

## Deep Prayers of Longing

Today I'm sitting in lockdown with only a week to go before I finish this season of my officership in this appointment. It's been a huge journey of trusting, learning more about living a life of prayer and of what living in his presence moment by moment is all about. I've experienced both deep trust in all I do and walking every day in his presence. What a joy it's been to partner with you all in this prayer focus this year.

I want to encourage you all to find this place of rest in your souls, a place of prayer and intimacy with God in everything you do; to infuse prayer in all that happens, where you serve, where you live and where you are on this journey of life.

I want to finish this with my latest engagement with prayer and God. I prayed on Sunday at my corps (church) where we were given space to commit once again our walk and service to God. On the card provided, my simple prayer was for my future appointment: 'Lord, help me to love others more deeply than ever before'. Little did I know that the next day God would show me how this 'loving deeply' really works.

On the following Monday, I was at Territorial Headquarters reception and was included in an incident while trying to help a man. The police were called, took my statement down and the rest of the day was about debriefing.

I didn't sleep overly well that night but, when I woke up, God gave me a deep love for this man, overwhelming love to the extent that I hurt for him and prayed over and over again for him, and I am still praying for him today.

God is certainly in the business of answering our deep prayers of longing. I didn't need to wait until my next appointment as an officer before he answered my prayer as I experienced the deep love I had asked God for.

Trust God... Live in his presence... Infuse prayer daily...

Love deeply...

**By Major Steph Herring**  
**18 September 2021**