

Racial Unity Prayer of Reconciliation

By Captain Anthony Barnes



Father God, Thank you for your unconditional love. Thank you for the love that sacrificed everything for the whosoever. Thank you for reminding us that love is greater than hate, greater than prejudice, greater than bias, greater than discomfort, and greater than just one point of view. Love always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

We want to confess that as individuals, as a society, as part of the global church, and as The Salvation Army that we have not always reflected your love for all people...and we repent. We want to confess that there have been times when we have fallen short; Times when we have been guilty in our thoughts, our words, our actions, and even in our silence; Times when we've chosen exclusivity over inclusivity, barriers over bridges, in-groups over out-groups, familiarity over solidarity, and apathy over concern. Forgive us, Lord, and help us to do better.

May we each allow time of self-discovery as individuals, representatives of society, and as part of The Salvation Army. We want to thank you for this opportunity to be challenged in our thinking, challenged in our actions, and challenged in our faith. We want to thank you for the reminder that true reconciliation is not simply evident in our knowledge. It's not even satisfied in our actions. We are not truly reconciled until an appreciation and love for your image in all races, cultures, and ethnicities have become our identity. Lord, we yearn for true and complete reconciliation within our communities, and within the Salvation Army.

Our prayer, our request, our supplication is that we would learn to love and celebrate cultural and racial diversity, not just tolerate it. Our prayer is that we would no longer pass by the hurting, the forgotten, the disenfranchised, and the shamed. Our prayer is that we would not just see the crowd, but that we would see the individual. Teach us to be the neighbor; the one who has mercy; the one who extends grace; the one who invites. As your word says, "Do this and you will live". Teach me, teach us, teach The Salvation Army that we - all races, all cultures, all ethnicities - are better together. May we represent the greatest of all commandments - to Love God, and Love Others.

Amen



SA JUSTICE
on earth, as it is in heaven