



ALOVE YOUTH RALLY 2007



OUTSide | **OUT**

BLESSED ARE THE PEACEMAKERS

Prayer Diary



WEDNESDAY 21ST FEBRUARY
- SUNDAY 8TH APRIL 2007

Introduction

Jesus is teaching a huge crowd of people. He is explaining what it looks like, to live a life that pleases God. A man in the crowd starts heckling. He wants to trip Jesus up with some difficult questions.

‘Who am I supposed to love?’ He asks.

In answer, Jesus tells a story which would have shocked and embarrassed some of the most important people around. The story of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:24-37) is Jesus’ way of taking everything his listeners have ever thought about pleasing God, and turning it upside-down.

It’s all about ‘others-centred’ love; not the kind of love which is comfortable and convenient, but the kind which goes out of its way, and even breaks a few rules, to do the very best for someone else. It’s about living the kind of life which makes the world a better place for others.

At this year’s Youth Rallies in Watford and Glasgow, we started the journey of exploring what it means to live ‘outside-out’ – speaking out, praying out and getting out, to change the world, and to change the places where we live. This diary takes that journey forward.

The story of the Good Samaritan challenges us to get out there and do something. Thinking nice thoughts will never change the streets where we live. Those who attended the ‘Outside-Out’ events were each given a small bottle of oil. They were challenged to get out and do something with it – not to leave it in the bottle.

Oil is a symbol of the Holy Spirit, and anointing people and places with oil is a way of praying that God’s presence and power will break through and make a difference. So, over the next seven weeks, we encourage you to go out and do some anointing. You will find seven ‘Oil Cards’ in your prayer diary pack, which will give you some ideas of what to do.

Have fun – and don’t forget to change the world!

Week 1

Living Generously

'In a word, what I'm saying is, grow up. You're kingdom subjects. Now live like it. Live out your God-created identity. Live generously and graciously towards others, the way God lives towards you.'

Matthew 5:48, *The Message*

Wednesday 21st February

Ash Wednesday

Read Matthew 5:38—48.

Jesus challenged people to live differently to the world around them. Think of recent times, when you have followed the rules of society rather than the teachings of Jesus. As they come to mind, ask God to forgive you, and help you to think and live differently.

Thursday 22nd February

Think of some practical ways in which you can live like Jesus lived. How can you be Jesus to your family and friends today? Check out a web site such as www.livinggenerously.com or www.actsofkindness.org for some ideas.

Friday 23rd February

There are many organisations in the UK which work to support local churches in reaching out to their communities. Pray that God will give them all the money, staff and creativity they need, to be effective in their work. Check out www.eauk.org (The Evangelical Alliance) and www.24-7prayer.com (24-7 Prayer), as examples of this kind of organisation.

Saturday 24th February

Go to a church in your area, and pray for the people who worship there. (See Oil Card 1 for more ideas.)

WEEK 1

Week 2

Knowing the Truth

'You shaped me first inside, then out; you formed me in my mother's womb. I thank you, High God - you're breathtaking! Body and soul, I am marvellously made!'

Psalm 139:13, *The Message*

Sunday 25th February

Read Psalm 139:1—16.

God wants us to see ourselves the way he sees us; to know and believe how much he loves us. Which bits of this passage do you connect with, or find easy to understand? Which bits are harder, or impossible, for you to believe? Ask God to reveal the truth of his love for you this week.

Monday 26th February

Look at verse 10 of the passage, which speaks of God guiding and holding us. Where do you need to feel this connection with him? Pray about that situation today; ask God to give you what you most need.

Tuesday 27th February

God wants all of us to grasp the truth about our identity and value in him. Today, write out one of the verses of Psalm 139, and give it to someone who needs to hear it. Spend some time praying that they will know their worth in God.

Wednesday 28th February

Pray for the local schools in your area, that the staff will be able to communicate a positive sense of identity and value to the pupils, and help them learn how they can play their role in society.

Thursday 1st March

Pray for organisations which work to communicate the gospel in schools, that God will help them to think up new ways of telling the story of Jesus to a new generation. Check out www.message.org.uk (The Message Trust) and www.yfc.co.uk (Youth for Christ), as examples of these organisations.

Friday 2nd March

In 21st-century Britain, the media has a huge influence. By the age of 17, the average young woman will have received over 250,000 messages about herself through media advertising. Also, the average child spends up to 21 hours a week watching television. Pray that positive messages will be communicated to young people through the media.

Saturday 3rd March

Go on a prayer walk past some of the local schools in your area, and pray. (See Oil Card 2 for more ideas.)

WEEK 2

Week 3

Stepping into the New

'Forget about what's happened; don't keep going over old history. Be alert, be present. I'm about to do something brand new.'

Isaiah 43:18, *The Message*

Sunday 4th March

Read Isaiah 43:10—21.

God wants to make things new; to do the impossible in impossible situations; to repair what we think can never be repaired; to totally rewrite the story; to bring life out of death, and to refresh desert places. Praise him for the new things he is doing in your life.

Monday 5th March

God wants to change what appears to be damaged beyond repair into something beautiful, which can be used for his glory. Are there situations in your life where you need to believe this promise? Pray that God will give you hope for them.

Tuesday 6th March

Think of a practical way in which you can 'be the prayer' in your neighbourhood. Maybe you could do some shopping for a neighbour, or wash someone's car. Alternatively, ask God to show you someone who needs your prayers, and commit to praying for them every day over the next week.

Wednesday 7th March

God is transforming communities. Encourage yourself, today, by reading some stories of what he is doing in other places. Visit www.citylinks.org.uk and look at the 'Redeeming Our Communities' section. Alternatively, ask a friend to tell you what God has been doing in their life recently.

Thursday 8th March

The Social Services exist partly to support families going through difficult times. Pray that God will give them wisdom in the complicated decisions they have to make, and that he will use them to heal and restore families.

Friday 9th March

Pray for the politicians who are responsible for making decisions about the funding of local health and social services. Ask God to help them look beyond the statistics, and make choices based on compassion and true understanding of communities.

Saturday 10th March

Go to your local hospital and pray for the work which is carried out there. (See Oil Card 3 for more ideas.)

WEEK 3

Week 4

Seeing Clearly

'The Lord doesn't see things the way you see them. People judge by outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.'

1 Samuel 16:7, *New Living Translation*

Sunday 11th March

Read 1 Samuel 16:1—13.

David didn't look the part, and yet God chose him to do mighty things. You may feel tiny or insignificant, but God wants to include you in his plans to transform your community. Spend some time, today, listening to God about where he wants to use you.

Monday 12th March

Think about the places where you have responsibility or influence. Pray for integrity and honesty in your own life and relationships, and that Jesus will be reflected in the way that you live.

Tuesday 13th March

Think of someone who influences you: it may be a parent, someone you work with, a church leader, or just someone whose story inspires you. Thank God for them, and, if practical, do something to let them know they are appreciated.

Wednesday 14th March

Find out the names of your Mayor and local council leaders. Pray God will bless them, protect them, and lead them in their roles.

Thursday 15th March

Pray that Christians in your local area will speak out about social justice. Pray that they will have confidence to speak up, when they see people being treated unfairly.

Friday 16th March

Pray that the leaders of richer countries in the West will realise their responsibility to share with poor nations, and that they will talk honestly, openly and regularly about fair trade and debt relief. Check out web sites such as www.jubileedebtcampaign.org.uk and www.fairtrade.org.uk for more information.

Saturday 17th March

Go and pray outside your local town hall or council offices. (See Oil Card 4 for more ideas.)

WEEK 4

Week 5

Working for justice

'The LORD said: "You people crush those in need, and wipe out the poor." You say to yourselves, "Those who are needy and poor, and who don't have any money - We will make them our slaves, for the price of a pair of sandals."'

Amos 8:4—6, *Contemporary English Version*

Sunday 18th March

Read Amos 8:4—10.

God notices when we 'short change' him or treat people unfairly. Are there any situations where you have done this, in the past week? Ask for his forgiveness, and for his help to live differently in future.

Monday 19th March

Pray for opportunities to speak out about the issue of human trafficking. Also, ask God to show you some practical ways in which to raise awareness in your corps or centre. Could you write to your MP, hold a 24-7 prayer week, or do some fundraising?

Tuesday 20th March

An estimated 2.5 million people are trafficked every year. Today, spend some time praying for victims of human trafficking, and, when you've prayed, sign the global declaration to 'stop the traffik'. Visit the 'How to get involved' section at www.stopthetraffik.org.

Wednesday 21st March

Pray for those who buy and sell people; that they will recognise that God can meet their needs, and that they don't need to use and abuse people anymore.

Thursday 22nd March

Pray that politicians, both in the UK and abroad, will have the courage to pass laws which will abolish human trafficking once and for all. Pray that people's thinking will be changed, and that human beings will no longer be seen as commodities.

Friday 23rd March

The police have an extremely important role in preventing and exposing human trafficking. Pray for police working near ports and airports, that God's Spirit will show them where trafficking is happening in their community, so that they can rescue the victims and arrest the traffickers.

Saturday 24th March

Go on a prayer walk to your local police station. (See Oil Card 5 for more ideas.)

WEEK 5

Week 6

Being Content

'If it's only money you're after, you'll self-destruct in no time. Lust for money brings trouble, and nothing but trouble. Going down that path, some lose their footing in the faith completely, and live to regret it bitterly ever after.'

1 Timothy 6:9,10, *The Message*, paraphrased

Sunday 25th March **Freedom Day**

200 years ago today, Parliament passed an act which made slavery illegal. Yet, there are more people in 'slavery' now than there were on that day – an estimated 12.3 million worldwide. Today, thousands of people will speak out and pray out, to see this terrible injustice put right. Check out www.24-7prayer.com/stophetraffik and add your prayers to the thousands of others that will be prayed today.

Monday 26th March

Read 1 Timothy 6:6—12.

Are you content with what you have, or are you striving for more? Think about the ways you use the time, money and talents God has blessed you with. Are there any ways you can use these to support people with less than you?

Tuesday 27th March

Pray for those you know, who are without a job, or struggling financially at present. Ask God to reassure them that he will meet their needs.

Wednesday 28th March

How fair is your trade? Do the places you shop in stock ethically traded food and clothes? Do some research, and, if necessary, make some changes. Check out the 'Lift the label' campaign at www.youth.tearfund.org/ for some more ideas.

Thursday 29th March

Pray for those who run businesses in your community, that they will treat their staff well, and that they will demonstrate fairness and integrity in everything they do.

Friday 30th March

Buy a newspaper, and read some stories about other countries. Spend some time praying for those who are victims of exploitation, injustice or poverty. Pray that they will be rescued and restored.

Saturday 31st March

Prayer walk your local shopping centre. (See Oil Card 6 for more ideas.)

WEEK 6

Week 7

Making the Sacrifice

“Abba, Father,” he cried out, “everything is possible for you. Please take this cup of suffering away from me. Yet I want your will to be done, not mine.”

Mark 14:36, *New Living Translation*

Sunday 1st April Palm Sunday

Read Mark 14:26—42.

Jesus was ‘deeply distressed’ when he thought about going to the cross. Yet, he still went ahead and made the sacrifice. In which areas is God calling you to make sacrifices today? What is he asking you to give up or give away?

Monday 2nd April

What does Easter week mean to you? Is it just a story? As you read Mark chapters 14 and 15, Ask God to show you something new in this familiar passage.

Tuesday 3rd April

Easter is a clear expression of God’s love for us, his children. Think of one of your friends, who isn’t a Christian. Get them a bunch of flowers or make them a card, just to express your love for them at this time.

Wednesday 4th April

Pray for those in your local community who are lonely, and have no experience of love in their lives; that the message of God's love will break through to them, this Easter time.

Thursday 5th April

Pray for missionaries around the world: people who have given up home and comforts, and have committed their lives to helping those who are in need. Visit the International development section of the Salvation Army's web site (www1.salvationarmy.org.uk) for some testimonies.

Friday 6th April

Good Friday

Spend some time thinking about what Jesus did on the cross, and what it means for those who are still 'in captivity' today. Thank God for your freedom, and pray for those who don't yet know that freedom.

Saturday 7th April

Pray for the volunteers in your community. Go to a place where people give their time without being paid, and pray for them. (See Oil Card 7 for more ideas.)

WEEK 7

Easter Sunday Sunday 8th April

'It stands to reason, doesn't it, that if the alive-and-present God, who raised Jesus from the dead, moves into your life, he'll do the same thing in you that he did in Jesus, bringing you alive to himself? When God lives and breathes in you (and he does, as surely as he did in Jesus), you are delivered from that dead life. With his Spirit living in you, your body will be as alive as Christ's!'

Romans 8:11, *The Message*

God wasn't content to leave us to struggle with sin, trying to get right with him by our own efforts. He sent Jesus, so that things could be different for us; so that, instead of a life shaped by our failures and bad experiences, we could know life like Jesus did – alive, joyful and in the presence of the Father.

This Easter, let that truth sink in. You can be different, inside and out. You can know what the breath of God feels like, and the parts of your life that feel dead and buried can be resurrected and transformed.

Here are some practical ideas, to help you focus on this:

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| Write a poem or psalm to God, thanking him for changing situations in your life for the better. | Identify the areas of your life, which you are still waiting for God to heal and restore. Bring them to him, and ask for an Easter morning victory. |
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The great thing is, God doesn't just transform our lives, and then leave us to gather dust. He doesn't wait and watch, as the sparkle from our renewal fades. He gets to work straight away. He uses us, even while the work is still in progress. During Lent, we have focussed on the changes he has made in our lives, for the purpose of changing the communities we are part of. As you consider these next couple of activities, remember that God sees the bigger picture, and wants to keep using you in his transformation plans.

- Find two or three friends and brainstorm some dreams and visions for the community in which you live. Research some statistics about your area, and find out which places have the most crime or unemployment. Ask God for transformation, healing and restoration.

- Look back over the topics which you have prayed for, during this Lent period. Ask God if there are any which you should keep praying about, and if there are practical ways you can make a difference.