

GOING DEEPER: Saturday 1 April 2023

INTRODUCTION

This year our territory is celebrating a couple of significant milestones. On 1 April, we celebrate the beginning of The Salvation Army in Aotearoa New Zealand, and later in the year, 50 years of service in Fiji. As we think of these milestones, we thank God for what has been and are hopeful for what is to come.

Heritage and legacy are some things that we think about a lot these days. What have we learnt from our past? What is worth passing on? What should remain in our history?

REFLECTION

Scripture talks about remembering our past. The Israelites were instructed to set up monuments in order to celebrate significant encounters with the Lord God Almighty. Why build monuments? As a reminder to teach the generations of the goodness of God. So not only were they called to remember, they were called to pass on the lessons that they learnt—to pass on the baton to the following generations.

Read Deuteronomy 4:9–10; 11:18–19

- Who has passed on their stories and the stories of God to you? Give thanks to God for them now.
- What part of your heritage do you wish to pass on to the next generation?
- Who will you pass the baton of faith on to?
- How will you be intentional about sharing your faith with others?

PRAYER POINTS

- Give thanks for the mission and ministry that has occurred over 140 years in NZ.
- For discernment to know who God wants The Salvation Army to be in the future.
- For children all around the territory to embrace God's word and grow in their relationship with Jesus.
- For adults to be great examples of Jesus.

SPIRITUAL PRACTICE

Praying from The Salvation Army Songbook

There are many wonderful prayers in our Salvation Army Songbook. As a form of worship and prayer, why not pray the following song:

Song 743 by Alan Bateman

As we come in prayer before you
 We with gratitude would say:
 Thank you, Father, for the family
 Where each member learns to pray.

Even we, Lord, your dear children,
 Know what family life can mean
 When each one keeps close beside you,
 And the love of Christ is seen.

For our special Army family
 We would bring our thankful prayer
 And we humbly, Lord, would ask you
 Now to keep us in your care.
 As you guide and lead us forward
 Help us every day to pray
 For each other, and our leaders
 Serving in your world today.

In our prayers we must remember
 That our family is worldwide,
 For all people are your children
 And the ones for whom you died.
 So no selfish prayer we offer
 But to you we gladly bring
 All who live here on this planet;
 May we serve you as our King.

If you have a songbook, here are some other songs you might like to pray:

580 *Dear Lord, I do surrender*

760 *I am praying blessed Saviour*

765 *I often say my prayers*

775 *Master speak, thy servant heareth*

792 *Thank you for these quiet minutes*



An opportunity to pray for grandchildren.

- Click [HERE](http://tinyurl.com/TSAGrandparents) (tinyurl.com/TSAGrandparents) to view a short video on this initiative in Australia.
- For more information contact Major Annette Bray
annette.bray@salvationarmy.org.nz