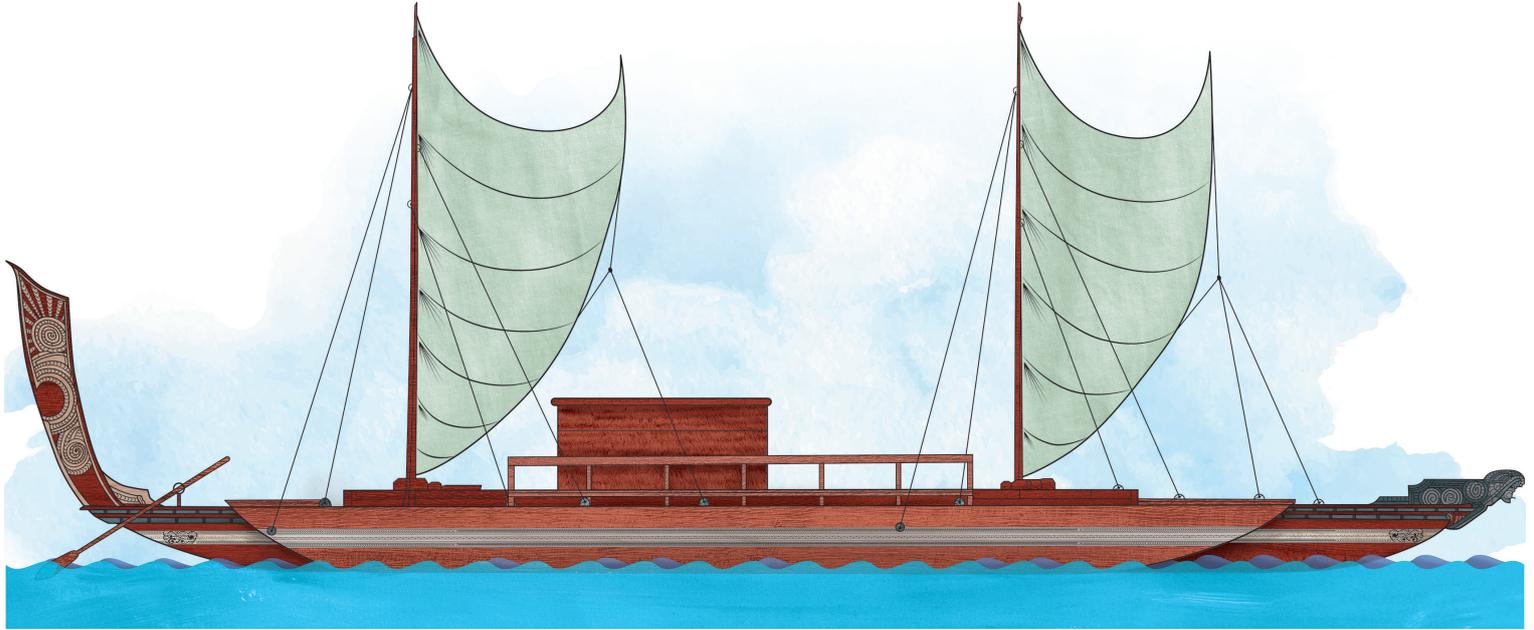




Caring for people, transforming lives and reforming society by God's power



He Waka Eke Noa • One Waka

All of us together



PRAYER GUIDE

November 2021



PUT JESUS FIRST • CARE FOR OTHERS • WALK THE TALK • THINK HOLISTICALLY • OFFER A PLACE TO BELONG • DO THE RIGHT THING • SUPPORT OUR ARMY



At dawn on 1 February 2021, a large group of Salvationists stood on the shore at Petone Beach, in Wellington, united in prayer for ourselves, our community and our world. Throughout this year, both individually and corporately, we have committed ourselves to prayer: to make room, come aside and come together.

In February, we also released the strategic framework for our territory, including the focus of building a one waka culture. The Salvation Army: He Waka Eke Noa—all of us together—using our gifts and abilities to achieve our mission of caring for people, transforming lives and reforming society by God's power.

After a very challenging year of ongoing Covid-19 restrictions, we are calling The Salvation Army in New Zealand, Fiji, Tonga and Samoa to join us in intentional prayer during November, as we seek the will of God for 2022.

This prayer guide is offered as a means of praying and reflecting together so that we deepen our experience of being one Army, united as God's people. This is a much-needed witness to our nations and communities where so much seems to be fragmented and contentious.

Will you take time by yourself and with others to humbly and fervently spend time in praise and prayer for our ongoing mission as The Salvation Army? Our purpose is to be 'the Army that brings life to all people' and, as we pray, we are equipped for that task.

In John 17, Jesus prays that the world would experience the love of God through a united movement of believers:

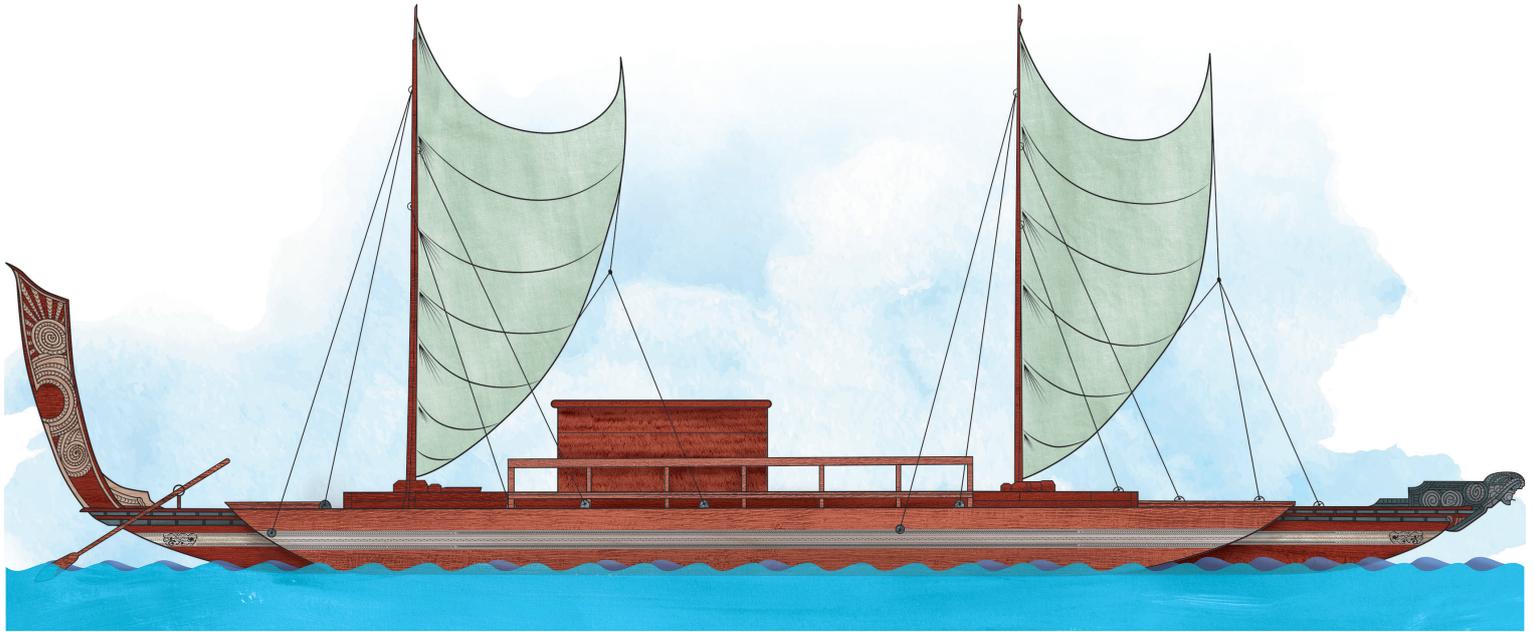
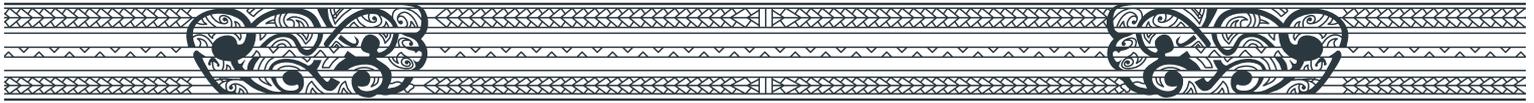
'I am in them and you are in me. May they experience such perfect unity that the world will know that you sent me and that you love them as much as you love me' (John 17:23 NLT).

We thank God for all that he is doing in and through us, and we believe this celebration of prayer will assist us to build a 'one waka' culture. Please join in praying together and working as a united Army sharing the love of God through every mission expression.

God bless you,
Commissioners Mark and Julie Campbell



We would like to acknowledge Majors Barry & Rosslyn Casey (Territorial Secretaries for Spiritual Life Development) from Australia Territory for their development of these studies.



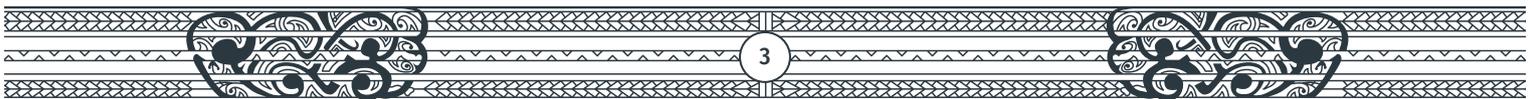
KEY THEME:

One... in heart and mind

(John 17:9-16)

TOPICS:

Unity of the body
Overflowing with joy
Out of the heart | Guard your heart(s)
Surrender



UNITY OF THE BODY

Holy Father, I am about to leave this world to return and be with you, but my disciples will remain here. Holy Father, each one that you have given me, keep them in your name so that they will be united as one, even as we are one.

John 17:11 (TPT)

REFLECTION

‘If we do not make formation in Christ the priority, then we’re just going to keep on producing Christians that are indistinguishable in their character from many non-Christians’—Dallas Willard.

Firstly, genuine Christian unity begins with God’s **agape** love for us.

Unity is the outworking of the cross and God’s work in Christ. It is not something that can be aimed at.

Unity is of the Spirit. It is a unity that we can never produce. It is a unity that starts within and works outwards through organic life like we see in a human body.

Unity of the Church is organic in character. It is not a collection of parts. It is a new creation, a spiritual body created by God in Christ. The old has been done away with in this body.

Unity is diversity. There is diversity in unity, not a uniformity. The parts do not look alike, they do not function alike, yet they are all important, needed, interdependent and all work toward the same end. Each member functions as part of the body, and in line with God’s purposes.

PRAYER POINTS

- Praise God for his unconditional love and gentle promptings. May I/we/The Salvation Army exhibit that same agape love of God towards our fellow believers and to all people.
- Praise God for creating me to be uniquely who I am as an individual and yet a valued part of the ‘Body of Christ’.
- Pray for a continued renewal of heart and mind within our movement, both individually and corporately as the Body of Christ.
- Pray against division based on human biases or preferences, but rather on the outworking and love of Christ and through the Spirit of God in our lives.
- Give me/us/The Salvation Army obedient hearts to God’s commands/leadings/promptings.
- May I/we/The Salvation Army continue to depend on and act in God’s power.
- May I/we/The Salvation Army act as we ought to and be response-able—able to respond with appropriate power to do what needs to be done, when it needs to be done.

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURES

Ephesians 4:15–16 (NET)

But practising the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into Christ, who is the head. From him the whole body grows, fitted and held together through every supporting ligament. As each one does its part, the body builds itself up in love.

Ephesians 4:1–6 (ESV)—Unity in the Body of Christ

I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call—one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

Colossians 3:14 (NLT)

Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds us all together in perfect harmony.

OVERFLOWING WITH JOY

But now I am returning to you so Father, I pray that they will experience and enter into my joyous delight in you so that it is fulfilled in them and overflows.

John 17:13 (TPT)

REFLECTION

Joy is not the mere sensation of pleasure—it is a pervasive, constant and unending sense of wellbeing that flows from vision, peace, righteousness and hope. True joy is robust—even including outright hilarity! We can experience the joy of being in God's kingdom even in the midst of suffering and loss.

God is the happiest, most joyful being in the universe. God is not mean, but he is dangerous. (Obviously God is a lot more! He is omnipotent, omniscient, omnipresent and eternal. He is holy and he is love. He is the creator of life, the saviour of sinners and the judge of all. But for many people, Dallas Willard's descriptions of God as supremely happy and not mean are startling!)

Celebration completes worship because we enjoy ourselves, our life, our world, in conjunction with our faith and confidence in God's greatness, beauty and goodness. Typically, this means that we come together with others who know God, to eat and drink, to sing and dance and to relate stories of God's action in our lives (Dallas Willard).

PRAYER POINTS

- Celebrate and thank God for the diversity of gifts within The Salvation Army. May we build a culture of inclusion, recognising the priesthood of all believers, and the uniqueness of all individuals/groups as they experience God's grace in their lives.
- May I/we/The Salvation Army experience the joy that comes from God alone and express it in ways that edify, unify and bring glory to God, so that others are drawn to him by our behaviours and actions.
- Pray against discouragement, remembering where our hope lies.
- May I/we/The Salvation Army 'put on' a garment of praise, instead of a spirit of heaviness or despair (Isaiah 61:3).
- May I/we/The Salvation Army do everything without complaining and arguing, so that we may be blameless and pure, children of God without blemish (Philippians 2:14-15, EHV).

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURES

Psalm 37:4-5 (ESV)

Delight yourself in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him, and he will act.

Philippians 4:4 (TPT)

Be cheerful with joyous celebration in every season of life. Let your joy overflow!

Isaiah 61:3 (NET)

to strengthen those who mourn in Zion, by giving them a turban, instead of ashes, oil symbolising joy, instead of mourning, a garment symbolising praise, instead of discouragement. They will be called oaks of righteousness, trees planted by the Lord to reveal his splendour.

Psalm 51:12 (NIV)

Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.

OUT OF THE HEART | GUARD YOUR HEART(S)

I am not asking that you remove them from the world, but I ask that you guard their hearts from evil, for they no longer belong to this world any more than I do.

John 17:15-16 (TPT)

REFLECTION

'The revolution of Jesus is in the first place, and continuously, a revolution of the human heart or spirit ... His is a revolution of character, which proceeds by changing people from the inside through ongoing personal relationship to God in Christ and to one another. It is one that changes their ideas, beliefs, feelings and habits of choice, as well as their bodily tendencies and social relations. It penetrates to the deepest layers of their soul.'

—Dallas Willard, *Renovation of the Heart: Putting On the Character of Christ*

'Put your heart in your mouth: For me, the simplest definition of prayer is putting your heart in your mouth. From deep within, some plea or question or gladness geysers up to address a presence or power beyond our human limitations. There is an unadorned urgency, honesty and immediacy about it. It puts your heart in your mouth.'

—*My Heart in My Mouth*, Ted Loder.

PRAYER POINTS

- Let the words of my/our mouth and the meditation of my/our hearts be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my/our rock, and my/our redeemer (Psalm 19:14, ESV).
- Pray that my/our/The Salvation Army's heart(s) will be pliable and open to receive what God's Spirit has to impart on me/us/The Salvation Army.
- God break our hearts for the things that break yours.
- Keep our hearts and minds in tune with you, Lord. Open the eyes of our heart(s)!
- Pray for our officers/leaders: that God's Shalom (peace) would guard their hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURES

Psalm 51:10 (ESV)

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

Proverbs 4:23-26 (NLT)

Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life. Avoid all perverse talk; stay away from corrupt speech. Look straight ahead, and fix your eyes on what lies before you. Mark out a straight path for your feet; stay on the safe path.

Proverbs 27:19 (NET)

As in water the face is reflected as a face, so a person's heart reflects the person.

SURRENDER

For all who belong to me now belong to you. And all who belong to you now belong to me as well, and my glory is revealed through their surrendered lives.

John 17:10 (TPT)

REFLECTION

In spiritual surrender we give up our attachment to specific beliefs and desired outcomes; we let go of our preconceived ideas about how things should be and rest in the wisdom of a greater divine knowledge—God himself.

PRAYER POINTS

- Pray for not only the submission but surrendering of The Salvation Army to the empowering presence and authority of the Holy Spirit.
- Pray for a willingness for all Salvationists to surrender their own thoughts on how we 'do church', and submit to 'being' the church, through discipling and faith pathways.
- Pray for a willingness to submit and surrender to the pruning process—putting off/cutting back, in order to promote further growth in ways that will impact our nations 'one life at a time with the love of Jesus'.
- Pray for a willingness to surrender unforgiveness in a response to God's love.
- Pray for a willingness to submit and surrender to the sharing of resources within The Salvation Army, in these financially challenging times.

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURES

John 15:5b (TPT)

As you live in union with me as your source, fruitfulness will stream from within you—but when you live separated from me you are powerless.

Proverbs 3:5 (TPT)

Trust in the Lord completely, and do not rely on your own opinions. With all your heart rely on him to guide you, and he will lead you in every decision you make.

Romans 12:1 (NRSV)

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.

Romans 12:2 (NIV)

Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Footnote

Recommended reading:

Enemies of the Heart, Andy Stanley and free leader's guide:

<https://medianorthpoint-a.akamaihd.net/resources/documents/Enemies-of-the-Heart-Leaders-Guide.pdf>

Renovation of the Heart, Dallas Willard

'Personal Soul Care', Dallas Willard: <https://dwillard.org/articles/personal-soul-care>

Prayer: Finding the Heart's True Home, Richard J Foster

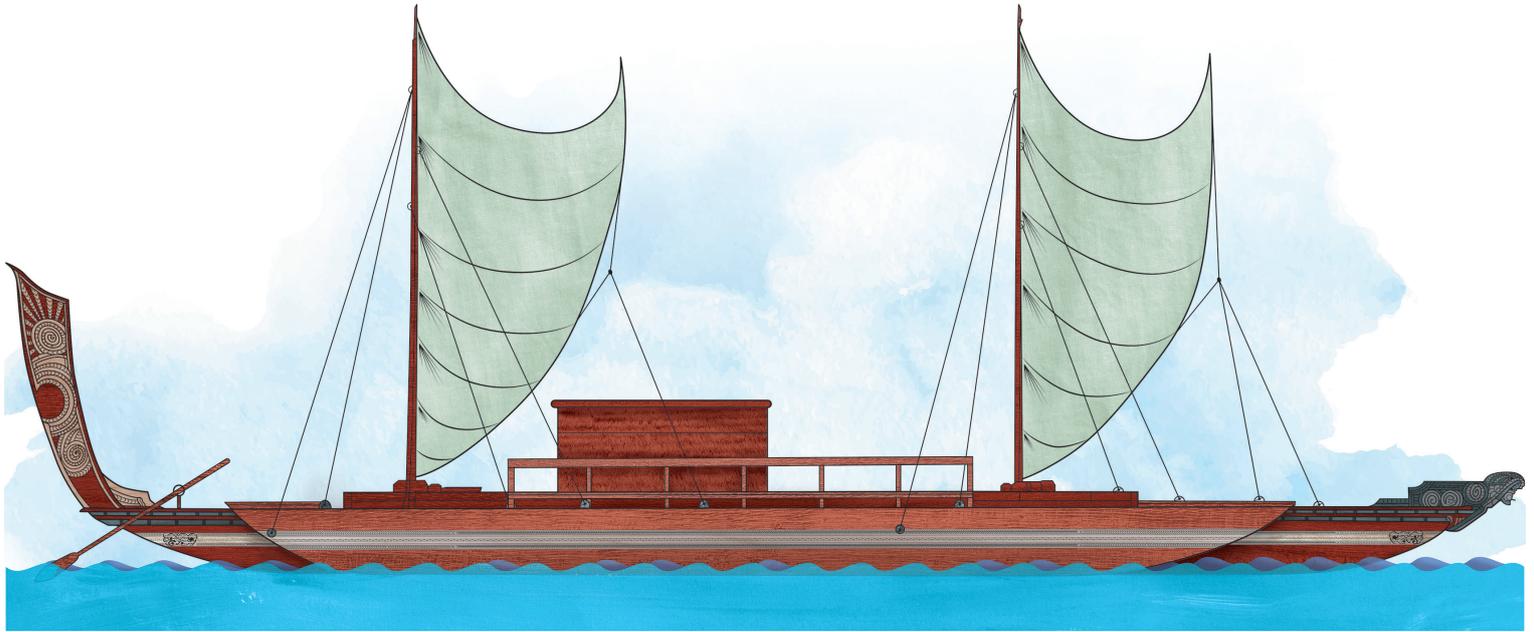
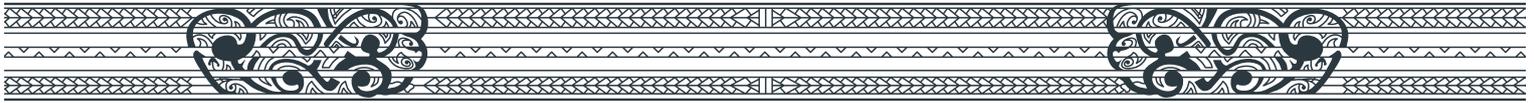
Invitation to Solitude and Silence and Sacred Rhythms, Ruth Haley Barton

Arranging Our Lives for Spiritual Transformation, M Robert Mulholland Jr and Ruth Haley Barton

Way of the Heart, Henri Nouwen

The Practice of the Presence of God, Brother Lawrence

Life Together and The Cost of Discipleship, Dietrich Bonhoeffer



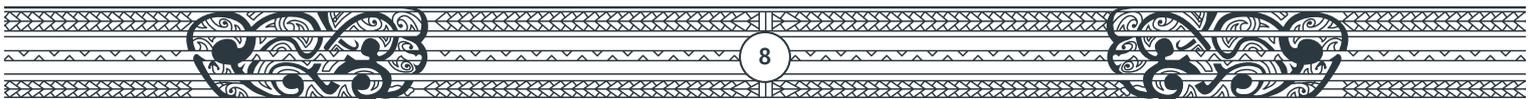
KEY THEME:

One... in purpose and mission

(John 17:17-19)

TOPICS:

Truth consecrated
Sanctify
Standing on the word
Aligning with God's anointed mission
A unity of calling and purpose



TRUTH CONSECRATED

**In the same way that you gave me a mission in the world, I give them a mission in the world.
I'm consecrating myself for their sakes so they'll be truth-consecrated in their mission.**

John 17:17–19 (The Message)

REFLECTION

St. Augustine said, '**Our hearts are restless until they rest in thee.**'

Our restless human hearts can search widely for truth, but only when we encounter it in the person of Jesus Christ will we come to understand that we are dedicated to a higher purpose. We are made holy by encountering Jesus Christ. In him, we are truly consecrated in truth and that changes everything.

True consecration to Christ simplifies life, for it leaves the management to him.—J. Sidlow Baxter

John states that genuine Christian love is fundamentally coupled with truth.

Grace and truth are paired together and used in the Old Testament to attend to covenantal fidelity—that is, a readiness to **act faithfully** according to one's covenantal commitment.

PRAYER POINTS

- Thank God because he has shown us 'the way, the truth and the life' through Jesus' life and ministry.
- Thank God for the evidence of the faithfulness of so many followers of Jesus who have gone before me/us/within The Salvation Army and have had a huge influence as 'truth' bearers.
- Pray for a fresh commitment and consecration to a position of grace and truth.
- Pray that I/we/The Salvation Army as 'covenanted people' will respond and act faithfully by exhibiting grace and truth in our relationships with one another.
- May this same spirit be carried into our everyday lives and relationships.
- Pray I/we/The Salvation Army will be willing to continually be brought back and reminded of our covenanted relationship with God through Jesus, so my/our/The Salvation Army's response to others will be through grace and truth.
- Pray for transparency and authenticity/genuineness in our interactions with one another, which will in turn impact our decision making and actions.
- I/we/The Salvation Army long for others to experience God's grace and truth.
- We consecrate ourselves for 'their' sakes.
- May we be truth consecrated in our mission.

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURES

1 John 3:18–19 (TPT)

Beloved children, our love can't be an abstract theory we only talk about, but a way of life demonstrated through our loving deeds. We know that the truth lives within us because we demonstrate love in action, which will reassure our hearts in his presence.

Psalms 145:18 (ESV)

The Lord is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in **truth**.

John 8:31–32 (NRSV)—True Disciples

Then Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, 'If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.'

SANCTIFY

Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.

John 17:17 (NRSV)

REFLECTION

‘Holiness is not “holier than thou” or religious perfectionism—it is simply a life that works well because we’re rooted in another world, the Kingdom of God. Holiness is the power to act as we ought, to be response-able, able to respond with appropriate power to do what needs to be done when it needs to be done’.

—Dallas Willard

‘Sanctification is the work of the Holy Spirit in us whereby our inner being is progressively changed, freeing us more and more from sinful traits and developing within us over time the virtues of Christ-like character’.

—Jerry Bridges

PRAYER POINTS

- Praise God for his amazing grace offered to all people, and for the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit in me/us/The Salvation Army.
- Pray for a deepening of intimacy with Christ.
- Pray for a deepening of trust and faith in God and dependence on God’s Holy Spirit to continually guide, empower and renew me/us/The Salvation Army.
- Pray for a renewed intentional focus on Christ, and his transformational work—the sharing of his truth, rather than focussing on what The Salvation Army may look like.
- May we be a holy people. Pray that we/The Salvation Army will be anointed and empowered because we are grounded in the Word of God.
- Thank God for the evidence in his Church—of individuals and communities engaged in spiritual formation, practising spiritual discipline, exercising their gifts and exhibiting the fruits of the Spirit of God.
- Pray for more evidence of the above within The Salvation Army and our communities.

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURES

John 17:17 (TPT)

Your Word is truth! So make them holy by the truth.

1 Thessalonians 5:23 (ESV)

Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Galatians 2:20 (ESV)

I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

STANDING ON THE WORD

Set them apart in the truth; your word is truth.

John 17:17 (NET)

REFLECTION

'Genuine Christian unity is based on facts, not feelings. Emotion is not our authority, God's Word is. Yes, there is an emotional element in agape love, but those emotions are the result of love, not the basis of love. There is a great difference between emotion and emotionalism'.—Dallas Willard

Biblical love is not something Christians are to practise only if and when we feel like it, based upon any feeling we may experience or regardless of considerations of sound doctrine. We are to love one another as God's Word commands us to do it.

PRAYER POINTS

- We will be intentional and choose to love one another out of obedience to God's word, and in response to God's love for us.
- Help us to stand on/in God's word and the power and authority of it, instead of relying on our own understanding (logic), perceived wisdom or emotions.
- Give us your wisdom, God.
- May we be good stewards of God's word, so the next generation, and the next, will see it lived out as we interact with one another.
- May the words of the prophet Joel, quoted in Acts 2:17, become a reality within our movement:
'In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams.'

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURES

2 Timothy 3:16–17 (NIV)

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Hebrews 4:12 (NIV)

For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.

Psalms 119:105 (NIV)

Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.

Matthew 7:24 (NLT)

Anyone who listens to my teaching and follows it is wise, like a person who builds a house on solid rock.

ALIGNING WITH GOD'S ANOINTED MISSION

**In the same way that you gave me a mission in the world, I give them a mission in the world.
I'm consecrating myself for their sakes so they'll be truth-consecrated in their mission.**

John 17:17-19 (The Message)

REFLECTION

Alignment: A position of agreement or alliance.

'What if instead of asking God to do something on our behalf, we dared to ask God to use us on his behalf?'

—Craig Groeschel, *Dangerous Prayers*

The words of Thomas Merton challenge us: **'Ask me not where I live or what I like to eat ... Ask me what I am living for and what I think is keeping me from living fully for that.'**

Our mission statement:

The Salvation Army New Zealand, Fiji, Tonga and Samoa is a Christian movement dedicated to caring for people, transforming lives and reforming society by God's power. We aim to do this by: Putting Jesus first | Caring for others | Walking the talk | Thinking holistically | Offering a place to belong | Doing the right thing | Supporting our Army.

PRAYER POINTS

- Thank God for those who are 'sold out' for Jesus.
- May we stand in agreement with one another, because, as his people, we daily align ourselves with God's anointed mission.
- Expressed by our actions, there will be a consistent and continued 'building on' the three mission objectives of: Increasing our mission impact | Being a great place for people to belong, work, worship and serve | Long-term sustainability.
- Break our hearts for what breaks yours, God.
- May we/The Salvation Army help build healthy communities within our neighbourhoods by sharing the love of Jesus.
- Release us from all that would 'get in the way' of doing what God is asking of me/us/The Salvation Army.
- Pray that each mission expression of The Salvation Army will be actively aligning to the purposes for which God has called us.

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURES

Philippians 2:2 (TPT)

So I'm asking you, my friends, that you be joined together in perfect unity—with one heart, one passion, and united in one love. Walk together with one harmonious purpose and you will fill my heart with unbounded joy.

Colossians 2:8 (NLT)

Don't let anyone capture you with empty philosophies and high-sounding nonsense that come from human thinking and from the spiritual powers of this world, rather than from Christ.

Proverbs 3:5-6 (NLT)

Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take.

1 Corinthians 1:10 (NRSV)—Divisions in the Church

Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same purpose.

A UNITY OF CALLING AND PURPOSE

Dedicate them to yourself by means of the truth; your word is truth. I sent them into the world, just as you sent me into the world. And for their sake I dedicate myself to you, in order that they, too, may be truly dedicated to you.

John 17:17-19 (GNT)

REFLECTION

Every believer has been called to be Jesus' disciple and to serve in the Body of Christ—his Church.

Thematically, Ephesians 4 moves from 'one's calling to unity' to 'one's calling to ministry'. All are called to ministry. Christ has given many gifts of grace for ministry (diversity) which come together in one common goal of maturity in Christ.

The word 'together' or 'with' appears in Paul's writing to express our joint life and calling, and the impossibility of life outside of this unity.

Our unity is a unity or oneness that exists not in spite of diversity, but because of it. It is the wonderful differences themselves which, when properly equipped, contribute to the function of the body and out of this function, attain an even deeper unity of maturity. Only as each part does its work can the body grow.

The ultimate goal is Christ-likeness, or spiritual maturity according to the standard of Christ. This is the primary goal of the equipping and the unity desired. The more we possess his character and mind, the more we will experience the unity of the Spirit (excerpts from bible.org/article/unity-spirit-ephesians-41-6).

PRAYER POINTS

- Celebrate and praise God for Jesus who holds 'all things together' (Colossians 1:17).
- Thank him for his calling on your life, and for the unity of calling and purpose you experience as part of God's family.
- Pray for unity so that the world will see God displayed in and through us.
- Help us, Lord, to value and 'spur' one another on as we embrace our differences, recognising they are a gift from you, and serve your purposes.
- Give me/us/The Salvation Army teachable heart(s) and spirit(s). We will be committed and open to learning and equipped in using our gifts and abilities to grow your kingdom here on Earth.

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURES

Ephesians 4:11-13 (NIV)

So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

Ephesians 4:15-16 (NIV)

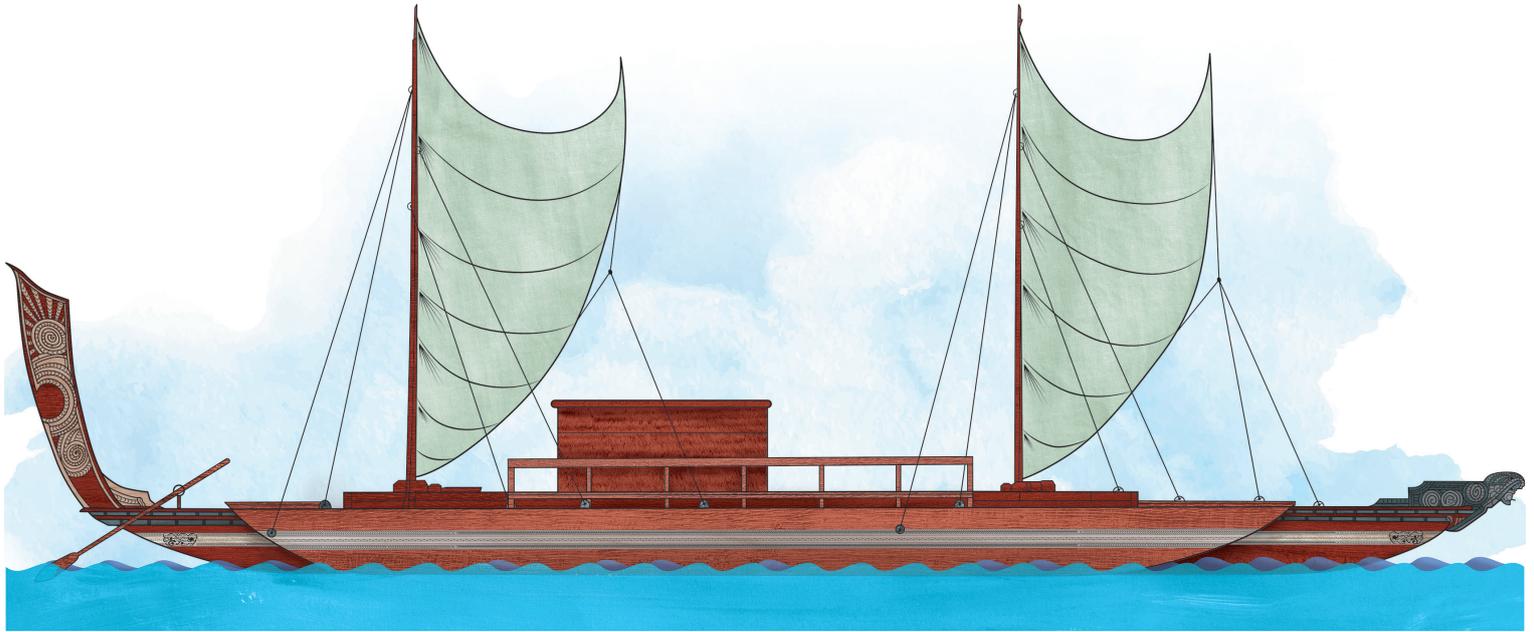
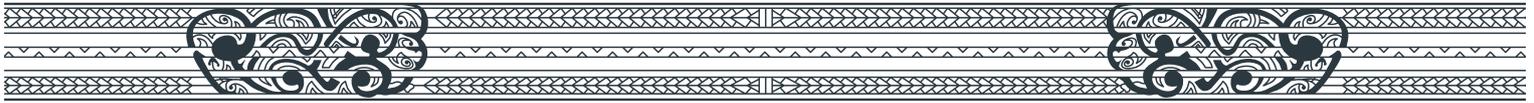
Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

Col 1:17 (Amplified Bible)

And he himself existed and is before all things, and in him all things hold together. [His is the controlling, cohesive force of the universe.]

2 Chronicles 7:14 (ESV)

If my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.



KEY THEME:

One... in unity and reconciliation = outward focus

(John 17:20-23)

TOPICS:

The fruit of our unity evidenced by:

A missional focus: A ministry of reconciliation

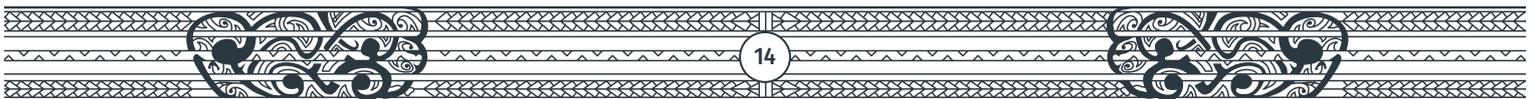
Authenticity/genuineness

Loving deeply

Mutual respect for all people/nations/generations/gender

Our connection to the one true vine

FINAL BLESSING



THE FRUIT OF OUR UNITY EVIDENCED BY A MISSIONAL FOCUS: A MINISTRY OF RECONCILIATION

[I pray] also for those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one.

John 17:20–21 (ESV)

REFLECTION

Reconciling the world. A restoration to favour between God and humanity. To be reconciled means to be made ‘at one’ with God. **Reconciliation** is atonement (at-one-ment).

‘In the end, reconciliation is a spiritual process, which requires more than just a legal framework. It has to happen in the hearts and minds of people.’—Nelson Mandela

‘We must not only speak about forgiveness and reconciliation, we must act on these principles.’—Desmond Tutu

‘True reconciliation is never cheap, for it is based on forgiveness which is costly. Forgiveness in turn depends on repentance, which has to be based on an acknowledgment of what was done wrong, and therefore on disclosure of the truth. You cannot forgive what you do not know.’—Desmond Tutu

Missio Dei is a Latin Christian theological term that can be translated as the ‘mission of God’, or the ‘sending of God’. It articulates the belief that mission is God’s mission and we are God’s instruments in that mission.

PRAYER POINTS

- Pray for a unity of purpose: ‘fixing our eyes’ on Jesus, abiding in Christ and bearing fruit for his kingdom—in love honouring one another (Romans 12:10).
- Pray that I/we/The Salvation Army continue to be a place/presence of safety and grace—so that the ‘whosoever’ may find acceptance and a place of belonging.
- Through Covid-19, God has shown us (The Salvation Army) we can respond quickly and appropriately to significant, changing circumstances. Pray that we keep being nimble, agile and flexible while holding firmly to our faith and missional purpose.
- Pray against being diverted from the main game, for example, division based upon ‘personal preferences’ in styles of worship and other ‘sacred cows’.
- Today, take a moment to lament on the pain and suffering that Covid-19 has brought to our world.
 - Pray for those who are experiencing grief and loss, unemployment, sickness, financial hardship, stress and mental health issues.
 - Pray for those who are at risk around the world due to insufficient medical resources.
- Pray for those who live in our community who need faith, hope and connection like never before. Isolation highlights how much people need to connect with others.

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURES

Mark 16:15–16 (ESV)

And he said to them, ‘Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation. Whoever believes and is baptised will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.’

Luke 4:18–20 (ESV)

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favour.

2 Corinthians 5:18–21 (NIV)

All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people’s sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ’s behalf: Be reconciled to God. God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

THE FRUIT OF OUR UNITY EVIDENCED BY AUTHENTICITY/GENUINENESS

I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me.

John 17:23 (ESV)

REFLECTION

Authenticity: What we say must be congruent with what we do.

How we live must reflect the heart of God as seen in Jesus.

'Authenticity requires vulnerability, transparency and integrity.'

—Janette Louise Stephenson

'Never perfect, always genuine.'

Authenticity is when you say and do the things that you actually believe.'—Simon Sinek

PRAYER POINTS

- Pray that my/our/The Salvation Army's actions reflect who I/we are in Christ.
- May the 'words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight' (Psalm 19:14, ESV).
- Give me a genuine desire to care deeply for those who do not know you.
- May others see and experience authenticity and genuineness in their interactions with me/us/The Salvation Army.
- May our children and youth see exhibited within us a genuineness of faith, trust, inclusion and love in action.

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURES

1 Timothy 1:5 (ESV)

The aim of our charge is love that issues from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.

1 Peter 1:7 (ESV)

So that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honour at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

James 1:26 (NRSV)

If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless.

Titus 2:7 (NIV)

In everything set them an example by doing what is good. In your teaching show integrity, seriousness...

THE FRUIT OF OUR UNITY EVIDENCED BY LOVING DEEPLY

I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me.

John 17:23 (ESV)

REFLECTION

'Peace will only reign if we can learn to love. Love destroys pursuit of self, pursuit of power, pursuit of wealth and so many other desires that can so easily be foundations of violence and conflict.'

—St Teresa of Avila

'We can be sure of one thing: Christ would never command us to do what is impossible for us to do. The secret, of course, is that we are to love, he says, "as I have loved you". This kind of love is to arise out of the same kind of relationship that he has with the Father that made it possible for him to love us. In this same manner, and from the same source, we are to love one another with the same quality of love. He loved us because God is love, and he was indwelt by the Father.'

—Ray Stedman

PRAYER POINTS

- Pray this same love would flow through me/us/The Salvation Army to others.
- Pray for the expression of this love in practice by me/us/The Salvation Army—the loving kindness and compassion of God towards the poor, the oppressed and the marginalised.
- Pray for the expression of love in practice by me/us/The Salvation Army towards those within our communities of faith (mission expressions) for each generation—each generation valuing one another.
- Pray for the expression of deep love in practice by me/us/The Salvation Army towards youth and children. Discipling, investing and nurturing them in faith. Valuing their insights and leadership contribution.
- Pray for the expression of deep love in practice by me/us/The Salvation Army towards parents as they navigate their way in raising their children.

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURES

John 3:16 (ESV)

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

John 13:34–35 (The Message)

Let me give you a new command: Love one another. In the same way I loved you, you love one another. This is how everyone will recognise that you are my disciples—when they see the love you have for each other.

1 Corinthians 13: 4–7 (TPT)

Love is large and incredibly patient. Love is gentle and consistently kind to all. It refuses to be jealous when blessing comes to someone else. Love does not brag about one's achievements nor inflate its own importance. Love does not traffic in shame and disrespect, nor selfishly seek its own honour. Love is not easily irritated or quick to take offense. Love joyfully celebrates honesty and finds no delight in what is wrong. Love is a safe place of shelter, for it never stops believing the best for others. Love never takes failure as defeat, for it never gives up.

THE FRUIT OF OUR UNITY EVIDENCED BY MUTUAL RESPECT FOR ALL PEOPLE/NATIONS/GENERATIONS/GENDERS

I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me.

John 17:23 (ESV)

REFLECTION

The word respect is a translation of the Greek word *timēsatē*, meaning 'honour or value'. It literally means 'to place a great value or high price on something', showing proper regard for the dignity of a person or position.

PRAYER POINTS

- Show us how to be the church for 'all nations'.
- Lord, give us a 'big picture' view: eyes to see as you see.
- May I/we actively increase my/our awareness, acceptance and inclusion of other cultures.
- May I/we listen to understand. 'Most people do not listen with the intent to understand; they listen with the intent to reply.'—Stephen Covey
- Lord, I/we 'stand' in agreement with the commitment The Salvation Army has made to:
 - (In New Zealand) Honour the principles of partnership, protection and participation inherent in Te Tiriti o Waitangi.
 - Advocate for Māori, Fijian, Tongan and Samoan ministry as a key strategic imperative to transform through holistic mission.
 - Show and guide me/us, as to how I/we can engage and do my/our part as we unite in ensuring our territory is a place of diversity and inclusion.
- Lord may I/we exhibit value and respect towards one another as we seek gender equity within The Salvation Army.
- We pray for those within our community who have a disability. May our places of worship/mission expressions be a safe, inclusive and belonging space, so all feel valued and respected.
- Pray for those within our communities who find themselves victimised and judged.
- Pray we will be an inclusive church community where members of the LGBTIQA+ community are welcomed, embraced and encouraged to develop their relationship with God.

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURES

1 Peter 2:17 (TPT)

Recognise the value of every person and continually show love to every believer. Live your lives with great reverence and in holy awe of God. Honour your rulers.

Psalm 86:9 (NIV)

All the nations you have made will come and worship before you, Lord; they will bring glory to your name.

Romans 12:10 (TPT)

Be devoted to tenderly loving your fellow believers as members of one family. Try to outdo yourselves in respect and honour of one another.

Mark 10:14–15 (NIV)

Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the Kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the Kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.

Matthew 7:12 (The Message)

Here is a simple, rule-of-thumb guide for behaviour: Ask yourself what you want people to do for you, then grab the initiative and do it for them. Add up God's Law and Prophets and this is what you get.

THE FRUIT OF OUR UNITY EVIDENCED BY OUR CONNECTION TO THE ONE TRUE VINE

I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me.

John 17:23 (ESV)

REFLECTION

There are many vines that can give life, but there is only one **true** vine.

'I am the **true vine**,' says Jesus (John 15:1, NIV).

Before we can even think about cutting, pruning, remaining or producing fruit, we must stop and check which vine we are connected to. Where does your life come from? What, or who, is your true source of life?

PRAYER POINTS

- Pray that we will remain connected to 'the true vine', the source of life.
- Pray for our officers/leaders: that God's Shalom (peace) would guard their hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.
- Pray that the fruits of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23) will have pre-eminence in the way I/we/The Salvation Army behave and interact with all people.
- Pray that I/we/The Salvation Army will be known 'by our fruits' (Matthew 7:16) of faith, hope, love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, gentleness, virtue and strength.
- Pray that the words we speak and the actions we display will not be words and actions that would destroy trust and relationships, for example, gossip, prejudice, bias, malice, arrogance and jealousy (Mark 7:21-23).

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURES

John 15:5 (TPT)

As you live in union with me as your source, fruitfulness will stream from within you...

Galatians 5:22-23 (TPT)

But the fruit produced by the Holy Spirit within you is divine love in all its varied expressions: joy that overflows, peace that subdues, patience that endures, kindness in action, a life full of virtue, faith that prevails, gentleness of heart, and strength of spirit.

Ephesians 3:14,19 (The Message)

My response is to get down on my knees before the Father, this magnificent Father who parcels out all Heaven and Earth ... Reach out and experience the breadth! Test its length! Plumb the depths! Rise to the heights! Live full lives, full in the fullness of God.

FINAL BLESSING

I made known to them your name, and I will continue to make it known, that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them.

John 17:26 (ESV)

BLESSING

'In Hebrew scriptures, a blessing is perceived to be something that communicates divine life. With this life comes strength, stamina, and inner peace. Whenever God blesses, there emerges bounteous life and abundance of goodness. To bless is to bring the touch of God—the touch of love and goodness, to another.'

—Joyce Rupp, *The Cup of our Life*

PRAYER POINTS

- Thank God for and pray a blessing upon Salvation Army leaders, spiritual influencers, role models, grandparents, parents, singles, teenagers and our children.
- Pray for our officers/leaders: reigniting energy and passion for Jesus and for engaging in new Kingdom of God mission in their community.
- Pray a blessing upon our nation: our leaders in government and communities.
- Pray for our officers/leaders: that they will continue to seek creative ways to grow and deepen their relationship with God; and an openness to the Holy Spirit's wisdom to discern and recognise new opportunities in their ministry context.

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURES

John 15:7 (TPT)

But if you live in life-union with me and if my words live powerfully within you—then you can ask whatever you desire, and it will be done.

Ephesians 3:15–16 (The Message)

I ask him to strengthen you by his Spirit—not a brute strength but a glorious inner strength—that Christ will live in you as you open the door and invite him in.

Jude 24,25 (NRSV)

Now to him who is able to keep you from falling, and to make you stand without blemish in the presence of his glory with rejoicing, to the only God our Saviour, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, power, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.

