



Prayer
Network

Prayer MATTERS

OCTOBER 2024



Dear Prayer Matters readers

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

This month we continue to follow our UKI Prayer Rhythm, praying for various different aspects of the Army's mission and ministry.

Our Care for Creation Saturdays continue the series we began last month, praying about the changes we can make in our own lives to help slow climate change and bless the planet.

Our Justice and Reconciliation prayers on Fridays are led by Chris Stringer and the 'Enabled' network, and help us to pray around issues of accessibility, inclusion and belonging for those with disabilities.

We also do some praying for Core Recovery, the Candidates Unit and the Ireland Division, as well as a few other events coming up in October.

Our Sunday Sabbath Prayers are provided by some of the UKI Boiler Room Team, who share prayers which lift their spirit and remind them of God's faithfulness.

Thank you so much for your partnership in prayer. We know that God is using this rhythm to keep a heartbeat of prayer going in the midst of all we do as a Salvation Army, and we can see it making a difference already.

Blessings,

Lyndall Bywater on behalf of the UKI Prayer Team

OCTOBER



TUESDAY 1 OCTOBER: SERVING AND CARING

Training Course on the Principles of Trauma-Informed Practice

Pray for all those attending this course today, and for those doing the training. It provides an opportunity for delegates to consider and better understand the impact which trauma experiences can have on people's lives, and helps them use that understanding to better serve and care for those they come into contact with – particularly those who come to our corps and centres in need of support.

(Lyndall Bywater, UKI Boiler Room Team)



WEDNESDAY 2 OCTOBER: GROWING IN FAITH

Territorial Advisory Council (4-6 October)

This group, drawn from across the country and from many different areas of Salvation Army involvement, meets regularly to discuss the Army's mission and ministry here in the UK and Ireland Territory, reviewing, reflecting and making recommendations for the future. Pray for their time together this weekend, that their conversations will happen in an atmosphere of joyful hope and prayerful vision.

(Lyndall Bywater, UKI Boiler Room Team)



THURSDAY 3 OCTOBER: INTERNATIONAL

SALVATION ARMY - New Zealand, Fiji, Tonga and Samoa Territory

'Since 1883, The Salvation Army has fought poverty and social and spiritual distress in New Zealand. We've been there to help more than 120,000 families and individuals in need each year – with budgeting advice, food and clothing assistance, life skills programmes and other comfort and support. At The Salvation Army we are committed to our mission of caring for people, transforming lives and reforming society.' Pray for Territorial Leaders Commissioners Mark and Julie Campbell, as they support the territory in living out its mission.

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



FRIDAY 4 OCTOBER: JUSTICE AND RECONCILIATION

Belonging

People with disabilities do not just want to be included; they want to belong – to be valued for who they are and the gifts, skills and qualities that they bring. What is needed is a change of culture, with belonging embedded at every level of The Salvation Army, so that disabled people will be accepted for who they are and will know that they truly belong.

(Chris Stringer, Learning Disability Inclusion Development Manager and Coordinator for Enabled Summer School)



SATURDAY 5 OCTOBER: CARE FOR CREATION

Be more conscientious with food

'We're told a plant-based diet can benefit the environment and, for me, this was quite an easy adjustment because I have never been a big meat or dairy lover. But it is not always practical. Focusing on eating consciously, however, I find is more achievable. It can involve: raiding the reduced section at the supermarket ... challenging myself to be on the lookout for ways to save waste from food ... Having meat-free days.'

Lord, we give thanks today for the astonishing choice of foods available to us, grateful that we can choose our diet. Help us to become more aware of how foods are made and processed, and to find ways of steering our diet towards foods which are healthier for us and gentler to the planet.

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



SUNDAY 6 OCTOBER: SABBATH PRAYER

The Promise of the Holy Spirit

'He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire.' (Matthew 3:11 *NIV*) This verse is a great encouragement. It's a promise for every generation and age. Jesus promises never to leave us, to send his Holy Spirit as comfort, counsellor and guide.

Lord, lead me into a greater intimacy with you. Thank you that age and circumstance are no barrier to you. Blow on the embers of my heart and fan them into flame, that I may burn with passion for you and live in the plan and purposes you have for my life.

(Prayer adapted by Major Pauline Milner from the 'Every Day with Jesus' app).



MONDAY 7 OCTOBER: SHARING THE GOOD NEWS Ireland Division

The island of Ireland is a place of stunning vistas and utter beauty, its communities diverse in culture. There are still challenges to shared life on this island. Pray for the peace of Jesus to reign in Ireland, and for God's presence to transform lives, resulting in a land free from fear and prejudice.

(Major Nina Wright, Belfast Citadel and Divisional Prayer Coordinator, Ireland Division)



TUESDAY 8 OCTOBER: SERVING AND CARING World Mental Health Day (10 October)

Thursday is World Mental Health Day. God our Healer, we intercede for the 970 million people worldwide who live with a mental disorder, praying that they will find healing, peace and hope through the support of others, and through solutions to the underlying problems they face. Grant wisdom to health services, charities and other organisations seeking to help.

(Taken from the Care Prayer Diary, July–October 2024, care.org.uk/prayer-diary)



WEDNESDAY 9 OCTOBER: GROWING IN FAITH Cadets and candidates

Pray for the new Keepers of the Covenant Session who have just begun their training at William Booth College: for Laura, Clare, Susan, Megan and Simon. Please pray for them in this exciting new season of life, faith, learning and ministry.

Please also pray for those who are preparing to come to the college for 2025 – there is a whole host of people showing an interest, making initial applications and having interviews as they discern God's will and purpose for their lives.

(Major Mark Sawyer, Territorial Candidates Director)



THURSDAY 10 OCTOBER: INTERNATIONAL SALVATION ARMY - India Western Territory

Lord, we ask your blessing on the India Western Territory today: on Territorial Leaders Commissioners Daniel Raju and Baby Sarojini Dasari, and on all those who work and worship as part of The Salvation Army in the territory. May your living water spring up in them, that many may come to find refreshment and healing.

(Lyndall Bywater, UKI Boiler Room Team)



FRIDAY 11 OCTOBER: JUSTICE AND RECONCILIATION Welfare Reform

When Governments talk about welfare reform, it brings fear to disabled people, because 'reform' so often means cuts in funding, more stringent assessments and tighter eligibility criteria. Research shows that people with disabilities and their carers often live in poverty, mainly due to the extra living costs which disabled people have to cover. We need reform that ensures that disabled people receive the finance that they need, to live full, healthy lives.

(Chris Stringer, Learning Disability Inclusion Development Manager and Coordinator for Enabled Summer School)



SATURDAY 12 OCTOBER: CARE FOR CREATION Repurposing clothes and household items

'I have a sewing machine that I enjoy using to repurpose old clothes and material. I also embroider over holes in clothes to make them last longer. It can be very therapeutic to try and save items from the bin ... I feel a great sense of honour that I was entrusted along with all of you to care for creation. Doesn't that inspire you to do God proud? We have all the resources we need right before us to fulfil our potential, if only we would accept the challenge of care too.'

Creator God, by your Spirit, make us more creative: creative in mending, creative in repurposing, creative in restoring. And as we learn how to lengthen the life of our clothes and other possessions, give us joy in these simple acts of creation care.

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



SUNDAY 13 OCTOBER: SABBATH PRAYER

The promise of transforming love

'O Lord, you have examined my heart and know everything about me. You know when I sit down or stand up. You know my thoughts even when I'm far away.' (Psalm 139:1-2 *NLT*)

Dear Lord Jesus, thank you that with you I can really be myself, realising that you're not shocked by what you find. You're glad when I allow you to work in me, so I can become who you had in mind for me to be. Have your way in me, Lord, in Jesus' name.

(Captain Cor Van der Woude, Bury Corps)



MONDAY 14 OCTOBER: SHARING THE GOOD NEWS

Prisons Week (13 - 19 October)

Sovereign God, we lift to you in prayer the Minister for Prisons, the Director General of Operations for HM Prisons and the Probation Service, and those who work with them. Grant them wisdom to ensure the welfare of prisoners and to fulfil their other responsibilities. We pray too for the many Christian ministries that engage with people in UK prisons and Youth Offender Institutions through chaplaincy, evangelism, discipleship, education, counselling and other support.

(Based on the *Care Prayer Diary*, July–October 2024 – care.org.uk/prayer-diary)



TUESDAY 15 OCTOBER: SERVING AND CARING

Ireland Division

Rates of domestic violence remain high across this island. Lifehouses, hostels and safe houses are often at full capacity, meaning that women and children seeking refuge struggle to get the help they need. Pray for protection, that safe ways will open up for them and that the violence will cease. Pray for the division's initiatives to help those who are victims of violence and who come to us looking for safety.

(Major Nina Wright, Belfast Citadel and Divisional Prayer Coordinator, Ireland Division)



WEDNESDAY 16 OCTOBER: GROWING IN FAITH Design for Life for children

Please pray for the Design for Life weekend experience which specifically for children. This is an amazing project and potentially has wonderful implications for the future, as children learn and discover that God has plans for their lives. Many divisions are showing an interest in setting this up. Pray especially for the training day which we will be holding soon.

(Major Mark Sawyer, Territorial Candidates Director)



THURSDAY 17 OCTOBER: INTERNATIONAL SALVATION ARMY - Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands Territory

We pray today for The Salvation Army in Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands, that its corps and centres will be places of refuge and transformation for many. We pray for God's provision and protection, particularly for those serving and worshipping in remote communities, and we ask God's blessing on the territorial leadership team of Colonels Chris and Tilitah Goa and Lieut-Colonels Garth and Suzanne Stevenson.

(Lyndall Bywater, UKI Boiler Room Team)



FRIDAY 18 OCTOBER: JUSTICE AND RECONCILIATION Children with additional needs

The families of children with disabilities and additional needs often speak in the language of war. They talk about things being a fight, a struggle or a battle because of how hard they find it to access appropriate healthcare, education, specialist equipment, carers' support, therapy and finance. Many families fund much-needed therapy themselves or fundraise for therapy which should be available to them free of charge, all so that their children can have a good quality of life.

(Chris Stringer, Learning Disability Inclusion Development Manager and Coordinator for Enabled Summer School)



SATURDAY 19 OCTOBER: CARE FOR CREATION **Being aware of our carbon footprint**

'This serves as my motivation to fly less and use public transport more. It has also inspired me to invest in a bike and walk more often. Personally, I have been inspired by the way God calls us to love and care for others and how that love extends to creation. Preserving creation becomes an act of respect and thanks to previous generations and an expression of love for present and future generations.'

Forgive us, Lord, when our focus remains narrow and self-centred. Help us to see further than ourselves; help us to see the big picture of a planet in danger; help us to see our place within the great story of humankind. And having seen, help us to do whatever it takes, no matter how uncomfortable, to work for the wellbeing of the planet you gave into our care.

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



SUNDAY 20 OCTOBER: SABBATH PRAYER **The promise of salvation**

'I have been the Lord your God ever since the land of Egypt; you know no God but me, and besides me there is no saviour.' (Hosea 13:4 *NRSV*)

Heavenly Father, you have drawn me out of my Egypt, my sin, and delivered me and saved me. There is no God but you. Thank you for saving me. Thank you that you are all powerful to save the people I pray for today too: to pull them out of their Egypt. Reveal yourself to them as the only Saviour in the world, in Jesus' name.

(Captain Christianne Swansbury, Rotherham Corps)



MONDAY 21 OCTOBER: SHARING THE GOOD NEWS **Ireland Division**

Pray for the hope of Jesus to heal the widespread incidences of anxiety, depression, addiction and suicide. The number of people ending their own lives in Ireland is one of the highest in the British Isles, especially among young people, and even more particularly among young men. Pray that there will be hope instead of darkness, and that all those suffering torment will discover a newfound faith in Jesus.

(Major Nina Wright, Belfast Citadel and Divisional Prayer Coordinator, Ireland Division)



TUESDAY 22 OCTOBER: SERVING AND CARING **Core Recovery volunteers**

Father God, thank you for people who willingly volunteer to serve those in recovery, be it offering a listening ear, a prayer, some food and drink or by being part of a support network. We pray for your protection every day for all who meet together within Core Recovery settings, and we pray for more volunteers to offer their time and talents, since without volunteers many places are not able to function.

(Major Jill Miller, Core Recovery Prayer Team)



WEDNESDAY 23 OCTOBER: GROWING IN FAITH **Spiritual and future leadership**

May God show each of us people whom we can encourage, inspire and challenge in terms of spiritual leadership in these days. Many are searching and asking questions about the future. We pray for those who are being prompted to think about and respond to the call to future leadership in The Salvation Army.

(Major Mark Sawyer, Territorial Candidates Director)



THURSDAY 24 OCTOBER: INTERNATIONAL **SALVATION ARMY - Zambia Territory**

We pray for The Salvation Army in Zambia, that senior and junior soldiers and adherents alike would know themselves to be safe in the shadow of God's love and care. When difficulties and dangers feel all too close, we pray that the Spirit will give them courage, patience and grace. We pray that their witness will be bold and powerful. We pray particularly for the territorial leadership team, Colonels Alfred and Pamela Banda and Lieut-Colonel Ireen Hachamba.

(Lyndall Bywater, UKI Boiler Room Team)



FRIDAY 25 OCTOBER: JUSTICE AND RECONCILIATION **The Enabled network and Summer School**

The Enabled network exists to provide spiritual and social fellowship for disabled people, their families and carers. We seek to cultivate an inclusive attitude and approach, with membership being open to disabled people, their families and carers regardless of age. The biggest challenge which the disabled members of our Enabled network say they face is the attitude of others who define them by their disability and do not see them as a person.

(Chris Stringer, Learning Disability Inclusion Development Manager and Coordinator for Enabled Summer School)



SATURDAY 26 OCTOBER: CARE FOR CREATION **Switching off energy sources**

'I aim to switch off lights when I leave a room and I have grown my jumper collection to save me putting on heating – handy when energy prices are rising. Gradually learn to be aware of every material you use, try to prevent waste, and choose more eco-friendly activities when you can. Challenge yourself to change one thing every month, and soon caring for creation will seem possible, not impossible.'

Father God, when the task of creation care seems too vast for us, give us the wisdom to know where we can begin. Help us to find the manageable changes, then gift us with the courage and determination to keep making them, until we truly can say that we are treading lightly on this Earth of yours.

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



SUNDAY 27 OCTOBER: SABBATH PRAYER **The challenge of being stretched**

'Disturb me, Lord, when my dreams come true, only because I dreamed too small. Disturb me when I arrive safely, only because I sailed too close to the shore. Disturb me when the things I have gained cause me to lose my thirst for more of you. Disturb me when I have acquired success, only to lose my desire for excellence. Disturb me when I give up too soon and settle too far short of the goals you have set for my life.'

(Author unknown; prayer shared by Captain Cor Van der Woude, Bury Corps)



MONDAY 28 OCTOBER: SHARING THE GOOD NEWS Ireland Division

The Salvation Army Ireland Division is a small, close-knit community, and the smallness can create challenges and complexities. Pray for hearts to be set on fire with a love for Jesus, and that those who are able and willing to use their gift within the church will be raised up into leadership. Pray we will see new lives being touched with the love of Jesus, and new leaders grown and developed, so that the work of The Salvation Army here in the Ireland Division can flourish.

(Major Nina Wright, Belfast Citadel and Divisional Prayer Coordinator, Ireland Division)



TUESDAY 29 OCTOBER: SERVING AND CARING STAR (Steps to Active Recovery)

Father God, we celebrate the work of STAR, and the collaboration between STAR and Salvation Army Core Recovery. Bless all the resources that are available to help those in recovery. Thank you for all the life-changing decisions that have been and will be made because of STAR courses. May your name be glorified.

(Major Jill Miller, Core Recovery Prayer Team)



WEDNESDAY 30 OCTOBER: GROWING IN FAITH Light in the darkness

In a week when many will celebrate Halloween, we pray this blessing from 'Common Prayer: A Liturgy for Ordinary Radicals' by Shane Claiborne and Jonathan Wilson-Hartgrove (commonprayer.net/evening-prayers).

'Walk in the light, the beautiful light. Come where the dewdrops of mercy shine bright. Shine all around us by day and by night, Jesus, the Light of the World. Now as we come to the setting of the sun, and our eyes behold the evening light, we sing your praises, O God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.'

(Major Meshiel Brown, Sunderland Citadel Corps)



THURSDAY 31 OCTOBER: INTERNATIONAL SALVATION ARMY - South America East Territory

The territory comprises Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay. The Army's work began in Argentina in 1890 with four missionaries, none of whom spoke Spanish. We thank God for the immense fruit from that tiny seed, and pray that faith, hope and love will continue to transform lives as Salvationists share the gospel.

We pray for the territorial leadership team, Colonels Philip and Sheila Davisson and Lieut-Colonels Elder and Roxana Dinardi.

(Lyndall Bywater, UKI Boiler Room Team)



NOTES



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