over the next few weeks will be done from a place of rest rather than stress.

(Lyndall Bywater, UKI Boiler Room Team)



MONDAY 2 SEPTEMBER: SHARING THE GOOD NEWS **Newly commissioned lieutenants**

Dear heavenly Father, as the new lieutenants transition into their new environment, help them build relationships in the corps and community. Help them to be seen and known, rather than hidden behind the walls of the building. I pray that a vision for what God wants will remain at the heart of what they do, that the enthusiasm at the start remains and is not dampened, and that they recognise the need to stop and take time away from corps life to spend with God.

(Lieutenant Theresa Raffan, Buckie and Findochty, commissioned in July 2023)



TUESDAY 3 SEPTEMBER: SERVING & CARING **New lieutenants - Luke and Rachel Furlong**

Pray for all of us in the Defenders of Justice session. As we settle in new places, may we see the communities, corps and centres through God's eyes, and love and serve others with God's love. Pray for Luke and me as we go into ministry together as a newly married couple. May we keep our priorities correct, and seek to serve God better as a couple than we could as individuals. Pray for The Salvation Army, that God will raise more spiritual leaders to be pioneers, territorial envoys, divisional envoys, officers and local leaders.

(Lieutenants Luke and Rachel Furlong, Isle of Wight)



WEDNESDAY 4 SEPTEMBER: GROWING IN FAITH **North Division**

Pray for us in the North Division, that God will help us identify those with leadership potential, and that the Holy Spirit will equip them and release them into their calling. Pray too for a sense of discernment as we consider mission opportunities, and also look honestly at those places where there needs to be considered evaluation and reflection before making plans for the future.

(Majors David and Gillian Burns, Divisional Leaders, North Division)



THURSDAY 5 SEPTEMBER: INTERNATIONAL **SALVATION ARMY - Uganda Territory**

Today we pray for the Uganda Territory, its 97 corps and 37 outposts. We give thanks for the growth of the Army in Uganda, when only 46 years ago its work and teaching were banned. We pray for Colonel Chatonda Theu, Territorial Commander, Colonel Joyce Theu, Command President for Women's Ministries, Lieut-Colonel Emmanuel Sichibona, General Secretary and Lieut-Colonel Irene Sichibona, Command Secretary for Women's Ministries. May God pour his grace and peace on them, and may they inspire the territory to joyful boldness for the gospel.

(Lyndall Bywater, UKI Boiler Room Team)



FRIDAY 6 SEPTEMBER: JUSTICE & RECONCILIATION **Older people - Retirement**

Pray for those who are transitioning into retirement from paid employment. This can be a difficult time for many, with concerns about self-worth, finance and changes to daily routine. Ask God to give us eyes to see people who may be struggling with this new journey, recognising the gifts that older people can use to serve God in new and exciting ways in their retirement.

(Ali Thornton-Dean, Older People's Ministries)



SATURDAY 7 SEPTEMBER: CARE FOR CREATION **Putting on the planet goggles**

When we look at the Bible, we see God encouraging us to care for creation. In Genesis, God outlines that humans were created to 'be responsible for the fish in the sea, the birds in the air, the cattle, and, yes, Earth itself, and every animal that moves on the face of Earth' (Genesis 1:28, *The Message*). He invites us to share in the responsibility of conserving the world. I have got into the practice of putting on my 'planet goggles'. When I have them on, life looks a lot more reflective and conscientious. They encourage me to be more resourceful as I appreciate creation for what it is.'

Lord, help us today to take seriously our responsibility to conserve the world. Teach us to look through 'planet goggles', seeing the value of all that we have, and becoming more reflective and conscientious in the way we use the resources at our disposal.

(Adapted by Lyndall Bywater from 'My 7 tips for caring for creation' by Yelena Grase Jurkenas on Salvationist.org.uk)



SUNDAY 8 SEPTEMBER: SABBATH PRAYER **The Big Connection**

Formerly known as 'The Big Collection', this fundraising focus has been renamed, in recognition of the fact that our connections are just as important as what we collect. Lord, forgive us for the times when we have valued money more than people; resources more than individual lives. As we gather for worship today, remind us of the precious privilege of sharing our lives with other people.

(Lyndall Bywater, UKI Boiler Room Team)



MONDAY 9 SEPTEMBER: SHARING THE GOOD NEWS **New lieutenants - Beth and Dave Perkins**

Pray for the new community where we will be serving, that we will have eyes to see where God is already at work, and the courage and creativity to join in with his mission there. Pray for us as a family as we navigate the transition to a new corps and community. Pray for our extended family as they continue to support us in our ministry.

(Lieutenants Beth and Dave Perkins, Maidstone)



TUESDAY 10 SEPTEMBER: SERVING & CARING

New lieutenant - Alice Swain

Please pray that I will continue to follow God's call on my life, wherever it may lead me. Pray that God will continue to use our family in his mission, and that we might witness to others about God's goodness. Pray that I will simply continue to act justly, love mercy and walk humbly with God.

(Lieutenant Alice Swain, Macclesfield)



WEDNESDAY 11 SEPTEMBER: GROWING IN FAITH

New lieutenant - John Melia

Pray that my transition back into full-time corps ministry will be smooth, and that the patterns and habits that I have learned whilst training will continue to be a part of my ongoing spiritual journey. Pray that God will use the new things I have learned to further the Kingdom in Street, and wherever he may send me.

(Lieutenant John Melia, Street)



THURSDAY 12 SEPTEMBER: INTERNATIONAL SALVATION ARMY - Mexico Territory

We pray for The Salvation Army in Mexico: for its leadership team, Territorial Commander Lieut-Colonel Agripina Góchez, Territorial Leader for Officer Development Lieut-Colonel Gerardo Góchez, Chief Secretary Lieut-Colonel Leonardo Fernandez and Territorial Secretary for Women's Ministries Lieut-Colonel Evangelina Fernandez. And we pray for the many ways in which Salvationists all over the territory are making a difference in local communities. We pray particularly for the Army's work with refugees and displaced people, for provision and wisdom.

(Lyndall Bywater, UKI Boiler Room Team)



FRIDAY 13 SEPTEMBER: JUSTICE & RECONCILIATION

Older people - Elder abuse

Pray for those who are living very difficult lives in older age, who are frightened, lonely and isolated. Pray for light to shine in the darkness.

Pray that all corps, churches and communities will open their eyes to this often hidden crime, to break the taboo of talking about elder abuse, and for God's people to offer safety, comfort and support to those who are victims of this crime.

(Ali Thornton-Dean, Older People's Ministries)



SATURDAY 14 SEPTEMBER: CARE FOR CREATION **Only shopping when we need to**

Before I buy anything, whether that be a piece of clothing or food or furniture, I aim to step back and consider how much I need this item and what I will use it for.'

Lord, help us to question our motives, particularly when we think about throwing something away. Help us to see differently, to see 'waste as useful, and new as rare'. Prompt us to notice when something could be repurposed, and challenge us to the work of renewing things instead of buying new.

(Adapted by Lyndall Bywater from 'My 7 tips for caring for creation' by Yelena Grase Jurkenas on Salvationist.org.uk)



SUNDAY 15 SEPTEMBER: SABBATH PRAYER **The Big Connection**

The Big Connection is an opportunity to give our time, energy and prayers, and to work together to raise the funds that will enable us to help the poorest in our communities. Lord, we give thanks for the many creative ways in which corps and centres raise money: for the supermarket collections, the celebration events, the sponsored initiatives, and of course the door-to-door visiting. May this month of united effort be full of joy and kindness.

(Lyndall Bywater, UKI Boiler Room Team)



MONDAY 16 SEPTEMBER: SHARING THE GOOD NEWS **South West Division**

Pray for the many new and exciting things which are happening all over the division – things as different as chalk and cheese in nature, but which all involve new people coming to faith, exploring faith, wanting to

know more about The Salvation Army and becoming members of their local corps. At the same time as being exciting, these things are also fragile, and sometimes chaotic, given the often chaotic lifestyles of the people who attend.

(Majors Gillian and Paul Billard, Divisional Leaders, South West Division)



TUESDAY 17 SEPTEMBER: SERVING & CARING **New lieutenant – Paul Sass**

Pray for The Salvation Army in Wales, that our 150th year of celebration will be an impetus for us to continue to witness and reach out to people and communities in need, in Jesus' name and power. Pray that the Lord will continue to use the myriad expressions of The Salvation Army internationally as a beacon of his hope and light to those still living with injustice and oppression. Pray that, as individual followers of Jesus, we will all continue to listen to his calling and direction upon our lives, willing to respond when he calls anew, and seeking to live daily by the grace and power of the Holy Spirit.

(Lieutenant Paul Sass, Aberystwyth)



WEDNESDAY 18 SEPTEMBER: GROWING IN FAITH **New lieutenants – Edward and Sophie Borrett**

Please pray for us, that God will make clear to us his will, and that we will have the wisdom to lead as faithful followers of Christ. Pray for the community into which we are appointed, that God will reveal to us where he is at work, and how we can join in. Pray for our spiritual development, that God will continue to deepen our faith, guide our path, and draw us ever more into his mission in the world.

(Lieutenants Edward and Sophie Borrett, Harlesden)



THURSDAY 19 SEPTEMBER: INTERNATIONAL SALVATION ARMY – Finland and Estonia Territory

This year the Finland and Estonia Territory marks 135 years since the start of the work in Finland, and almost 30 years since the restarting of the work in Estonia. As Salvationists look back over the past, and forward to the future God has for them, may their hearts overflow with

thankfulness for the faithfulness of God. We pray too for the territorial leadership team, Lieut-Colonel Saga Lippo, Lieut-Colonel Esa Nenonen, Major David Kotrikadze and Major Anna Kotrikadze. wisdom, grace and spiritual insight they will need, and that the work in the territory will go from strength to strength.

(Lyndall Bywater, UKI Boiler Room Team)



FRIDAY 20 SEPTEMBER: JUSTICE & RECONCILIATION **International Day of Peace (21 September)**

Tomorrow is the International Day of Peace, and this year's theme is Cultivating a Culture of Peace. This year marks the 25th anniversary of the United Nations General Assembly's adoption of the Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace – and yet, for those of us living in Europe, war seems to be ever closer at hand. Let's pray that God will teach us, the Church, how to help people build a culture of peace, and introduce people to Jesus, the Prince of Peace.

(Lyndall Bywater, UKI Boiler Room Team)



SATURDAY 21 SEPTEMBER: CARE FOR CREATION **Buying second-hand**

'Most of my clothes are now bought second-hand from charity shops, as are most of my uni items, including my crockery. However, I do still buy some items new, especially if they are durable, for sometimes that means they last longer and I, in turn, will waste less.'

Forgive us, Lord, when we disparage the idea of buying things second-hand, and deliver us from our fear of what people will think of us if we do. Help us to take our part in ending the throw-away culture which has developed over recent decades. May your Church lead the way in championing re-using and recycling.

(Adapted by Lyndall Bywater from 'My 7 tips for caring for creation' by Yelena Grase Jurkenas on Salvationist.org.uk)



SUNDAY 22 SEPTEMBER: SABBATH PRAYER **The Big Connection**

In keeping with its name, we pray that The Big Connection will be a time when corps make new connections in the local community. As people

go out into the local neighbourhood, or as people come into corps and centres, we pray that there will be significant conversations which lead to new partnerships, and that many individuals and organisations will want to join in with the work of making our villages, towns and cities better places.

(Lyndall Bywater, UKI Boiler Room Team)



MONDAY 23 SEPTEMBER: SHARING THE GOOD NEWS **New lieutenant – Ana Layton**

Pray for the church, for the community and for me, that God will be at work in hearts and minds as we get to know each other. Pray for an infilling of the Holy Spirit's courage and wisdom as I begin my ministry as an officer. Pray for me to remain focused on God's vision and mission, to make his love known through the gospel message.

(Lieutenant Ana Layton, Maldon)



TUESDAY 24 SEPTEMBER: SERVING & CARING **New lieutenant – Lizzy Kitchenside**

Pray for my friends and family to know God's love, peace and salvation, and pray for a Salvation Army where everyone feels included and accepted. Pray for the Defenders of Justice, that our transition to new places will be smooth and that our ministry will be fruitful.

(Lieutenant Lizzy Kitchenside, Harold Hill)



WEDNESDAY 25 SEPTEMBER: GROWING IN FAITH **South West Division**

We have a number of leadership development opportunities: Forest Equip in the Forest of Dean, Gap year at St Ives, Spiritual Leader Apprenticeship at Stroud, and Growing Leaders / Young Growing Leaders elsewhere in the division. They are all ready and waiting to happen, so pray that people will apply for them, and that they will be able to get under way in the autumn. We also have big leadership concerns, with a growing number of officers who are leading two corps, and a growing number of corps with no officers and very few people able to lead.

(Majors Gillian and Paul Billard, Divisional Leaders, South West Division)



THURSDAY 26 SEPTEMBER: INTERNATIONAL SALVATION ARMY – India South Western Territory

Father God, pour out your Spirit afresh on the India South Western Territory today, we pray, that the life-transforming message of Christ will find its way into places where it has never been heard. Protect your people who share it and cause it to take root in the lives of many. We ask your blessing on Territorial Commander Colonel John William Polimetla and on Territorial President of Women's Ministries Colonel Ratna Sundari Polimetla.

(Lyndall Bywater, UKI Boiler Room Team)



FRIDAY 27 SEPTEMBER: JUSTICE & RECONCILIATION **Older people – Reconciling generations**

Pray that our older people will share their love for Jesus, to help younger people in their own discipleship journeys. Pray that our older people will feel seen and loved for who they are, children of God no matter their age, and that their wisdom and knowledge will be used in vibrant ways in the corps and communities to which they belong.

(Ali Thornton-Dean, Older People's Ministries)



SATURDAY 28 SEPTEMBER: CARE FOR CREATION **Buying cruelty-free products**

This is becoming easier, as more and more cosmetic brands are investing in cruelty-free production processes. I check the backs of bottles or tubs for a cruelty-free logo.'

When God invited us to care for his creation, he did not give us a licence to do whatever we please with it. Instead, we have been given freedom to use the resources of the world to build more goodness in the present and to provide for future generations. Therefore, we need to treat the Earth with kindness so it can reach its full potential as we 'Prosper! Reproduce! Fill Earth!' (Genesis 1:28 MSG).

Lord, teach us how to live in harmony with your created order, not exploiting or disregarding it, but treating it with kindness. As we decide what to buy, show us how to put kindness towards the planet at the heart of our choices.

(Adapted by Lyndall Bywater from 'My 7 tips for caring for creation' by Yelena Grase Jurkenas on Salvationist.org.uk)



SUNDAY 29 SEPTEMBER: SABBATH PRAYER **Welcome Weekend at William Booth College**

We pray today for the first-year cadets and their families who have recently come to William Booth College as the Keepers of the Covenant Session, that they will settle quickly and find this period of training to be full of moments of encounter with the living God. We pray for the Champions of the Mission, the second-year cadets, that they will sense God's nearness as they journey towards their Commissioning in July 2025.

(Lyndall Bywater, UKI Boiler Room Team)



MONDAY 30 SEPTEMBER: SHARING THE GOOD NEWS **New lieutenant - Georgia Mariott-Lodge**

Pray that the transition to my first appointment will be smooth, and that God will show me opportunities to make him known in the community I will be serving in.

(Lieutenant Georgia Mariott-Lodge, Sherburn Hill)



NOTES





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