

# MINISTRY MINUTE

MARCH 2023

## INTERNATIONAL DAY OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Mark your calendars and plan to celebrate the young people in your community on April 30th! The Salvation Army believes in children and youth. We want to provide safe spaces for them to learn and grow. We want to develop relationships with them and to lead them into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ. We invite you to support children and youth ministries across the territory by highlighting these ministries and by praying for the young people.



This year's theme, FOOTPRINTS, encourages us to think about and celebrate our journey, identity, and direction.

### OUR IDENTITY

We are all made in the image of God, and we are all unique! God created each of us by Christ Jesus to join him in the work he does; his work of creating, restoring, and reconciling. How we do that depends on our unique set of characters, talents, gifts, and skills. We have a unique footprint!

### OUR DIRECTION

'Footprints' helps us to think about our future. What is our direction and how can we find direction for our lives?

The Gospel invites us to follow the footsteps of Jesus. Maybe Matthew 11:29 and 30 express best what it means to follow Jesus: 'Walk with me and work with me—watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won't lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you'll learn to live freely and lightly.' (The Message)

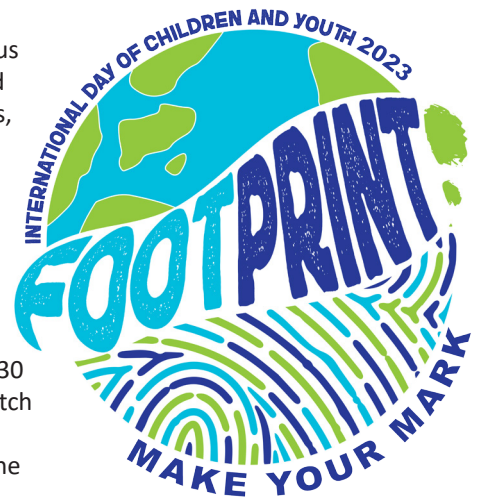
We are all invited to live this kind of life with Jesus!

### OUR JOURNEY

We celebrate where we have come from. We celebrate our journey together. We celebrate God's presence during our journey.

We also acknowledge the challenges we faced and the things and people we might have lost. We find comfort in knowing God was with us every step of the way. And we reflect on our impact on others during our journey; what was our footprint?

Materials have been provided in six languages and include adaptable resources for Family Devotions, a Sunday School Lesson, and a Prayer Explosion for teenagers and young adults. There is also a Creative Arts Competition with submissions due by April 14.



# MINISTRY MINUTE

We invite you to join our territory on April 30 as we pray for:

## Children and Youth in our Corps:

- that they would experience relationship with Jesus
- that they would be witnesses to their friends and family
- that they would be aware of the support of their church family in their daily lives
- that they would be engaged and successful in their studies at school
- that they would find creative ways to reach out and make connections to friends and neighbours who they can invite to church activities

## Children and Youth in our Communities:

- pray for children and youth that receive support through toys at Christmas
- pray for children and youth of families that receive support through our Community and Family Services
- pray for children and youth who are struggling with mental health issues and that God would provide **opportunities** for you to reach out to them
- pray that children, youth, and their families would see The Salvation Army as a safe space

Visit [SalvationArmy.org/IHQ/idcy23](https://SalvationArmy.org/IHQ/idcy23) to learn more about 2023's International Day for Children and Youth, how it can be used and how to access the prepared resources.

