

Be *Empowered* Prayer Calendar

the girls' brigade
international



2017

2017 GB INTERNATIONAL PRAYER CALENDAR



WELCOME

Dear GB Friends,

The Girls' Brigade International Theme for 2017 is 'Be Empowered'.

Every girl, officer, volunteer and leader at national, regional and international levels of GBI needs your prayers. This resource was created with our theme in mind and with the goal of empowering you, your members and friends, with pointers to strengthen your prayer lives and to inspire you to empower others as you yourself are empowered.

This tool is provided to enable you to pray with fellow Girls' Brigade members worldwide, as we meditate not only on our own local needs but communally pray for the needs of our sisters within the five corners of the globe.

We challenge you all, in the name of our Lord and Saviour to meditate on 2 Peter 1:1-9 and to embrace the power which comes from knowing Christ. We pray that you will 'Be Empowered' throughout 2017: to launch out for MISSION; to stand firm and OVERCOME; to boldly MAKE A DIFFERENCE; to MAKE THE RIGHT CHOICES; to render effective SERVICE & SPEAK OUT for young women in our world; and most importantly to embrace Christ's commission TO MAKE DISCIPLES.

We extend special thanks to Hazelann Hannaway Boreland (IVP Caribbean & Americas) and the representatives from all five GB fellowships Megan Noble, Valerie Joy, Monifa Gumbs, Nelly Banda and Christine Wakefield who assisted in gathering prayer requests, information and prayer ideas for this resource. We truly hope you enjoy and are strengthened as you share in this year's theme.

God's eternal blessings,

The GBI Prayer Resource Team



INTRODUCTION

This Prayer Calendar is designed to complement the 'Be Empowered International Focus Resource.' It will guide members with monthly resources to strengthen their prayer lives and to empower others. It is just a guide - tailor it to meet your needs. It is divided into two sections.

SECTION 1

Here you will find monthly prayer focuses that work in tangent with the 'Be Empowered Resource'. It breaks down our theme with pointers and prayer requests that members, companies, districts, regions or national bodies can focus on each month to help you grow in the mission of BEING EMPOWERED. You can use this section:

- As personal devotionals at home, for devotions or epilogues at local, district or regional leaders' meetings
- As a prayer focus during your regular GB meetings for the year or even, in parallel with our BE EMPOWERED RESOURCE, as a spiritual badgework programme
- To engage online with our GB global family by posting on our facebook page www.facebook.com/GirlsBrigadeWorldwide/
- To help you prepare a monthly Prayer Station or Prayer Card to engage people in your church or at your regular GB meeting place in prayer for GBI (see below for resources)

SECTION 2

Here you will find some additional ideas to support creative prayer events and activities in your GB meetings, at special gatherings, in community events:

- Wrist Bands
- Moon Light Picnic
- Hand Prayers
- Prayer Stations
- Prayer Partners
- Festive Balloon Toss
- Prayer Cards

Additional ideas can be found in our BE EMPOWERED 2017 resource www.gbworldwide.org/resources

2017 GB INTERNATIONAL PRAYER CALENDAR



| February 2017 | | | | | | |
|---------------|--------|---------|-----------|----------|--------|----------|
| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
| 29 | 30 | 31 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |

1st - Renelle Neale's safe return for Vanuatu
3rd-5th - GB Europe's Executive Meeting

February 2017

USE THIS MONTH TO FOCUS ON PRAYER REQUESTS & REFLECTIONS FROM OUR MEMBER COUNTRIES AS WE ARE EMPOWERED FOR 21st CENTURY MISSION

2 Peter v. 3 *His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness.*

Matthew 28 says, *"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing 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."*

So our challenge is this: how do we, in a 21st century world, fulfil our mission? Christ reached people by meeting them where they were. He told stories about the things they knew. He came alongside individuals and spoke in terms they understood. He rejected the formality of organised religion and reached out in simple practical ways. Our assignment today is to go out into our communities and meet with people connecting with them where they are and sharing the love of Christ.

We, in Girls' Brigade, the leaders and the GB movement as a whole, come under God's will and mission. In 2 Peter v.3, Peter tells us that we have been given everything we need to engage in our mission. God called us into the ministry of Girls' Brigade and gives us everything we need to accomplish our task. Our task is to plant and nurture the seeds in whatever way God reveals to us. We may not know the results – that is in God's hands. What we do know, however, is that we are inspired and motivated by His Holy Spirit Will you go out and plant seeds? God gives us the strength and resources: we just need to be willing to trust and go!



BE EMPOWERED FOR MISSION

WEEK 1 FOCUS ON GB PACIFIC who contributed this month's reflection. See their prayer requests in the January Prayer focus. Reflect on the February meditation opposite - Empowered for Mission. *Make Wrist bands as you reflect on GB's Mission. (see Section 2)*

WEEK 2 FOCUS ON AFRICA * Pray for the nomination process in their Fellowship that God will give Africa Spirit Filled and Empowered leaders for the next 4 years. *Pray for protection & resources for GB Nigeria as they seek to reach Northern Nigeria amidst persecution. *Remember the Ebonyi State and other West Africa countries. *Pray for GB Malawi as they prepare for mission, may they be devoted to prayer as the disciples were after receiving Jesus' commission. *Grant GB South Africa empowerment to go out and reach girls outside the church/GB * Pray for GB Zambia – as they seek to reopen doors in Congo-DR., Namibia and Botswana. *Pray for GB Zimbabwe to be focused on transforming the lives of girls and to honour Christ as a Lord, Saviour and model.

WEEK 3 FOCUS ON ASIA *Give thanks as GB Singapore celebrate 90years of mission. Pray that their witness may live on in a relevant way. *Prayer for GB Hong Kong to give them wisdom that as they celebrate their 55th Anniversary, they would be able to train girls and women to be the selected troop of Jesus Christ carrying out the mission of the Lord.

FOCUS ON CARIBBEAN & AMERICAS *Join GB Cayman in giving thanks for their 70th anniversary celebrations and their founder Mrs. Olive Miller. *Join GB BVI in praying that leaders will seek God's empowerment to minister in the mission fields of their communities and that they be connected to God and others in readiness to go on missions and make a difference.

WEEK 4 FOCUS ON EUROPE *Pray for their courage and boldness in pursuit of open doors at home and abroad, for new partners and expressions of mission. *Remember Northern Ireland's partnership with Fields of Life, their Uganda mission and pray for fundraising for growth and to build a school. *Pray with GB Ireland to bring the Christian Ethos to their girls. *Pray for GB England & Wales' 125th anniversary celebrations especially the #WeAreGB125 and its subthemes.

2017 GB INTERNATIONAL PRAYER CALENDAR

SECTION 2 SPECIAL PRAYER ACTIVITIES / EVENTS

BE EMPOWERED FOR MISSION - *Prayer Wrist Bands:*

To help you reflect on our call to mission make Prayer Wrist Bands. Take several threads of wool, tie them together at the top. As you pray, weave them or twist them together using words like: Assignment, Community, New Relationships, Healings, Open Doors and Opportunities to lead your thoughts

SONG *Your Love Never Fails (by Skinner and McClarney - sung by The Newsboys)*

BE EMPOWERED TO MAKE DISCIPLES – *Moon Light Picnic:*

Hold an evening of prayer at the beach or round a bonfire to encourage those who may not be comfortable in a church, Sing songs, read scriptures and pray, using the ideas in the prayer calendar. End by roasting marshmallows or making smores.

SONG: *There Were Twelve Disciples*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RiZq3zDI5D4>

BE EMPOWERED TO OVERCOME – *Hand Prayers*

Give each member of your group a piece of paper and ask them to draw around and cut out the shape of their own hand. On the four fingers they should write:

- something to praise God for;
- something to thank God for;
- something for which they would like God 's help
- something for which they would like to say sorry

Group members can fold down the fingers on their paper hand when they pray for each of these things. This leaves the hand in a 'thumbs up' shape - a reminder that God has heard our prayers.

BE EMPOWERED TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE – *Prayer Stations*

Each Prayer station represents one of the GB fellowships around the world, or the different companies in your area. Each station will provide facts about the fellowship or company and their prayer requests. It will allow those participating to learn from each other as well as being able to pray for them too.

BE EMPOWERED TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE – *Prayer Partners*

Find a prayer partner from a different company. Girls of different ages may be best teamed together. Pray together. Cards could be prepared with prayer ideas from this resource or local or personal issues can be identified for prayer.

SONGS: *We are (by Kari Jobe)*

SONG: *Heart to Change the World (from Psalty Kids' Praise 6)*

BE EMPOWERED TO MAKE RIGHT CHOICES - *Festive Balloon Toss*

Use as an outdoor service or a prayer walk – seeking God's direction through Christ's model prayer.

Materials: Each participant will need 4 different coloured balloons (white, red, blue and yellow) and a marker pen, balloon pump or helium, string or ribbon.

- In preparation: Blow up the balloons, attach strings to each and set up 4 prayer stations round your venue
- Set the scene with an opening prayer and song(s) e.g. *I Love You Lord, I Lift My Voice*
- Give each participant a white balloon
- Explain the importance of Prayers of Adoration. Ask them to use their marker to write a thank you prayer to God (in 5 words or less).
- Invite participants to hold up their balloons and read their prayers aloud in turn
- Move the group on to another venue, singing choruses and flying their white balloons as they go
- At the next station – distribute the red balloons Ask members to write personal confessions. Have a moment of silence for private confessions.
- Move on to the next venue singing e.g. *I Have Decided To Follow Jesus / What A Friend We Have in Jesus* with both balloons flying.
- Give out blue balloons. Ask everyone to write a short prayer for someone in need
- Take turns reading their prayers of Intercession before lifting their third balloons, and moving on
- Give out the yellow balloons and ask everyone to write prayers expressing their honest needs
- Sing e.g. *There is a Sweet, Sweet Spirit in this Place*
- Pair everyone up and exchange balloons. Ask everyone to pray for their partner's needs
- Release all the balloons signifying the lifting of each prayer to God and finish with a benediction.

SONG: *There's Power in Prayer (sung by The Perrys)*

BE EMPOWERED TO SERVE & SPEAK OUT – *Prayer Cards*

Use the model below, or be inventive to create your own prayer cards. Distribute these to GB members, church friends and other interested people.

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|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  <p>Today GB prayed for the empowerment of Girls' & Women</p> | <p>2 Peter 2: 3 <i>God empowers us with everything we need for a godly life Embrace God's gift to us ... pray for your empowerment and the empowerment of others.... Join the mission!!</i></p> |
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