



christians
against
poverty

CAP

Prayer diary

FEB – MAY 2024

Welcome!

‘Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.’

Psalms 23:4

In the fight against UK poverty, 2024 is set to be a year like no other. A report released by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation last year revealed that the number of people in the UK experiencing destitution (the deepest form of poverty) has more than doubled since 2017. 3.8 million people are now trapped in the dark valley of poverty, surrounded by looming cliffs of pressure and fear, unable to escape.

With your support, we're determined to show those suffering that they are not alone in the valley. There is a big, loving God walking beside each of us, ready to offer comfort and defend us against whatever obstacles we encounter as individuals and as a society.

That's why the work of Christians Against Poverty combines practical, emotional and spiritual support. We're not content to help people to set their finances straight and send them on their way. We want to see our clients' lives changed for good.

With this in mind, let's raise our voices together on behalf of those locked in debt and poverty over the coming months. Let's trust in the power of Jesus Christ to transform lives and believe that, one day, UK poverty will come to an end.

February

**Leading the charge
with humility**

‘Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant.’

Matthew 20:26

When facing any challenge – including the fight against UK poverty – we need strong, capable leaders to direct and motivate us. This is something we see throughout the Bible. God often places people in positions of leadership, but he is clear that this is not about power – the purpose of the leaders he appoints is to serve others.

Jesus exemplifies effective leadership. After all, the movement he began is still going 2,000 years later! On the subject, he said, ‘You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave – just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many’ (Matthew 20:25-28).

That's why this month we'll be joining together to pray for leaders across the UK, from those heading up CAP and other charitable organisations to yourself as you seek to influence those in our own life. Plus, with the UK Government general election coming up, we'll be praying for the leaders of our four nations to put debt and poverty at the top of the agenda.

29 January – 4 February

This week's prayer requests come from Stewart McCulloch, who joined CAP as Chief Executive in January, and Lyn Weston, Director of Church Engagement and Network. Together with the rest of the Executive team, Stewart and Lyn graciously lead the charity.



Stewart McCulloch
Chief Executive



Lyn Weston
Director of Church Engagement and Network

Monday Lyn writes, 'Our vision at Christians Against Poverty – the world we long to see – is that of lives transformed, churches thriving and an end to UK poverty. We exist to equip and inspire the UK Church to help people out of debt and poverty and become followers of Jesus. Please pray that our work would be fruitful in all areas in 2024.'

Tuesday Stewart writes, 'I used to work in microfinance with poor farmers across Africa and Asia for World Vision, and my constant prayer was that my heart would be broken with the things that break the heart of God. As my heart breaks, it calls me to follow Jesus and to act boldly, doing all I can to help those in great need. Please would you pray this over me as I join Christians Against Poverty.'

Wednesday Stewart continues, 'In December, my wife and I moved to Yorkshire from Essex. I'm starting a new calling to serve the Lord through my work. Please pray for us as we start this new chapter in our lives.'

Thursday Lyn says, 'Please pray for CAP's Executive team as we work together to innovate our services to serve our clients excellently over the next ten years.'

Friday 'We want to raise a rallying cry out to the Church and to the Government, and to speak with a powerful prophetic voice,' says Lyn. 'We yearn to see mobilisation and multiplication as lives are transformed through people finding their identity in Jesus Christ. Please will you pray for us to steer the organisation forward with zeal to increase our voice and our impact.'

Saturday Lyn continues, 'Although the last year has brought many challenges for CAP and the charity sector as a whole, through God's wonderful provision we've made amazing progress. Now, a new chapter begins. Please join us in praying for refreshment, energy and excitement about all that God has ahead for us.'

Sunday Lord God, thank you for those who lead CAP, and the legacy of those who have led this organisation in the past. Thank you for the way you have lovingly prepared them for such a time as this, and for the skills, talent and passion that you have given them. May they know your presence and guidance throughout 2024. Amen.



5 – 11 February

Across the UK, there are hundreds of thousands of leaders heading up organisations, churches and support services in their local communities, quietly making an enormous difference in the fight against UK poverty. Let's pray for them this week. The statistics are taken from a YouGov poll commissioned by CAP and carried out in July 2023.

Monday 28% of UK adults have skipped meals due to costs. Pray for those across the UK who run food banks, soup kitchens and provide other support for those experiencing food poverty.

Tuesday 4.2m people in the UK fell further behind or missed payments between January and July last year. Pray that those in charge of banks, lending companies and enforcement agencies would be lenient, sensitive and understanding.

Wednesday Pray for church leaders to be inspired to tackle debt and poverty in their community. May they be supported and encouraged by their congregations.

Thursday 1 in 10 people surveyed by YouGov said they have debts that they don't know how they will repay. Pray for wisdom and perseverance for those leading other debt help providers such as StepChange, Citizens Advice and Money Wellness.

Friday More than half of those surveyed said their mental health had been impacted by the cost of living crisis, and almost a third said it had affected them physically. Pray for those leading the NHS as they continue to face immense pressures.

Saturday 22% of students feel free financial education would help them better manage their money. Pray for those in charge of universities to recognise this need and respond.

Sunday Lord, we pray today for those leading organisations, churches, universities and support services across the UK. In this challenging time, we pray that they would know you as their leader and follow you. Amen.



12 – 18 February

As we prepare for the next UK Government general election*, let's pray for all those who will be standing as leaders of our four nations.

Monday As they prepare for a general election, pray for each party campaigning for leadership. Ask God to open their eyes to the reality of poverty in the UK, so that it is made a top priority on each of their manifestos.

Tuesday Pray that Christian MPs would be emboldened to live out their faith and share it unashamedly, despite the widely secular environment in which they operate. May others be inspired by their love of Christ.

Wednesday Give thanks that we live in a democratic society in the UK and that we get a say in who leads our country.

Thursday In the months ahead, there will be various discussions and debates going on – on TV, in our social circles, and maybe even in our own minds. Let's pray that each of us would listen to these conversations with openness and compassion, and for discernment over where to place our votes.



Friday Pray for yourself, and for others, that we would each consider and prioritise those in need when we vote.

Saturday Back in October, the Bishop of London spoke about CAP in the House of Lords, saying:

'The financial situation has a serious impact on our health and our mental wellbeing. This was supported recently by polling commissioned by Christians Against Poverty. This is not just about more disease but includes malnutrition, mental ill-health, and failing to take time off when sick due to financial insecurity. What assessment has the Government made of the impact of the cost of living crisis on people's mental health, particularly of our most deprived and vulnerable communities? And what steps are they taking to reduce the inequalities in health, specifically related to suicide?'

Pray that poverty and its impact would continue to be discussed in Parliament, and that effective action would be taken as a result.

Sunday Almighty Father, you are our one, true leader. Our protective father. Our steadfast rock. Our wise and compassionate guide. May you move through our Government, those chosen to lead our human world, bringing compassion and justice to each decision they make. Amen.

19 – 25 February

This week, it's time to turn your attention to yourself and those over whom you might have influence in your own life.

Monday On separate pieces of paper, write down the names of three people to whom you are in a position of some influence. This might be your children, friends, colleagues, church members. Leave space below the name as you'll be adding to it later in the week. Fold up the papers and keep them safe.

Tuesday From the three folded bits of paper, choose one and open it. Ask God to help you understand what influence you might have over this person, and how to use it sensitively and productively. Pray that God would help you to be servant-hearted in this relationship.

Wednesday Choose another name and follow the same instructions as yesterday.

Thursday Follow Tuesday's instructions for the final name that you wrote down earlier in the week.

Friday Based on the conversations you've had with God about your positions of influence and servant-heartedness this week, write a prayer underneath each of the three names. Fold them up and keep them somewhere safe.

Saturday Put a reminder in your calendar for six months' time to re-read the prayers you've written this week. How has God changed how you interact with each person in that time? Has he used you as a servant leader? How might you continue to grow in servant-heartedness in your positions of influence? You can repeat this activity as many times as you like!

Sunday Father God, your word tells us to 'be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, watching over them... being examples to the flock' (1 Peter 5:2-3). Help us, Lord, to lead by example, to be positive role models, to be Jesus to those around us, so that more people may know you. Amen.

March

Praying for an end to UK poverty

'There need be no poor people among you.'

Deuteronomy 15:4



In the Bible, the Jubilee principles set out by God stated that those less fortunate should always be taken into consideration and that nobody should be overlooked. Referring back to these rules, Deuteronomy 15:4 reads, 'There need be no poor people among you'. With this as our frame for the month, we're going to pray for those who are trapped in debt and poverty right now.

We'll start by reading Thomas' story. Now a CAP Debt Coach, Thomas provides practical and emotional support for people in his local town who are struggling financially. But there was a time when Thomas himself was locked in the grip of unmanageable debt.

Later in the month, we'll turn to Jesus' teaching for guidance on praying for those living in poverty, before spending the run-up to Easter reflecting on the significance of Jesus' final words on the cross.

*At the time of writing, the general election is expected in the second half of 2024. Please adjust your prayers accordingly if it has already happened by the time you're reading this.



Meet Thomas. Now a CAP Debt Coach, he is using his own experience of debt and poverty to support and serve others facing financial difficulty.

Monday 'I turned eighteen and got dumped in a council flat,' Thomas recalls. 'There was ice on the walls in the winter. I didn't have a fridge, freezer, washing machine.' Pray for all those living in cold, unfurnished houses as a result of costs.

Tuesday 'Food was tight. You find yourself questioning whether you should eat this small amount of food that you've got now or later. You get quite weak and shaky when you skip your meals.' Pray for those forced to cut down or go without food due to costs.

Wednesday Thomas continues, 'I have a diploma in horticulture, and I do have qualifications. But because of my epilepsy, I found it impossible to get a job.' Pray for those struggling to find work and increase their income on top of facing financial challenges.

Thursday 'I was very lonely, depressed, suicidal, crying myself to sleep purely because I didn't see a way out.' Pray for those whose mental health is suffering due to financial challenges.

Friday 'When I first started working with CAP, I felt like a burden lifted off my shoulders,' says Thomas. 'There was a glimmer of hope.' Praise God for the way he is able to work through his people on Earth to bring light in the darkness.

Saturday 'I was also welcomed into a church family, so I wasn't alone.' Thank God for local churches, where people like Thomas can find community, refuge and love.

Sunday Father God, thank you that you see us even when we may not see you. Throughout Thomas' struggles, you were at work putting the people and resources in place to help him escape. We ask that you would continue to move in the lives of those trapped in debt and poverty, bring peace and hope where it is needed most. Amen.

As a CAP Debt Coach, Thomas supports people in his local community who are facing debt and its cruel impact. From breaking isolation to delivering an emergency food shop, Thomas is able to respond directly to his clients' needs.

Monday 'Before I knew it, I was a Debt Coach!' says Thomas. 'It's just fantastic to be able to help people, giving out the gift that God gave to me.' Please pray for Thomas today, that God would continue to guide, protect and uplift him as he meets people in need.

Tuesday 'I've visited clients that have no carpet,' Thomas explains, speaking of the situations he's witnessed as Debt Coach. 'Their house is falling apart, they can't maintain it. Can't afford to clothe their kids. Can't afford the day-to-day food.' Today, let's pray for an end to UK poverty and its ruthless impact. This is not the world that God envisioned.

Wednesday 'You suffer in silence [when you're in debt] and to have the courage to seek out help is a big thing.' Pray for all those who are considering seeking debt help, that they would be encouraged to take the next step.

Thursday 'Giving someone that hope can be the difference between a life and death situation,' says Thomas. 'And that's what CAP does.' Pray that God would continue to restore hope through CAP workers like Thomas.

Friday Pray for the rest of the team and wider church community at The Well Baptist Church in Retford, Nottinghamshire, where Thomas' CAP Debt Centre is based. Give praise for the work God is doing through this church and thousands of others across the UK.

Saturday Thomas is hoping to increase the support his church can offer local people by setting up a food bank. Please pray for the necessary funding, resources and support to enable this project, and for Thomas as he drives it forward.

Sunday Lord, just as you turned water to wine, you can turn hopelessness and desolation to a thriving, joyful life. Thank you for bringing hope to Thomas and more than 81,000 people who called CAP's free debt helpline last year. Glory to you, Christ Jesus.



During his life on earth, Jesus spent at least three years travelling and teaching. These lessons and the stories he told speak powerfully to us today. Over the next two weeks, we're going to look at how his teachings might influence our prayers for people trapped in poverty in the UK.

Monday Jesus calls us to be generous to others, but to do so in a humble and self-sacrificing way. He says, 'But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret' (Matthew 6:3-4). As you serve those trapped in poverty through praying, volunteering, campaigning or giving financially, ask God to keep growing your humility and give him the glory.

Tuesday Jesus didn't pretend that life is without its challenges. He says, 'In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world' (John 16:33). Give thanks that we're not striving to end poverty alone – we have a mighty, faithful, powerful God who instilled this vision in us in the first place!

Wednesday 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind,' Jesus commands (Matthew 22:37-28). Through acts of service for those who are less financially privileged than ourselves, we demonstrate that love. Ask God to help you put your love for him into action today.

Thursday Jesus tells us, 'As I have loved you, so you must love one another' (John 13:34). The love he refers to here is unconditional – the way God loves us – and we are called to treat each other in the same way. With this in mind, pray for those in your community who may be struggling financially – it's likely they are closer than you think.

Friday Jesus teaches us to 'make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you' (Matthew 28:19-20). Consider how you might put this into practice today by sharing your faith in words and actions in the places and situations God has put you in.

Saturday There exist in our society today some unhelpful stigmas and stereotypes about people who are in debt and poverty. They are so deeply ingrained that even the most well-meaning among us can sometimes make assumptions. But Jesus teaches us to 'not judge, or you too will be judged. For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged' (Matthew 7:1-2). Ask God to reveal to you any unhelpful ways of thinking that you need to challenge.

Sunday Grab your Bible and read Luke 11:1-11. Then, pray the Lord's prayer as Jesus taught.

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.



Jesus often used parables (stories) to help people understand what he was teaching, and there's a huge amount we can learn from them today. Note: you'll need your Bible to hand this week.

Monday Read the Parable of the Lost Son (Luke 15:11-31). Jesus teaches that no one is beyond redemption and that God will welcome his children back with open arms, if only they repent of their wrongdoings. Pray that those who feel ashamed because of their financial situation would know that God's grace extends to them too, and that they are welcome in God's kingdom.

Tuesday Read the Parable of the Bags of Gold (Matthew 25:14-30). Through this story, Jesus teaches us to not hide away the gifts he has given us, but to use them for the good of the kingdom. Today, ask God to help you understand how your unique gifts (this doesn't necessarily mean financial) can play a role in the fight against UK poverty.

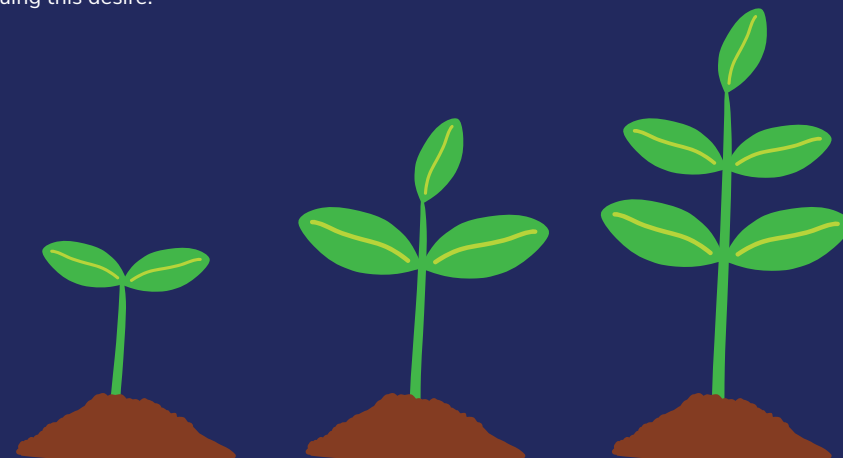
Wednesday Read the Parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37). The reality of poverty in the UK can feel overwhelming, and it's easy to turn a blind eye. Today, reaffirm to God your desire to serve those in need. Ask him to help you resist any feelings or distractions that might prevent you from actively pursuing this desire.

Thursday Read the Parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector (Luke 18:9-14). Just like the tax collector, we're all unworthy of God's mercy and yet we receive his grace nonetheless. Today, let's humble ourselves before our Almighty Father and thank him for who he is.

Friday Read the Parable of the Growing Seed (Mark 4:26-29). Here Jesus demonstrates that our small acts of faithfulness are grown by God into something that can make a really big difference. Today, ask God to take what little you have and multiply it.

Saturday Read the Parable of the Lamp (Luke 8:16-28). Here Jesus demonstrates that we should take every opportunity to glorify God, and to not hide away the gifts he has afforded us. Give thanks that when we take steps to help those in debt and poverty, we lift the light of Jesus high and let it shine for all to see.

Sunday Lord Jesus, we give thanks for your teachings and how we are able to apply your message to our lives today as much as those who listened to you speak 2,000 years ago. May we continue to learn from you, Christ, so that we might become ever more like you. Amen.



The existence of poverty is a result of a broken world, but through Jesus' choice to sacrifice his life on the cross we are given the assurance that it won't always be this way. By his scars our world is promised healing. This Easter week, we'll reflect on the final words spoken by Jesus during his crucifixion and what they mean for us.

Monday 'Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing,' (Luke 23:34). Each of us is a product of a broken world, but through Jesus we're forgiven and loved beyond measure. Take time today to reflect on where you have fallen short and may need to say sorry to God, knowing that you are forgiven.

Tuesday 'Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise,' (Luke 23:43). Jesus died on the cross so that we would have access to God and the heavenly kingdom through him. Today, reflect on the thought that there is no debt, poverty or money worries in God's heavenly paradise.

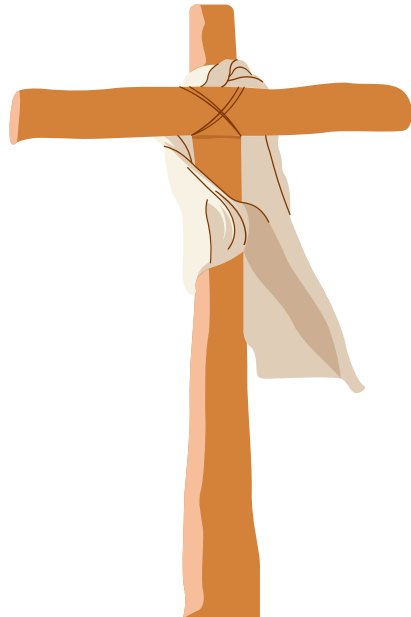
Wednesday 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?' (Matthew 27:46). As a human man, Jesus' death on the cross must have been excruciatingly painful. When he cries out in this moment, he shows that he still believes in God the Father, even though he is suffering. Pray that Christians who are suffering physically or mentally would hold on to their faith.

Thursday 'Woman, here is your son,' (John 19:26). Here Jesus sees his mother in the crowd and asks his friend, John, to take care of her. Even during his crucifixion, Jesus showed incredible love and empathy. Today, pray that through the presence of the Holy Spirit you would show that same love and care to others, even at difficult times in your own life.

Friday 'It is finished,' (John 19:30). Jesus' final words before his death on Good Friday marked the end of humanity's separation from God. Let's give praise for this extraordinary sacrifice.

Saturday By giving up his life, Jesus submitted to the evil and injustice that put him on the cross, but this wasn't because he was unable to resist. He chose to die because he knew who ultimately had the power. Today, consider this: if Christ can overcome death, then can he overcome debt and poverty now?

Sunday Christ Jesus, Lord Almighty, this Easter Sunday we remember how you changed the world when you rose from the grave. We thank you for the gift of eternal life that you have given us, made possible through your great sacrifice on the cross. We love, honour and glorify you, God. Amen.



Fighting debt and poverty across the globe

'For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.'

1 Corinthians 12:12



Here in the UK, CAP's focus is to eliminate UK poverty. However, we know that this is only one part of God's vision – his heart is for a world where everyone has enough.

You may not know that CAP has sister charities in Canada, Australia, New Zealand, the USA and the Republic of

Ireland, each doing extraordinary work to transform lives and shine the light of Jesus in their respective countries.

We got in touch with the teams to find out their prayer requests and it's been wonderful to hear of the plans they have in place for 2024. Please join us in taking our prayers global this April.

1 – 7 April

CAP Ireland is the youngest of our international sister charities, having launched just last September. Currently, the charity's main method of collaboration and engagement with churches is providing financial education resources to share with their local communities.

Monday Pray for the fledgling CAP Ireland team as they cultivate and grow partnerships with churches across Ireland. May these churches catch the vision of CAP's work to help people out of financial difficulty and towards wholeness of life in Jesus.

Tuesday As a young charity, CAP Ireland has lots of volunteering opportunities available right now. Pray for people to get involved, particularly to offer support for people receiving financial education through local churches.



Wednesday Pray for those who receive help and support from CAP Ireland to have an experience that makes an impact both practically and spiritually.

Thursday Pray for God's provision and funding for CAP's work in Ireland throughout 2024.

Friday In Matthew 9:37-38, Jesus says to his disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field'. Pray that God would provide additional workers to support and grow the work of CAP Ireland in 2024.

Saturday Pray for strong and fruitful relationships with other organisations across Ireland who may be able to refer their clients to CAP for help, particularly other debt and advice services.

Sunday God, thank you for planting CAP in Ireland where the team and local churches can begin to help people who are trapped in poverty. We pray for more churches to come on board, many lives to be impacted and your kingdom to grow. Amen.

8 – 14 April

In Canada, 8.1% of the population lives below the poverty line, while a third are just three months of missed income away from falling into poverty (Statistics Canada). CAP Canada supports thousands of Canadians facing financial difficulty each year.

Monday At CAP Canada, 2024 is being dubbed the 'uplift year' – the team are praying and believing that God is calling on them to grow steadily and significantly. CEO Will McLaughlin says, 'The runway is cleared, the plane is ready, and now it's take-off time!' Please pray for a smooth flight!

Tuesday The team have been busy exploring opportunities to walk alongside other ministries that partner with churches and want to see lives transformed by Jesus. They've already started building fruitful connections with charities Salvation Army and Safe Families. Please pray that these partnerships would have a positive impact on the lives of clients in Canada.



Wednesday 2024 will see CAP Canada move to their own in-house credit counselling system. Pray that the team would be able to get their heads around this new technology quickly and that it would improve the way they deliver debt help.

Thursday A recent Angus Reid survey revealed that Evangelical Christians in Canada are viewed as doing more damage to society than good. Please pray for the Canadian Church as it seeks to demonstrate God's heart for the most vulnerable in a context where Christianity isn't viewed favourably.

Friday There will be a focus on funding in 2024, following a steady decline since 2020. Pray for the CAP Canada teams that will be seeking donations and grants, and for generosity to overflow.

Saturday Pray for the CAP Canada staff team. It's a small group, meaning they're spinning multiple plates every day. Pray for energy, enthusiasm and, most importantly, wisdom to know what to say 'no' to.

Sunday Lord, thank you for the way you are at work across Canada right now. You see the challenges being faced and the people in urgent need of help – may your blessing, protection and wisdom be upon each of them. Amen.

15 – 21 April



CAP America launched in Chicagoland, Illinois, in 2019. They now partner with local churches across Illinois and other nearby states to tackle poverty and share the good news of Jesus.

Monday Plans are in place to refilm the videos used in CAP America's financial education course in 2024. Please pray for this project as the team connect with potential American presenters and aim to use the videos to better engage with urban churches.

Tuesday The team have recently worked on translating various client material into Spanish in order to meet the needs of the Hispanic community. Pray that this would help more clients to engage with CAP's services and receive the support they need.

Wednesday Pray for CAP America to connect more with the inner city of Chicago, particularly Austin, South Side and West Side in general. Here the churches are more under-resourced in terms of volunteers and finances.

Thursday Pray that more interested churches across the USA would be inspired to find out about CAP and deliver life-changing services.

Friday Pray for a generous response from supporters as the CAP America team aim to raise \$100k more in 2024.

Saturday Pray that all the people who come into contact with CAP America would see the living God revealed powerfully, and that their work would challenge any unhelpful preconceptions about faith.

Sunday Thank you, Father, for the exciting plans in place for CAP America in 2024. From reaching out to new churches and engaging with new clients to bringing in vital income, we ask that you would bless their work throughout the year. Amen.

22 – 28 April



The cost of living crisis is affecting millions across Australia. With 23% of the population facing severe food insecurity (Foodbank Hunger Report 2023), CAP Australia is more needed than ever.

Monday CAP Australia has seen significant growth in church partnerships over the past eighteen months. Please pray that these partnerships would be strengthened and result in whole life transformation for people facing financial distress.

Tuesday Last year, CAP Australia launched a new way to train church-based volunteers as Money Mentors. Pray for the newly trained Money Mentors as they support people in managing their money well.

Wednesday Please pray for the 25 CAP workers that operate in Australia. Pray for wisdom and for peace as they continue to grow and strengthen the mission across the country.

Thursday Monthly financial gifts from supporters are vital for CAP in every country to ensure long-term impact and sustainability. The CAP Australia team are currently reviewing how they invite people to become regular givers. Pray for fruitful conversations between the team and potential new supporters, and for generous responses.

Friday As the cost of living crisis continues to hit hard. Pray for individuals, churches, charities and the Australian Government as together they work to support the most vulnerable.

Saturday Australia is a beautifully diverse country, with a range of churches, denominations and cultures. Pray for all to be united in order to tackle poverty.

Sunday Heavenly Father, thank you for touching people's lives across Australia through the team and every partner church. May you continue to move throughout 2024 and beyond. Amen.

29 April – 5 May



Last but certainly not least, let's pray for CAP New Zealand. Since first launching in 2007, the charity has seen \$100m in unmanageable debt and bills repaid or written off for their clients.

Monday The team at CAP New Zealand are working on various projects and piloting new ways to help people through their services. Pray that these changes would be implemented successfully and result in increased impact for clients.

Tuesday The team are trying to offer more ways for their services to reach clients, and a more flexible range of ways that churches can come on board. Pray that this would help reach more people in need.

Wednesday Pray that CAP New Zealand would find new ways to reach givers and retain existing supporters to bring in vital funding.

Thursday The team are developing the technology systems they use to deliver their services. Pray that this would have a positive impact on both those receiving help and partner churches.

Friday Pray for the staff team at CAP New Zealand as they are determined to develop their skills and improve performance organisation-wide. May the team know God's smile upon them and see the impact of this.

Saturday There are various internal changes coming for the team in 2024, some of which we've prayed about this week. Please pray that staff would be able to deal well with any changes they face. May these changes make a positive difference to the working environment and the service CAP delivers in New Zealand.

Sunday Lord God, thank you for the skills and talent you have created in those who work for CAP New Zealand. May these skills bring about new ways of working that impact people in need across the country. Amen.

May

Bringing people closer to Jesus

'So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up.'

Deuteronomy 15:4

After almost three decades serving people in debt and poverty, at CAP we're all too aware of the way these experiences rob people of hope, make them feel worthless and blind them to who God created them to be. We're proud to be a Christ-centred organisation that openly shares our faith and strives for others to explore their own. Each year, many of the people we help join a church and get baptised. Although this is in no way a prerequisite to accessing our services, it's fantastic to see people beginning their own walk with God.

This month marks the annual Thy Kingdom Come prayer event. Set up by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Christians across the world are invited to pray for those who do not yet know Jesus. What better time to pray for more CAP clients and many others to come to faith, and to praise God for those who have already started this journey?

6 – 12 May

From Thursday 9 to Sunday 19 May, it's the annual Thy Kingdom Come event. Find out more at thykingdomcome.global and join us this week in asking God to help us be the best advocates for Christ that we can be.

Monday To evangelise effectively, it's vital that we recognise each person's value and worth. Ask God to help you see other people as he sees them, so that you might love them just as much.

Tuesday Give thanks for the tools God has given you personally to bring others to Christ. Whether it's charisma, wisdom, musical talent or another beautiful gift, we are all uniquely placed to share the good news of the gospel.

Wednesday There's no better way to share the gospel than to embody it! Pray that you would become more and more like Jesus every day, demonstrating his love through your actions and behaviour as much as your words.

Thursday Our job doesn't end once someone says 'yes' to Jesus. God calls us to be disciples, supporting one another throughout our journeys of faith. Ask God to reveal to you people in your life who may need spiritual support, and then take steps to check in on them.

Friday Was there a person or people who guided you during the early days of your relationship with God? Pray for them today and thank God for the way he spoke to you through them.

Saturday How might you support other Christians to become better evangelists and disciples? How could you encourage, inspire and equip them? Ask God to help you.

Sunday Jesus, thank you that we have the privilege of helping others find the deep joy and hope that we have found in you. Help us each to be confident, sensitive evangelists and loving, Christ-centred disciples, always mirroring you in our words and actions. Amen.

13 – 19 May

As Thy Kingdom Come continues, Christians around the world are invited to pray for people in their own lives who have not yet accepted Jesus as their personal saviour. In line with this, why not write down the names of your five people below and commit to praying for one per day?

Monday To begin with, you may want to get in touch with the five people you intend to pray for. Sensitively ask them if there's anything in particular they would like you to pray about.

Tuesday



Wednesday



Thursday



Friday



Saturday



Sunday Father God, so many in this world do not yet know you and your love. Help us to change that, God, through conversation, education, openness and, most importantly, actions that reflect who you are, so that the earth may be filled with people proud to say they are your children. Amen.

20 – 26 May

Each year, hundreds of people respond to the gospel as a result of CAP's work. We'll hear some of these stories this week and praise God. For confidentiality, we've changed the names of the people to whom these stories belong.

Monday When he was in debt, Jack felt too ashamed to tell his family and became very isolated. After working with CAP, he joined his local church and has become a cherished part of the community.

Tuesday At a CAP event, Richard felt an urge to find out more about God, even though he was sceptical. He was prayed for and became a Christian there and then. He's now been baptised and helps out on the sound desk at church every Sunday.

Wednesday Lois believed in Jesus but had only learnt about him from films. Her CAP workers prayed with her each time they visited and on the fourth visit Lois asked how to give her life to Jesus. When Lois was baptised, it was those same two CAP workers who were beside her (and who dunked her into the water!).

Thursday Sean loved writing lyrics but felt he lost his creative spark when money and other areas of his life became challenging. Following his baptism, he's been able to get back to being creative and is writing a hymn for his church!

Friday Patrick was a Christian before he started working with CAP, and really appreciated the faith aspect of the service. He described CAP as 'loving' and said, 'they just want you to be free'.

Saturday After working with CAP and committing her life to Jesus, Lisa felt able to forgive those who had treated her badly in the past, helping her to feel more free and happy.

Sunday Lord, thank you that from the darkness of debt and poverty you have brought light to those we've prayed for this week. Thank you for the CAP workers and church communities that were a part of their stories. May they continue to grow ever closer to you, Father. Amen.

27 May – 2 June

Please join us in giving thanks and praise to God for even more transformed lives this week.

Monday After taking part in her local job club, Maren wanted to help others receive support as they look for work. She now runs the job club and is able to share the good news of Jesus with those who take part.

Tuesday Nick wanted to find out more about church after his CAP workers showered him with so much love. Having struggled with drug addiction, Nick has found the reassurance of God's word to be a source of strength and comfort.

Wednesday Having experienced a devastating amount of loss by the age of 18, including losing her baby through a miscarriage, Lauren had all but given up on life. Through the support of CAP and her local church, Lauren has found renewed hope and confidence.

Thursday After attending a CAP event, Alice decided to go to church. She loves the chance to get out of the house and talk to people, plus when her washing machine broke down the church was able to help Alice find a new one.

Friday Warren was struggling to forgive himself for past mistakes, but this changed when his CAP workers invited him to an Alpha Course at their church. In Warren's words, 'I thought God wouldn't want me because of stuff I've done, but now I know that's not true'.

Saturday Erin had been in debt herself and when she heard about CAP, she knew she wanted to work for the charity. This helped Erin to see God's plan for her life and she began a journey of understanding who he really is.

Sunday Lord God, Ephesians 2:8-9 says, 'For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast'. Thank you that no one – absolutely no one – is beyond your redeeming power. We pray today that people would continue to come to know you through CAP's work. Amen.



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