

Pray With Us

a call to prayer and fasting



NBC PRAYER AND FASTING FOR JUNE

Simone and I have just returned from a superb month-long holiday in two very different areas of Europe.

Confession: during this time neither of us fasted from food, however, we did fast from television and also from watching shows on our devices.

You know, we were so involved with all the new experiences of our holiday that we didn't even miss our favourite shows. I am actually surprised!

However, God has used this to remind me that when we fast from something it is vital that we fill the gap with something else – especially something that will strengthen us as people and especially to build up our faith.

Dynamic Duo

This is why prayer and fasting are a dynamic duo.

Fasting from food, social media, television, fashion shopping, in fact, anything that takes up time means that we now have time to fill.

If we don't immediately and intentionally fill this newly created activity space then very quickly it will become a junk space where we degenerate rather than regenerate.



Being Creative in our Prayer Time

Prayer is the positive answer to ensuring that we make the most of this special space. And we can be creative in how we pray! We can:

- Involve others in our prayer time while fasting.
- It's all good to link via Zoom or Teams to pray together.
- Ask people what they would like you to pray for them.
- Meet someone at the waterfront or in a forest or on a high hill and have conversational prayer with each other and God.
- Try something creative we have never done before – maybe ask God to lead us as we draw or paint what is in our heart and mind.
- Type or write our feelings and thoughts out and then share it with others asking them to join us in prayer over what is in our notes.
- Break our prayer time up so instead of setting aside 30 minutes or an hour or two in one block maybe we have two to five 10-minute times of prayer in a day. When we would have eaten breakfast, lunch and dinner (and add in morning and afternoon tea if that is part of your routine) we pray for 15 minutes.

Yes prayer can be a time just for us and God but it doesn't have to be. From what I know God encourages group and corporate prayer just as much as individual prayer.

New Sermon Series from the Bible Book of Judges – from 7 June



Well this is a surprise! Judges is not usually a favourite part of the Bible for preachers and teachers, although, there is stacks of learning for us all from what seems like a book filled with flawed people running riot.

I see that our leaders have promoted this series by using Judges 17:6 "In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes." (This refrain is also stated in Judges 21:25 to conclude the book.)

I look at our world now and this statement could easily be describing us!

The Message puts the statement like this: "At that time there was no king in Israel. People did whatever they felt like doing." And this comes through strongly throughout Judges where a massive mixed bag of Judges/Leaders take us on an ongoing journey of mayhem.

In my copy of The Message its introduction to Judges commences with this: "Sex, violence, rape and massacre, brutality and deceit do not seem to be congenial materials for use in developing a story of salvation."

I agree with what this introduction says, however, Judges shows us that God can – and does – use grossly imperfect people to bring about good. So there is hope for me and for you. I definitely am not perfectly good but God wants to partner with me and you in his glorious Salvation plan.

Prayer Points around Judges

And it is this that we can pray about during our prayer and fasting in June.

- ✓ What is each sermon from Judges teaching me personally?
- ✓ How can Jesus use me in helping people begin to have trust and faith in him as this is the best way for us all to become people of justice.
- ✓ Justice and injustice will be key themes during the next six weeks please Jesus reveal to us any injustice that is happening where we live, work and play.
- ✓ Enable us to find ways that cause the injustice to stop and then to bring justice to the situations.
- ✓ Ask God to help us read the book of Judges during June.

Following the chaotic period of the previous Judges it was Samuel – a prophet, priest and the last Judge of Israel before a King was selected – who united the nation and who God used to bring revival.

Largely this came about because Samuel led the nation in an extensive fast of repentance, seeking God's Spirit to be at their centre, confessing and separating from their past sin, acknowledging that they needed to rely on the Word of God to keep them only serving the true God and reminded them of God's salvation symbols from the past.

For us today we have the complete Bible as a faith anchor. And within The Salvation Army we have our flag with the red for the saving blood of Jesus, the blue for the purity of God the Father and the yellow for the fire of the Holy Spirit to remind us of God's salvation and holy living plan for us all

So maybe our prayers in June will include repentance, confession, asking the Holy Spirit to continue to be living in us, separating ourselves from past sins and seeking God's urging for us to have more extensive and intensive Bible reading.

Further Prayer Points

- Sisterhood Rising - 18 June
- Prayer Powerhouse | 21 June
- Community Wills Day | 26 June (Pray that there will be some salvation commencing conversations)
- State Youth Camp | 29 June – 3 July

Joyfully serving Jesus

Laurie Robertson

