Pray With Us

a call to prayer and fasting



NBC PRAYER AND FASTING NOVEMBER UPDATE

The Power of God for Good

Send a new touch of power on my soul, Lord,

Send it now, Lord; send it now, Lord;

Touch my lips with a coal from your altar, Lord;

Send a new touch of power on my soul.

Leon Morris

785 in The Songbook of The Salvation Army

Isaiah 6:6,7 NIV

"Then one of the seraphim flew to me with a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with tongs from the altar. With it he touched my mouth and said, "See, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for."

Altar, power, hot/live coals, lips, guilt, sin and atonement all get a mention either in the above chorus from The Salvation Army Songbook or the verses from Isaiah in the Bible.

This powerful, prayer vision of Isaiah's is a strange mixture of present and past affecting our future – tremendous holy heat touching physical lips resulting in eradication of past sins and present guilt – bringing us freedom from these chains moving forward.

God and prayer can seem to be part of a strange new world



Even though we are made in God's image – God is different to us! I'm sure I wouldn't have thought of this way of letting we humans know about the radical forgiveness and healing God offers.

This imagery of Isaiah's is confronting, startling, painful and unreal to us. God's power transcends our human boundaries. A physical action affecting guilt emotions and past actions and/or thoughts just doesn't seem possible to my finite mind.

However, when we enter deep into prayer as Isaiah did – we step more intently into God's intimate world at his invitation.

Most of us will not experience vision's like Isaiah but if we decide to continue stepping out in faith by talking to, and listening for God each day, our finite world will become greatly enlarged and enhanced.

As we spend time with God through conversation, fasting, Bible reading, sharing about prayer with other Christians it can be amazing how God through his Holy Spirit reveals himself to us.

God chooses to use his power for good



And as I consider both the chorus and the Scripture, at the commencement of this newsletter, I am hit with the amazing fact that God decides to use his power to enable us to be guiltless and sinless. He chooses to use his power for good in others.

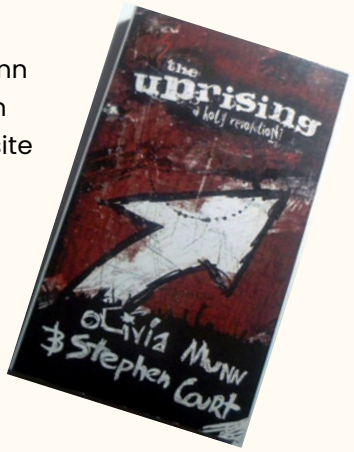
This huge gift of God choosing to use his power for good is something I keep rediscovering over and over again. Isaiah 6 highlights it and then our Salvation Army chorus urges us to ask God for a new touch of his kind of power in our life. The power to bring good into the world is a wonderful request we can make of him.

Oh, wouldn't it be wonderful if all of us choose to use our power for good.

When did you last ask God for a fresh or new touch of his power? May we all decide to keep asking for it. We believe in God and his power of good.

Fasting and Prayer

If you are tuning into this newsletter for the first time please note that Sharon and Scott, our NBC leaders, have asked us all to consider fasting as part of our prayer practice this year.



In one of Salvos Publishing's earlier books *The Uprising – a holy revolution*, Olivia Munn and Stephen Court present three pithy points about Christian fasting. They do go on to expand about it a little more in the book. Please check out Salvos Publishing website and Facebook if you are interested.

From page 180 of the book:

"A fasted lifestyle does three things:

1. It keeps your human nature in check
2. It submits humbly to the Lord
3. It frees up resources for others who need them"

Has this been your experience whenever you have fasted and prayed?

Remember if you have health issues and feel led to fast, but you can't fast from food – even for one meal – ask God what is it that you could miss out on so that you can concentrate more on him for that time.

Prayer Points

- Our teaching and preaching team is already working on our next Sunday sermon series: Generosity – All Of Life, All We Have and All We Are. Please pray that God and our message bringers will quickly connect.
- Dear Jesus, during November may I come to know much, much more about your generosity and how I can put this lifestyle of generosity more and more into practice.
- Please show me Jesus how I can help two people this month to commence having regular prayer conversations with you.
- Volunteers are needed for our NBC Community Christmas event please pray that there will be enough to provide a caring, friendly and safe environment for it.
- Please pray for all the activities mentioned in the News Bites Newsletter.
- Thank you Father God for everyone in your immense family who regularly connect with you and want to keep growing more like you.
- We can never have too many fresh touches from God please keep asking him to recharge, reinvigorate and refresh us as we give out to others.

Joyfully serving Jesus

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