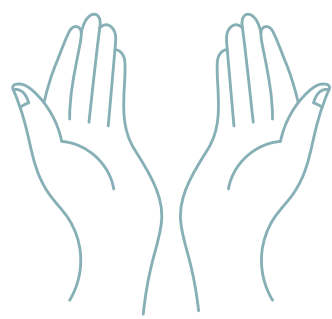


A GUIDE TO
PRAYING FOR THE



2023 HIGH COUNCIL



COME, HOLY SPIRIT, COME.

In May 2023, a High Council will convene at Sunbury Court in London, UK, to elect the next General of The Salvation Army.

As an international church family, we have the responsibility and privilege to pray for the members of the 2023 High Council as they journey through this process together.

It doesn't matter how you pray, just that you do.

In this guide are a few ideas for personal, collective and public prayer. Please feel free to take and use this resource at home, at church or in your community.

Let us unite to pray for Holy Spirit presence, guidance and wisdom for all.

'Come, Holy Spirit, come.'

How to use this guide:

For each resource, we suggest ideas for their use in different settings. Look out for these symbols:



Personal prayer and reflection



Small group - at church or at home



Prayer space



Corps

**All resources available to download
from sar.my/prayforhighcouncil**



THE BLESSING

As we consider how to pray for the members of the 2023 High Council, we acknowledge that God is the source of all blessing.

What does it really mean for God to bless and keep his people?

The Hebrew word for 'bless' is bârakh, alluding to God's provision, and the Hebrew word for 'keep' is shamar, meaning to guard and protect. Shamar communicates to us that God will keep us safe. He places a hedge of protection around us.

We invite you to turn to Scripture and cover these leaders with prayers for God's blessing.

Read with us: Numbers 6:24-26 and Psalm 67:1-5.

PRAY THE BLESSING OVER THE 2023 HIGH COUNCIL



As you look at the faces of the 2023 High Council members on the next few pages, pray the blessings found in Numbers 6:24-26 and Psalm 67:1-5 over them.



Print the poster size images of the 2023 High Council members and attach to the wall at eye height. Print the blessings found in Numbers 6:24-26 and Psalm 67:1-5 on card. As you stand and look into the faces of the High Council members, pray the blessing aloud over them.



Cut out the photos of the High Council members. Invite every member of the group or corps family to take one image and pray the blessing over that person every day for the duration of the High Council and beyond.



**'THE LORD BLESS YOU
AND KEEP YOU;
THE LORD MAKE HIS FACE SHINE ON YOU
AND BE GRACIOUS TO YOU;
THE LORD TURN HIS FACE TOWARD YOU
AND GIVE YOU PEACE.'**

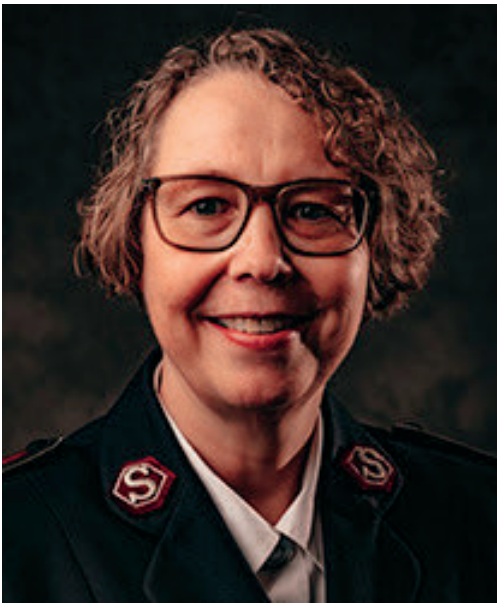
NUMBERS 6:24-26

**MAY GOD BE GRACIOUS TO US AND BLESS US
AND MAKE HIS FACE SHINE ON US—
SO THAT YOUR WAYS MAY BE KNOWN ON EARTH,
YOUR SALVATION AMONG ALL NATIONS.**

**MAY THE PEOPLES PRAISE YOU, GOD;
MAY ALL THE PEOPLES PRAISE YOU.
MAY THE NATIONS BE GLAD AND SING FOR JOY,
FOR YOU RULE THE PEOPLES WITH EQUITY
AND GUIDE THE NATIONS OF THE EARTH.
MAY THE PEOPLES PRAISE YOU, GOD;
MAY ALL THE PEOPLES PRAISE YOU.**

PSALM 67:1-5

PRAYING THE BLESSING
NUMBERS 6:24-26



THE LORD BLESS YOU
AND KEEP YOU



THE LORD MAKE HIS FACE SHINE ON YOU
AND BE GRACIOUS TO YOU



THE LORD TURN HIS FACE TOWARD YOU
AND GIVE YOU PEACE



PREPARATION DAYS

Leaders prepare to leave their appointments and travel to London.

You may want to pray for:

- safe travels
- any visa difficulties to be resolved
- peace in leaving appointment responsibilities behind in order to focus on the spiritual task ahead
- a sense of Holy Spirit presence and peace as members arrive and settle into Sunbury Court

14 - 17 MAY

FAREWELL & WELCOME

Farewell to the General and Welcome to the 2023 High Council at Central Hall Westminster, London

Please pray for General Brian and Commissioner Rosalie Peddle:

- thanksgiving for the many years of dedicated service General Brian and Commissioner Rosalie have given
- especially these last five as our international leaders
- the family sacrifice involved in being international leaders
- the season of transition they are now in and blessings over their retirement years

20 MAY

2023 HIGH COUNCIL TIMELINE

USE THESE PRAYER
PROMPTS TO PRAY FOR
THE 2023 HIGH COUNCIL
MEMBERS AND PROCESS

18 - 19 MAY

ARRIVAL

All 2023 High Council members arrive at Sunbury Court, share in a welcome meal and orientation.

You may want to pray for:

- good health and helpful sleep patterns arriving into a different time zone
- intercession for a sense of unity and rich fellowship as delegates come together for the first time
- heart and mind release of appointment responsibilities to fully engage in the process ahead
- the General's address to delegates before he and Commissioner Rosalie depart proceedings until the High Council concludes

HIGH COUNCIL BEGINS

2023 High Council convenes and legal process begins

You may want to pray for:

- the physical health of all delegates
- a sense of unity and rich fellowship amongst delegates
- fresh energy, strength, focus for each day
- discernment to hear the Holy Spirit through presentations and conversations
- all those elected to positions of responsibility for the High Council (President, Vice-President, Chaplain, Tellers)
- the support team taking care of administration, catering, hospitality and all other logistics
- those who accept nomination for General as they prepare to speak and answer questions
- God's purposes and will to be accomplished in the election of His chosen person to be our next international leader

22 MAY

21 MAY

SUNDAY WORSHIP

As the members of the 2023 High Council worship together, pray that their hearts and minds will be oriented towards

TBC

ANNOUNCEMENT

Announcement of the new General-Elect

You may want to:

- Give thanks to God for guiding the members of the 2023 High Council to elect the next General of The Salvation Army
- Pray for the General-Elect as they prepare for the responsibilities they have been called to
- Pray for 2023 High Council members as they return to their service territories and resume responsibilities there
- Pray for The Salvation Army around the world as the movement welcomes new international leaders
Pray for the team at International Headquarters during the period of leadership transition

**'DEAR BROTHERS
AND SISTERS, HONOUR THOSE
WHO ARE YOUR LEADERS
IN THE LORD'S WORK.
THEY WORK HARD AMONG
YOU AND GIVE YOU
SPIRITUAL GUIDANCE.
SHOW THEM GREAT RESPECT
AND WHOLEHEARTED LOVE
BECAUSE OF THEIR WORK.
AND LIVE PEACEFULLY
WITH EACH OTHER...
NEVER STOP PRAYING.'**

1 THESSALONIANS 5:12-13, 17 NLT

**IF YOU WERE A MEMBER OF THE HIGH COUNCIL
OR IN A POSITION OF LEADERSHIP
WHAT PRAYERS WOULD YOU WANT TO BE PRAYED FOR YOU?**

PRAYING FOR LEADERS

FOCUSED PRAYER FOR THOSE LEADING OUR MOVEMENT

Our leaders need the focussed, intentional prayers of the army world, at all times, but particularly during a High Council.

From scripture it is clear that we are to honour, show respect and love for our leaders and to never stop praying. In 1 Thessalonians 5, Paul gives these instructions to the church:

'DEAR BROTHERS AND SISTERS, HONOUR THOSE WHO ARE YOUR LEADERS IN THE LORD'S WORK. THEY WORK HARD AMONG YOU AND GIVE YOU SPIRITUAL GUIDANCE. SHOW THEM GREAT RESPECT AND WHOLEHEARTED LOVE BECAUSE OF THEIR WORK. AND LIVE PEACEFULLY WITH EACH OTHER... NEVER STOP PRAYING.'

We pray for our leaders to maintain a right relationship with God, for it is in pursuing this that the Spirit comes with divine perspective, insight, direction and courage to serve well.

Our Army will thrive, God's Kingdom will be extended and those who lead will be strengthened and blessed in knowing that they are held before the Father by their people.

In the next few pages, you will find prompts for prayer - Scripture and a reflection or personal action - each focussing on a different aspect of leadership.

How to use this resource:



Personal prayer - Find the recorded prayers on sar.my/prayingforleaders. As you listen/watch, let these prayers be spoken over you. Read the scripture verses and compare across translations. Reflect on the action/question.

What is God saying to you?



Small group, prayer space, church -

Print the prayer cards. Lay the cards, picture up, on the table or floor. Ask each member of the group to choose the aspect of leadership that they are drawn to.



Read the scripture together.

- What is the context?
- What does this mean for you?
- And for your leaders?

Read the personal reflection or action.

- What is your response to this question or call to action?

If you are in a familiar group setting, you may want to discuss your response.

WISDOM

'If you need wisdom, ask our generous God, and He will give it to you. He will not rebuke you for asking.'

- James 1:5 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. Don't be impressed with your own wisdom.'

- Proverbs 3:5-7a

Insert the names of your leaders into these scripture verses and pray wisdom for them every day for the coming week.

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PEACE

'Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable – if anything is excellent or praiseworthy – think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me or seen in me – put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.'

- Philippians 4:4-7 NIV

Is there anything stopping you from experiencing the peace of God?

Consider how you can live out Philippians 4:4-7 this week.

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COURAGE

The Lord's Charge to Joshua

'Be strong and courageous, for you are the one who will lead these people to possess all the land I swore to their ancestors I would give them. Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the instructions Moses gave you. Do not deviate from them, turning either to the right or to the left. Then you will be successful in everything you do. Study this Book of Instruction continually. Meditate on it day and night so you will be sure to obey everything written in it. Only then will you prosper and succeed in all you do. This is my command–be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.'

- Joshua 1:6-9 NLT

Read the stories of Moses in Exodus 3:11 - 4:13 and the good Samaritan in Luke 10:25-37.

Where do you need to respond with courage today?

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INTEGRITY

Be an example by doing good works of every kind. Let everything you do reflect the integrity and seriousness of your teaching.

- Titus 2:7 NLT

Am I applying the same expectations regarding integrity that I am looking for in my leaders, to myself?

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ENCOURAGEMENT

Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.

- Hebrews 10:24-25 NLT

Find a new way to encourage the leaders in your life today. Be as specific as you can with your encouragement.

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STRENGTH AND PERSEVERANCE

Those who trust in the Lord will find new strength. They will soar high on wings like eagles. They will run and not grow weary. They will walk and not faint.

- Isaiah 40:31 NLT

‘Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.’

- Hebrews 12:1-2a NIV

Ask the Lord to bring the name of a leader to your mind who needs an extra covering of prayer for strength and perseverance.

Lift that name to Jesus every day for the next week.

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HOPE

That is why we never give up. Though our bodies are dying, our spirits are being renewed every day. For our present troubles are small and won't last very long. Yet they produce for us a glory that vastly outweighs them and will last forever! So we don't look at the troubles we can see now; rather, we fix our gaze on things that cannot be seen. For the things we see now will soon be gone, but the things we cannot see will last forever.

- 2 Corinthians 4:16-18 NLT

In Mere Christianity, C.S. Lewis wrote:

“a continual looking forward to the eternal world is not ... a form of escapism or wishful thinking, but one of the things a Christian is meant to do.”

Are you living in a way that draws people to goodness, to hope, to Jesus?

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FRESH ENERGY AND CREATIVITY

Then God looked over everything He had made, and He saw that it was very good.

- Genesis 1:31 NLT

Wherever the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.

- 2 Corinthians 3:17b NLT

Over the coming week, ask God to reveal any area of your life where He may wish to speak or do something new in or through you.

Be courageous and obedient to His leading!

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HEALTH

Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore, honour God with your bodies.

- 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 NIV

Your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit. Does this change how you feel about yourself?

Do one thing to better care for your body, mind and spirit this week.

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FAMILIES

One generation commends your work to another; they tell of your mighty acts.

- Psalm 145:4 NIV

May the Lord bless you and protect you.

May the Lord smile on you and be gracious to you.

May the Lord show you His favour and give you His peace.'

- Numbers 6:24-26 NLT

Personalise the blessing found in Numbers 6:24-26 for the family of your leaders by including their names as you pray it over them through the coming week

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BEING

Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing.

- John 15:5

Read John 15:1-17.

Thinking about your own life, how are you remaining in Christ?

Thinking about the leaders in your life – can you do anything practical to help free up time and space for them to be with Jesus?

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PATIENCE

Always be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other's faults because of your love.

- Ephesians 4:2 NIV

Since God chose you to be the holy people he loves, you must clothe yourselves with tender-hearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.

- Colossians 3:12 NLT

Is there a situation in your life right now where extra patience is required?

Ask God to reveal what He might be wanting to teach you while you wait.

Pray this for your leaders too.

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HUMILITY

Dress yourselves in humility as you relate to one another, for "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble". So humble yourselves under the mighty power of God, and at the right time He will lift you up in honour.

- 1 Peter 5:5b-6 NLT

Do nothing out of vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

- Philippians 2:3-4 NIV

Ask the Lord, to show you how you might value the interests of another in a practical way this week.

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SERVANT LEADERSHIP

Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, watching over them – not because you must but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve; not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade.

- 1 Peter 5:2-4 NIV

In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness

- Philippians 2:5-7 NIV

Are you currently embracing or hesitating in your role as one of God's ambassadors, serving others, pointing people to Jesus?

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THE WHOLE WORLD PRAYING

THE SALVATION ARMY IS PRESENT IN 133 COUNTRIES AROUND THE WORLD.
JOIN GOD'S PEOPLE AROUND THE WORLD IN PRAYING FOR THE 2023 HIGH COUNCIL

Hear prayers for the 2023 High Council from Secretaries for Spiritual Life Development around the world. Watch or listen to the recorded prayers here: sar.my/prayforhighcouncil



Source or print a large map of the world.



Place a pin in London, UK. This is where the High Council will take place.

Place a pin where you are.

Stick a coloured sticker on all of the other countries The Salvation Army is present in (you can find a list of these countries on The Salvation Army IHQ website). If you don't have stickers, you could draw a line from London to each country.

Thank God for all he is already doing through The Salvation Army in these places and for all he will do in the future.

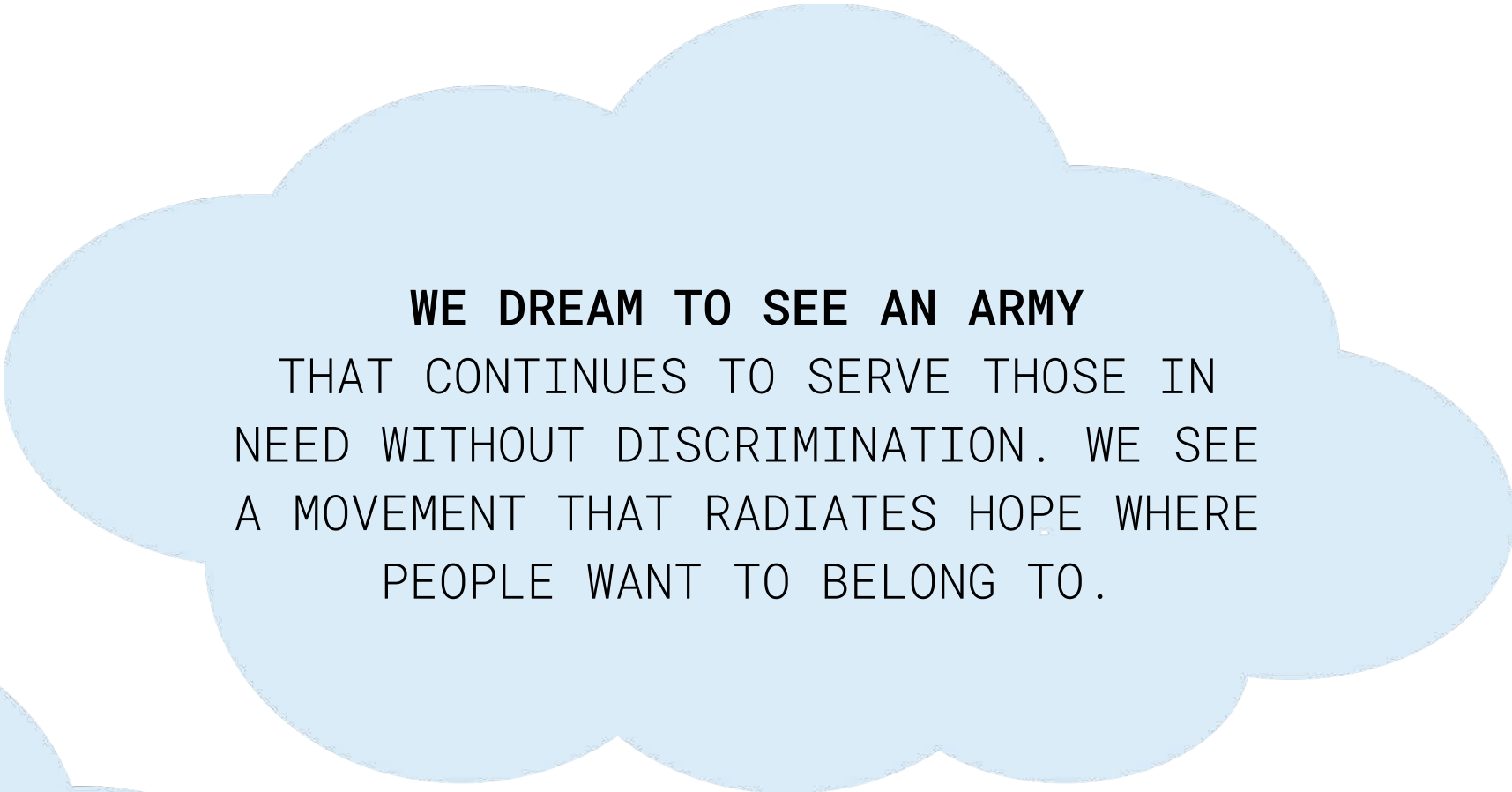


Look at this map of the world.

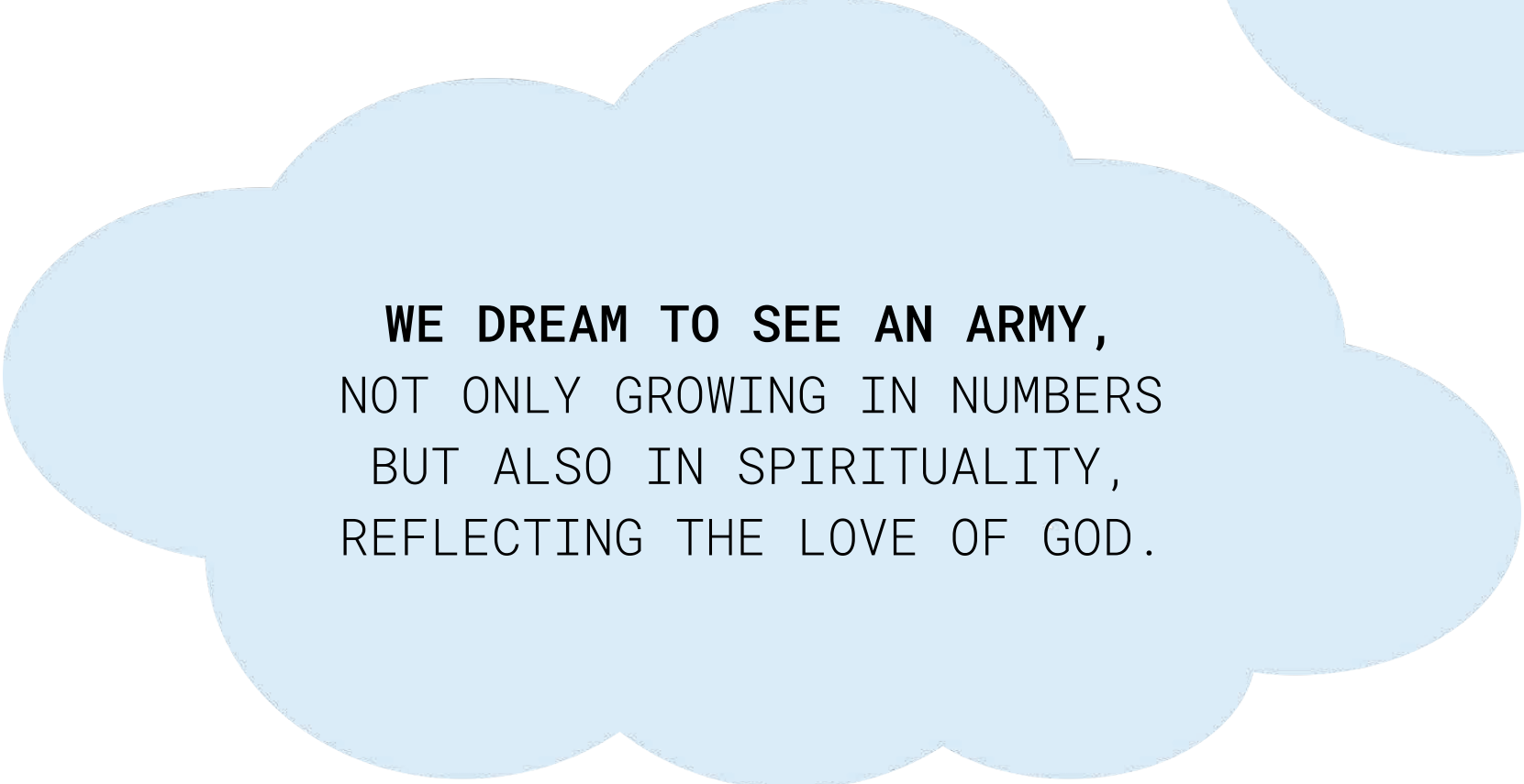
Make a mark where you are.

Add a dot for every country The Salvation Army is currently present in (you can find a list of countries on The Salvation Army IHQ website).

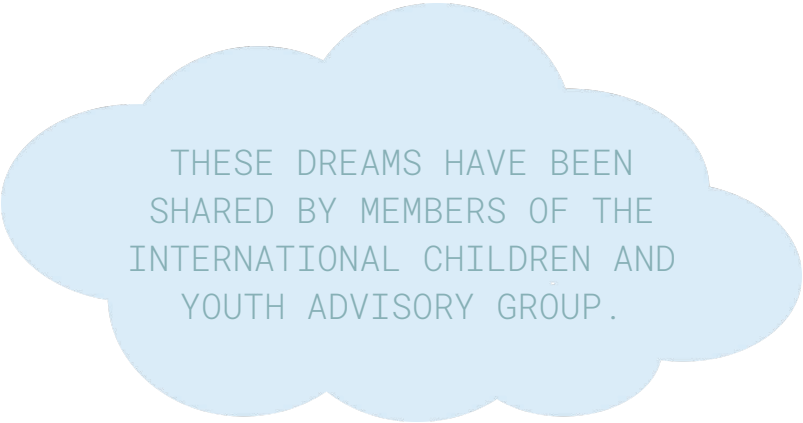
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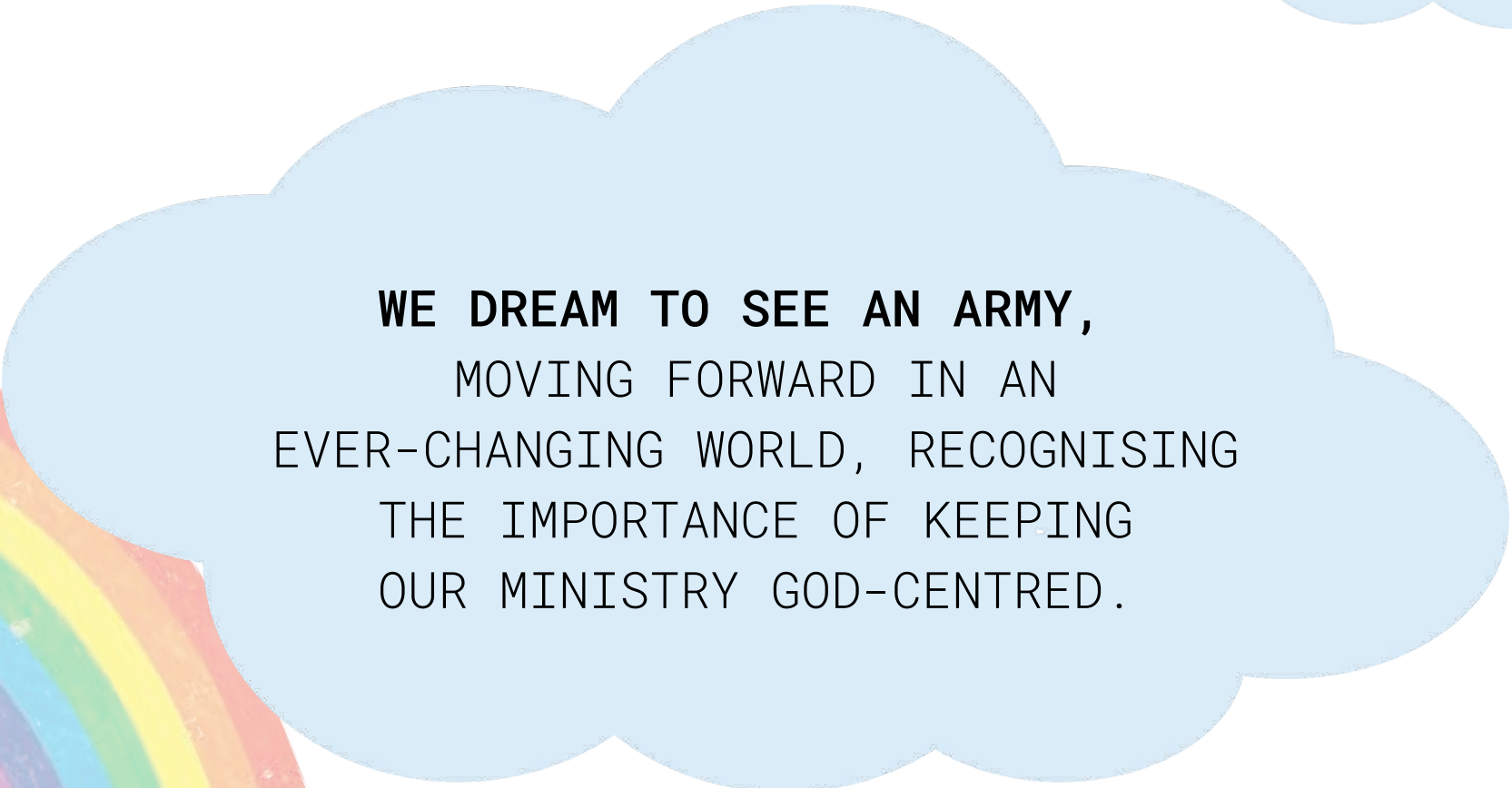
WE DREAM TO SEE AN ARMY
THAT CONTINUES TO SERVE THOSE IN
NEED WITHOUT DISCRIMINATION. WE SEE
A MOVEMENT THAT RADIATES HOPE WHERE
PEOPLE WANT TO BELONG TO.



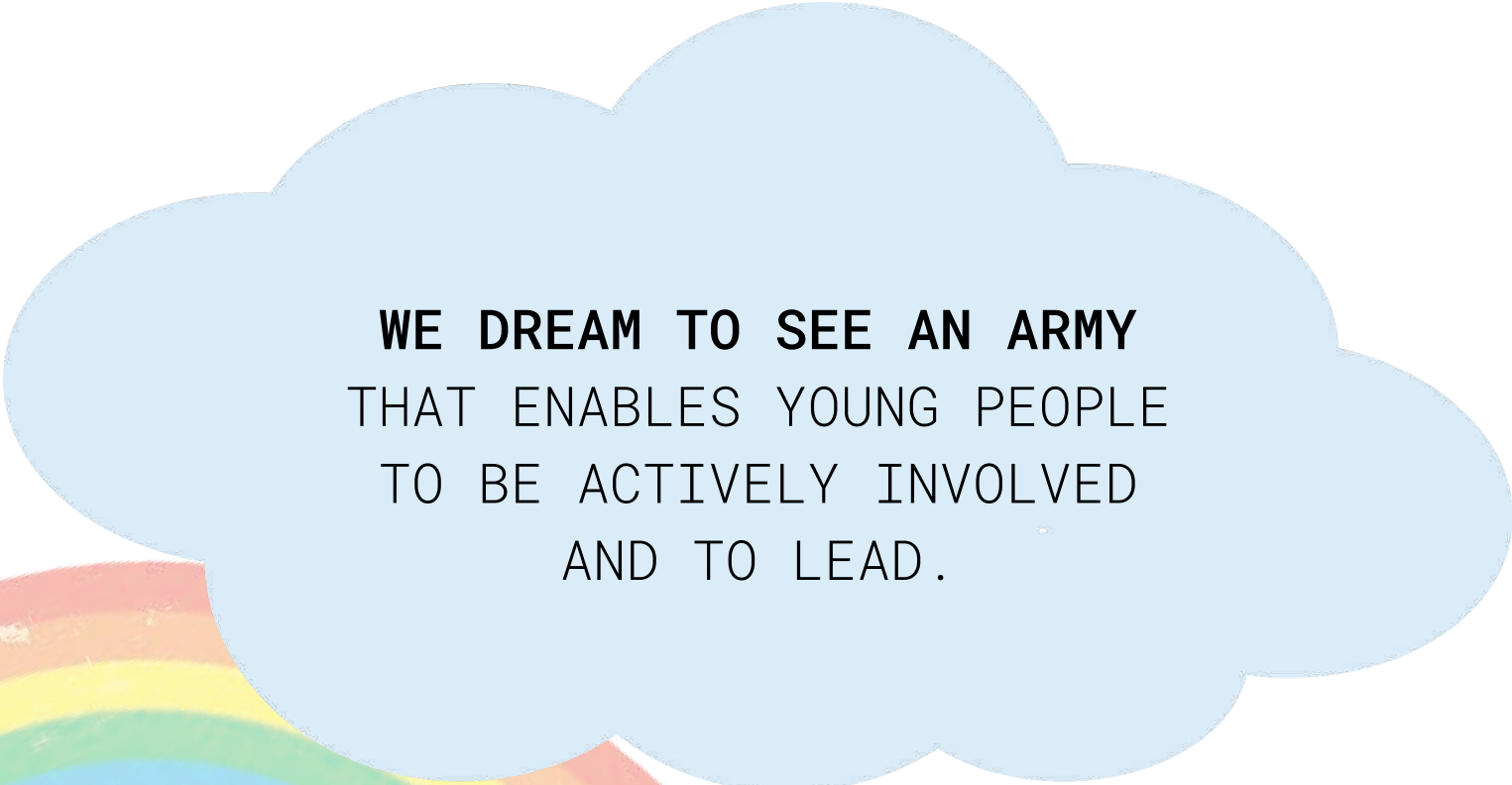
WE DREAM TO SEE AN ARMY,
NOT ONLY GROWING IN NUMBERS
BUT ALSO IN SPIRITUALITY,
REFLECTING THE LOVE OF GOD.



THESE DREAMS HAVE BEEN
SHARED BY MEMBERS OF THE
INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN AND
YOUTH ADVISORY GROUP.



WE DREAM TO SEE AN ARMY,
MOVING FORWARD IN AN
EVER-CHANGING WORLD, RECOGNISING
THE IMPORTANCE OF KEEPING
OUR MINISTRY GOD-CENTRED.



WE DREAM TO SEE AN ARMY
THAT ENABLES YOUNG PEOPLE
TO BE ACTIVELY INVOLVED
AND TO LEAD.



PRAYING FOR



THE FUTURE

Our God is all powerful.

Our God is the God who created all things
and he is the one who holds all things together.

Our human minds will never be able to comprehend the
immeasurable power that God has. Impossible tasks,
insurmountable challenges, unresolvable conflicts -
none of these things are impossible, insurmountable
or unresolvable for our all powerful God.

In Matthew 19:26, Jesus tells his disciples:

**'With man this is impossible,
but with God all things are possible'**

And that doesn't mean we sit back and do nothing.

God is more than capable of doing his own work.
But he chooses to let us in on his mission.

God wants to fill us with his power. He wants us to
listen to him, to surrender our own agendas and
expect him to do great things in and through us.

When God works through ordinary people - people who,
in their own human strength, are not capable of
doing the task he has given them
- his power is on full display.



**WHAT ARE YOUR HOPES AND DREAMS
FOR THE SALVATION ARMY?
BRING THOSE BEFORE GOD IN PRAYER**



Write down your hopes and dreams for your local
Salvation Army and for our movement. Keep bringing
those before God in prayer.



Create a prayer wall for others to share their
hopes, dreams and prayers for The Salvation Army.
You may want to use coloured pens or sticky notes.
Pray for these things together.





LISTEN

For those who find music helpful in their personal prayer time or prayer space, we have created a playlist.

Search '**Praying for the 2023 High Council**' on Spotify, YouTube and Apple Music.



Find more resources and
translated material at

sar.my/prayforhighcouncil

[#PrayForHighCouncil](https://www.instagram.com/PrayForHighCouncil)

@SalvArmySpiritualLife



@SalvationArmyWomen

THIS RESOURCE WAS CREATED BY THE SALVATION ARMY INTERNATIONAL SPIRITUAL
LIFE DEVELOPMENT IN COLLABORATION WITH SALVATION ARMY WOMEN'S MINISTRIES