

GOING DEEPER: Thursday 15 June 2023

INTRODUCTION

The Salvation Army Fiji Division are pleased to host you for prayer. In Fiji, each family has its own time in praying together (masumasu vata vaka-matavuvale). People also come to the corps to pray together, eg, in our knee-drill time on Sundays and also in our various cell groups/life groups.

Another pattern of prayer is through singing, as Fijians love singing, expressing and meditating God's goodness, love, mercy and faithfulness before God's presence.

REFLECTION

Scripture talks about singing as a form of prayer, in coming to the presence of God. Singing helps us to speak to God; singing helps us to have words of prayer and scripture in our hearts and on our tongues throughout the day.

In joyful times, we sing praises to God acknowledging his greatness, his awesomeness and his miraculous deeds. In our weakest and broken times, we sing worship surrendering our lives and ask him to soften our hearts, open our eyes, and put us back and make us whole again in the fullness of his grace. Also in our broken moments, we do not have the words to express our thoughts and feelings to him, but through singing the words of the songs help to express ourselves to our God. How beautiful to be in the presence of God through singing as most of us experienced.

In 1758, Charles Wesley, the brother of John Wesley, published his collection of 40 Intercession Hymns. These hymns are examples of intercessory prayer set to music. Even though some of these hymns are not sung today, they made a great impact to the people of the day. These hymns were set to music so that people could learn and recite their prayers each week.

Read **Psalm 95:1–11** and consider these questions:

- What attitude should we fill our hearts with, when we kneel before the Lord, our maker?
- What is your idea of praying and singing to God?
- What songs help you to connect with God?

SPIRITUAL PRACTICE

Listening to or singing Christian songs

As a way of connecting with God this week, why not put aside some time to intentionally worship and pray through song. This may mean listening to worship songs. It may involve you turning up the music and singing along with it. Have you ever considered writing a song to God before? Why not spend some time asking the Holy Spirit to inspire you with a song? We would love to hear any creations!

If you are looking for some suggestions of great songs to listen to, here are a few you might like to check out:

- 'Holy Spirit' by Francesca Battistelli
- 'Give Us Clean Hands' by Chris Tomlin
- 'Lord, I'm Ready Now' by Plumb

PRAYER POINTS

- Ask God to deepen your relationship with him through prayer this week.
- Pray for our musicians throughout the territory, that God may use them as they minister in music each week.
- Pray for inspiration for our people who are gifted in writing songs.

Whether it is through words or music, may we be humble in our prayers and surrender our lives to the presence of God.