

Year of Prayer 2021

Praying Together

Embracing the territory-wide call to prayer for 2021 is one way we can agree to engage more deliberately in praying together. We will make room for this in the normal rhythms of our corps meetings and centre life, resulting in prayer being as natural as breathing. Prayer has many forms and includes both speaking and listening, being still and being on the move, waiting and pursuing. Our deliberate intent this year is to explore ways to infuse prayer into everything, with the expectation that we will find ourselves greatly enriched by doing so.

The corps Sunday meeting is a foundation place for our life together. Is it possible that even in our Sunday meetings, being in prayer together often takes the form of one person speaking a random selection of thoughts, seemingly without much forethought? The end result is a failing to bring those gathered into any sense of being in the presence of God. Conversely, when we lead in prayer where clear preparation of mind and heart is evident, it's a much richer, deeper experience.

While spontaneous, extemporary prayer always has its place, if this is the only form of prayer exercised when we gather, something essential is missing. The call to make room, come aside and come together in prayer is an invitation to re-examine our prayer life personally and corporately. This will be a courageous conversation to have, so here are some starter questions:

- What is the prayer life like within our corps and centre?
- What steps could we take to deepen and strengthen what's already happening?
- Who are the people in our midst who can help us to grow in our life in prayer?

By Colonel Heather Rodwell

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