

## March Prayer News

Welcome to Spurgeons March Prayer News. This is a special month for us. 150 years ago in March 1867, a group of Christians in South London gathered together and committed themselves to helping the plight of fatherless boys by building an orphanage. That endeavor started some months before in a prayer meeting where Charles Haddon Spurgeon called on the Holy Spirit to give his congregation a vision for how they could transform their society. Days later God answered that prayer through Anne Hillyard and the offer of a generous donation to build an orphanage. That was the first step in a remarkable story that continues today. On this auspicious birthday we can look back and give great thanks for those people of faith who committed us to a journey that has transformed thousands of young lives. Our story is one of God's faithfulness and provision. Of His protection and blessing. Please join us, tell others about our work, and continue to do the most important thing you can for us – pray to our wonderful God.

**Ross Hendry, Chief Executive.**

**'But you, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness' Psalm 86:15**

### **Week 1: A prayer of thanksgiving for Spurgeons' work over the last 150 years**

- Heavenly Father, you are a good and gracious God, who has been faithful to the Spurgeons work over the last 150 years. We give you great thanks for Charles Haddon Spurgeon's life and legacy. We thank you for the generosity of Ann Hillyard and others whose gifts allowed the work to begin. We are so grateful for the dedication and gifted people you have lifted up to serve successive generations of children; first in the homes in London and Kent, and then latterly in projects across the country. But above all we thank you for your faithfulness over the years and for the Spirit of courage, boldness and hope you instilled in our founders' generation. Thank you for the 'sacred enterprise' you placed on their hearts and the way you answered their prayer with a calling that has been realised in ways that could not have been imagined in 1867.
- Lord God, may Spurgeons' story and your faithfulness to their work be an inspiration to us. Inspire us to be as bold as Charles Spurgeon in calling on Your Son's name to guide our actions. Give us the spirit of generosity you gave Ann Hillyard to give our first fruits to back to You. Above all help us and encourage us to be devoted to serving You faithfully. Have mercy on us when we stumble and forget Your faithfulness to us, and thank you that by grace we are saved and renewed; may the knowledge of that spur us on each day.

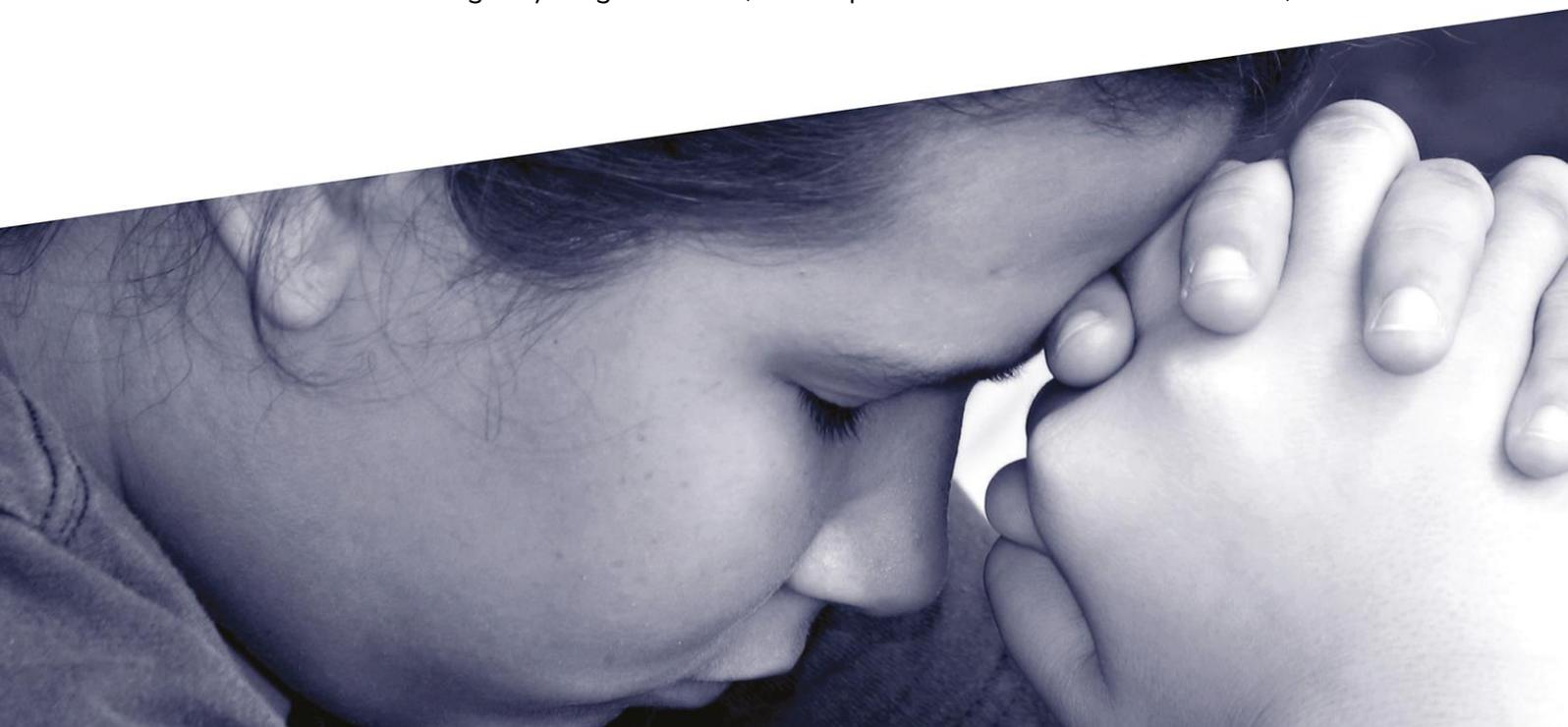
### **Week 2: A prayer for the Lord's protection and provision over Spurgeons**



- Sovereign God, as Spurgeons seeks to be a witness of Jesus' love and compassion, truth and grace, protect them from attack, persecution or discrimination. Allow the light that they shine in to the dark corners of our communities to shine brightly. Shield those who work for Spurgeons as they step into places of harm and brokenness. Give Spurgeons the opportunities to boldly proclaim You as their sustainer, their guide and their hope.
- Thank you for the opportunities Spurgeons has had in recent months to start new work with girls involved in gangs, young people who harm themselves, families where there is domestic violence and abuse, and young people who have been sexually exploited. These are difficult and complex areas of work in need of Your supernatural power to protect and transform lives. Please walk alongside these projects and in particular Spurgeons workers and the children and young people they are seeking to help.
- Provider God, you have not only sustained but also provided for Spurgeons work to continue and grow in amazing ways over the last 150 years. As the charity looks to financial challenges ahead may all who work at Spurgeons step forward in faith that you will continue to protect and provide for all their needs. We ask this for the honour and in the power of Your Son's name, Amen.

### **Week 3: A prayer for the Lord to protect and bless the children Spurgeons works with**

- Loving God, for all the children you have created, we give you thanks and praise. For the young people they grow to be, we give you thanks and praise. Give us the eyes to see and ears to hear their needs. Give us soft hearts to respond to their silent call for our support and assistance. Give us open minds to be taught by children as they speak to us. Help us see how we can support work that gives young people the opportunities to realise their potential. Help us to love them like Jesus loves them; to teach and show them what is true, just and compassionate.
- We pray for Spurgeons work with the 1600 young carers they support; with the 500 prisoners who look to Spurgeons for help in becoming the fathers they should be; with the 1,200 children and young people Spurgeons staff have protected from harm in the last year; and the 3,000 children and parents receiving dedicated support from Spurgeons to be stronger more stable and loving families. We lift up all of these to Your throne of grace asking for Your Spirit to heal broken lives; to carry heavy burdens resting on young shoulders; and to protect the vulnerable from abuse, harm





and exploitation. Lord, hear our prayer for those you have brought into Spurgeons' care. Use Spurgeons as Your willing hands to transform their lives in ways that bring glory and honour to Jesus. Amen.

#### **Week 4: A prayer for Spurgeons' future endeavours**

- Creator God, we thank you for sustaining Spurgeons' work over the last 150 years. We long to see the injustices of this world come to an end, and for the day when you will wipe away every tear. But we know that, as we wait, we are also called to act justly, love mercilelessly and walk humbly before You, our God. Thank you for Spurgeons as they seek to do this in the public square.
- You call us to seek the peace and prosperity of the city while we wait in exile for Your Son's return. And so we lift up to Your throne of grace, Spurgeons, as they wait on your call for how and where and what this will mean for their work in the years to come. Guide them to areas of work and children you want them to reach. As we look back at how you have blessed Spurgeons work over the last 150 years, let that be the inspiration and confidence for trusting in Your guiding hand in the years ahead.
- Give Spurgeons the means to be salt and light across this country; that as they work with children and young people, many will praise you for what they accomplish. Envision all who work for Spurgeons so that they may sing praises of Your faithfulness and great mercies for many years to come.

**Amen.**

**On behalf of everyone at Spurgeons, thank you for your prayers.**

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