

# Praying Together



The Salvation Army New Zealand, Fiji & Tonga Territory  
[www.salvationarmy.org.nz](http://www.salvationarmy.org.nz)

## IN AN OUTSIDE YOUTH PRAYER EXPERIENCE

What is the attitude of your youth to prayer? What have they seen? Do they think prayer means praying fancy prayers seated in church? Consider holding a prayer party—outside!

### WHY?

- To provide positive prayer experiences for youth.
- To role model the priority of prayer.
- To strengthen your youth ministry. Youth love to hang out together—so let them hang out and pray.
- To make a difference in our communities—when we pray, stuff happens!

### TIPS

#### 1 Prayer should be a key part of our lives, so take it to where life happens—outside the Church!

- Pray for your city and The Salvation Army's ministry from a lookout.
- Hire a bus and do a 'prayer drive'.
- Pray for what happens in local community groups: Police, Housing New Zealand, Work and Income NZ, City Council, library, public transport, etc.
- Go (in large groups) to where the city's night life happens.
- Visit and pray for local Salvation Army centres and ministries.

#### 2 Make it easy to participate

- Choose a theme or topic.
- Provide clear instructions.
- Explain that this is a safe place to learn about prayer—it's not for 'experts'.
- If you're worried about numbers, invite other youth groups in the area to join in too.

#### 3 Variety is the spice of [prayer] life

- Set up a range of prayer stations for people to move between.
- Do a 'Scripture wash': praying Bible verses over people (even strangers).
- Write prayers on Post-it notes, then stick them around the community.
- Provide prepared prayers for people to read.
- Pray for others. This could be structured (eg, 'pray for the person on your left') or completely random.

#### 4 Expect God to do something ... as He will

- When you take prayer to the streets, you never really know what's going to happen, but something always does. Expect the unexpected!
- People will start off somewhat reserved and nervous, but keep going and these will quickly become 'must-be-at' events.

#### 5 Include a feedback time at the end

- People's faith will be strengthened as they hear each other share their experiences about how God has shown up.

#### 6 Wear mission wear

- You'll be amazed how wearing uniforms and Salvation Army-branded apparel opens doors, provides credibility (and persecution!).

#### 7 Socialising is important, so keep the format relaxed and provide supper. Keep people moving in groups.

#### 8 When running events for youth, make sure you finish by 9:30 pm to allow time for kids on restricted licences to get home!

### RESOURCES

The Northern Division has been running these youth experiences for a number of years. Contact the Northern Divisional Youth Secretary for more ideas.