

Restored



***We believe
girls
can change
the world!***

A COLLECTION OF PRAYERS, WRITTEN BY GIRLS
OF THE SALVATION ARMY FOR THE WORLD



Do you believe in the power of girls?

DO YOU BELIEVE THAT GIRLS HAVE THE POWER TO MAKE THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE? WE DO!

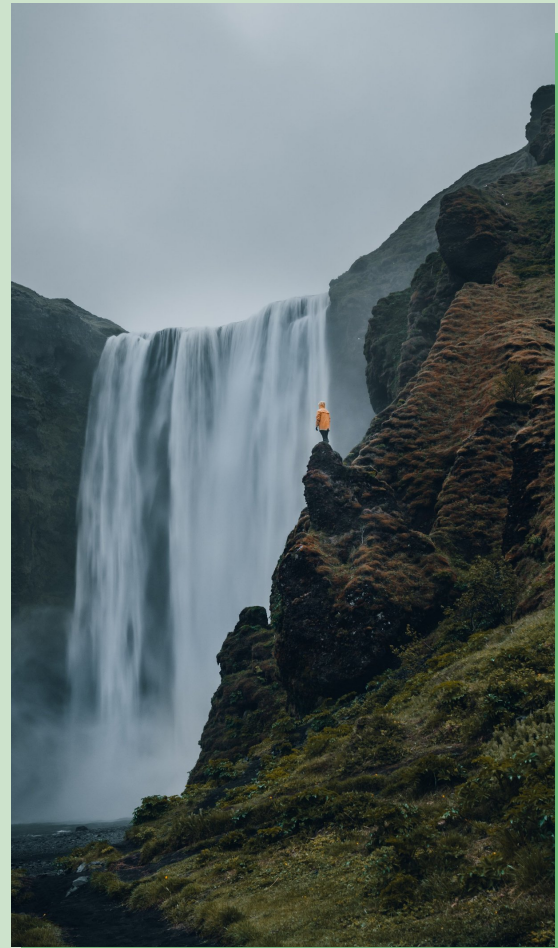
Each year, the United Nations recognises the strength, resilience and positive influence of girls across the world through the International Day of the Girl. The day also raises awareness of the obstacles girls face and reinforces their achievements. This year, The Salvation Army's International Social Justice Commission is using the day to focus on the positive impact girls can have on God's creation through the theme, 'Restore: Girls Caring for the Environment'.

WE WANT TO CREATE A BETTER FUTURE FOR OUR GIRLS AND FOR OUR WORLD.

We are living through a climate crisis. Current trends of devastating storms, severe droughts, rising sea levels and broken ecosystems have serious implications on security, livelihoods, health, clean water and more. This crisis affects everyone, but women and girls are among the most vulnerable. Girls are often the last to eat or be rescued in a crisis. They face greater risks to their health and safety as sanitation systems become compromised and they are burdened with increased domestic labour as resources lessen.

Through these experiences, girls offer valuable insights and solutions in creating an eco-friendly way of living, better managing the climate and its risks, and healing our planet. Although they are often overlooked as pioneers, entrepreneurs and decision-makers, girls are key to building a sustainable future.

As you follow these prayers, consider the social justice causes you are lifting before God: achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls, taking urgent action to combat climate change and caring for life below water and life on land.

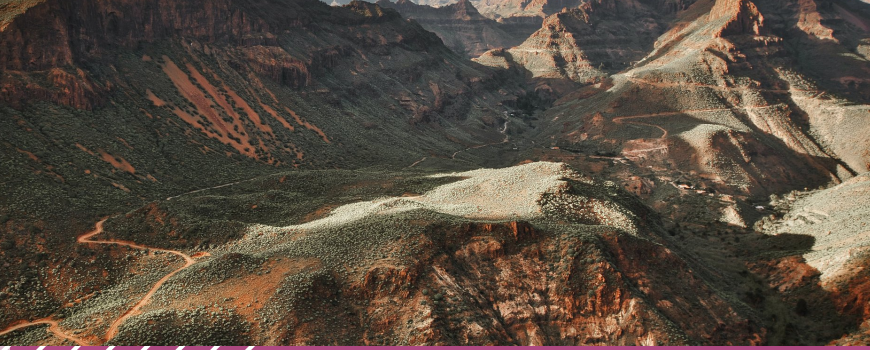


The Heavens are yours, the world, everything

'THE HEAVENS ARE YOURS, THE
WORLD, EVERYTHING - FOR YOU
CREATED THEM ALL'
(PSALM 89:11 *LIVING BIBLE*)

As followers of Christ, we believe that God is our Father and our Creator. He cares for all his people, just as he cares for every living thing, and we have been entrusted with the care of the earth and everything in it. Made clear by the crises we see in our world, we have not always honoured that calling on our lives and must work to restore our relationship with God's creation to one that reflects his loving care and concern.

Before we begin this journey of prayer across the world, which amplifies the voices of girls from varying continents, cultures and contexts, let us take a moment to remember that we all have a part to play, no matter who we are. As we work to restore God's creation and build his Kingdom on earth, may we never forget that we are all in this together.



We start our prayer journey in Europe,

WITH A JUNIOR SOLIDER OF THE SPAIN AND PORTUGAL COMMAND. THIRTEEN-YEAR-OLD ANA LIVES IN GRAN CANARIA, CANARY ISLANDS, WHICH IS KNOWN FOR ITS SUBTROPICAL CLIMATE, ROCKY LANDSCAPE AND BEAUTIFUL OCEAN VIEWS.

ANA BEGINS OUR TIME OF PRAYER:

Dear Jesus,

I am thankful for the privilege you gave us of caring for your creation, but I can see that we have not always done well with the work that you have given us.

We ask for your forgiveness because creation suffers because of us and our lifestyles. Help us to take care of the environment and to have compassionate hearts towards animals.

God, thank you for the hope you give us in your Word that one day creation will be redeemed.

In the name of Jesus,
Amen.



Our next prayer takes us to Uganda, Africa,

WHERE FOURTEEN-YEAR-OLD SUSAN LIVES. SHE KNOWS SOMETHING OF ITS UNIQUE LANDSCAPE WHICH FEATURES HILLS, FORESTS, WATERFALLS, LAKES AND MOUNTAINS.

WE JOIN SUSAN IN PRAYER:

Kind and Heavenly Father,

I come into your presence to thank you for our world and everything in it. I pray you create in us a sense of care towards your creation. I pray for consumer-driven industries, that they will be cautious in relation to our environment, and work towards keeping all living things safe from hazards caused by environmental damage and global warming.

I pray to you, the creator of the universe, that we may have mindful hearts that are sensitive to how deforestation is negatively affecting our natural eco-systems. I pray that government officials worldwide would actively participate in healing the environment by planting trees to support afforestation and recognising the need for proper farming practices.

I pray that you would divinely embrace all religious leaders and make them bold in supporting nature conservancy. Together may we raise awareness and create helpful and impactful programmes that educate people on how to take care of their environment.

I pray you give us girls the strength and wisdom to care for and restore the planet, making a difference in your world.

Amen



From Northern California, United States of America,

SISTERS, LIA AND ALANA, SHARE A PRAYER. THE GIRLS REFLECT ON THE EFFECTS OF THE NEARBY WILDFIRES THAT HAVE BEEN BURNING IN RECENT MONTHS, HARMING AND DESTROYING HOMES, BUILDINGS, LIVES AND WILDLIFE. ALTHOUGH THE SKIES ARE NOW FILLED WITH SMOKE, **THE SISTERS KNOW THAT GOD IS STILL IN CONTROL:**

Dear Heavenly Father,

Thank you for life – the life we see in each other, the life we see all around us on land, in the ocean, and in the sky. Thank you for your beautiful creation.

Help us to do our part in preserving and caring for the environment that we live in; to protect it and to be wise with the resources we have available.

Help us not to take these things for granted, as in a moment's notice, these can be taken away.

We ask today that you bring a calm to the winds that are spreading the fires in our area. We are all affected in one way or another, so we pray for your mighty hand to cover and protect us all. We trust you and we know that you are in control.

In Jesus' name,
Amen.



The next prayer comes from South Asia,

WHERE FOURTEEN-YEAR-OLD MINNAL CHRISTIANA, OF THE INDIA CENTRAL TERRITORY, STANDS IN A LUSCIOUS FIELD WITH CATTLE GRAZING HAPPILY BEHIND. **MINNAL MAKES HER PRAYER:**

God of Creation,

We thank you and praise you for giving us this beautiful world! Turn us from carelessness so that your blessings of clean air, pure water and rich earth may be the inheritance of everything that has the breath of life. We pray that one generation may proclaim to another generation the wonders of your work through Jesus Christ.

The earth is yours, and you have commanded the winds and sea. Help us to leave behind our consumer demand for plastic and move towards behaviours that are environmentally healthy. Help us to follow your lead in caring for the world you love.

Thank you for the waters of earth, for the rains, lakes and deep oceans, help us to be mindful of how precious these are. Help us to work together for clean water, and the sharing of it with those who have need of it today. You fill the earth and sea and sky with life. Forgive us for our neglect of your creation, we know damage has been done by careless habits and indifference to future generations.

Help us to fix our lives and lifestyles, to lift our voices for lasting change. We want to live well and gently on the earth to the glory of your son.

In Jesus' name I share this petition,
Amen.



Our final prayer brings us to the Philippines,

TO THIRTEEN-YEAR-OLD WINCHELL WHO LIVES ON MINDANAO ISLAND. THE ISLAND IS SURROUNDED BY FOUR SEAS, AND MOUNTAINS, PLATEAUS, LAKES AND WATERFALLS ARE TYPICAL OF THE NATURAL SURROUNDINGS. **WINCHELL SHARES:**

Dear God,

Our Creator and Powerful Father, I thank you for the beautiful and amazing world you have created for us and all the richness in it. The beautiful trees give us fresh air, but nowadays the world you created is facing extreme disorder caused by our unmindful spirit and individual wilfulness.

People are irresponsible with their use of plastic. Most rivers are contaminated. Our land is easily flooded because of illegal logging. God, I worry that these are all taken for granted.

As a young girl, I humbly come to you asking for your forgiveness. I pray for your guidance and wisdom to be upon all young girls around the world to step out from our comfort zones and be mindful of the problems your creation is facing.

Give us the wisdom to make the best choices in caring for our environment. Give us a determined spirit to respect, care and value this beautiful world. Make us good stewards of your creation, Father. Increase our passion to make the world a better place to live and for the next generations to enjoy.

All this I pray in your name, Jesus, Amen.



With thanks

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S MINISTRIES IS THANKFUL TO THE GIRLS WHO HAVE LIFTED THEIR VOICES TO THIS CAUSE. WE PRAISE GOD FOR **ANA, SUSAN, MINNAL, LIA, ALANA** AND **WINCHELL**, AND WE THANK GOD FOR THE ENCOURAGEMENT AND INVESTMENT OF THEIR LEADERS. WE PRAY FOR THEIR CONTINUED DEVELOPMENT AND CONTINUED MINISTRY AS YOUNG SALVATIONISTS.

FOR MORE RESOURCES AROUND SOCIAL JUSTICE, VISIT **THE SALVATION ARMY'S INTERNATIONAL SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMISSION** ONLINE:

[HTTPS://WWW.SALVATIONARMY.ORG/ISJC](https://www.salvationarmy.org/isjc)

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S MINISTRIES HAS GONE DIGITAL!

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