



SOUL CRY

[PRAYER FOR YOUTH]

SOVEREIGN LORD, WE ACKNOWLEDGE THAT YOUNG PEOPLE AND CHILDREN ARE PRECIOUS, SIGNIFICANT AND A GIFT FROM YOU. WE ALSO CONFESS THAT WE HAVE NOT ALWAYS TREASURED THIS GIFT WITH LOVE AND CARE. WITH SACKCLOTH AND ASHES HEAPED UPON OUR HEADS WE ASK FORGIVENESS. IN HUMILITY WE BOW BEFORE YOU AND IN DESPERATION WE CRY OUT.

FATHER, SON AND HOLY SPIRIT, GIVE US YOUR HEART AND HEAR OUR PRAYER.

MAY GOD BLESS US WITH ANGER, FRUSTRATION AND IMPATIENCE WHEREVER YOUTH ARE MARGINALIZED, EXPLOITED AND DIMINISHED. WITH PROPHETIC VOICE MAY WE ADVOCATE FOR ABANDONED, IGNORED YOUTH. MAY WE LIVE MISSIONALLY WITH YOUTH ON THE MARGINS, REFLECTING TO THEM THE IMAGE OF THE INVISIBLE GOD. MAY THERE BE NO LIMIT TO OUR INCLUSION AS WE REALISTICALLY EMBRACE THE MESSINESS OF FAITH COMMUNITIES. MAY WE NEVER LOSE SIGHT OF OUR SOCIAL JUSTICE IMPERATIVE, FIGHTING HARD FOR THOSE YOUTH WHO CANNOT FIGHT FOR THEMSELVES.

FATHER, SON AND HOLY SPIRIT, GIVE US YOUR HEART AND HEAR OUR PRAYER.

MAY GOD BLESS OUR DESIRE TO INTENTIONALLY AND PURPOSEFULLY INVEST IN OUR YOUTH. WE ARE SORRY THAT WE HAVE FOCUSSED ON OURSELVES TO THEIR NEGLECT. GIVE US THE COURAGE TO LOVE, JOURNEY WITH, AND EMPOWER YOUNGER BELIEVERS. MAY THE CONTAGIOUS PASSION THAT PROVOKES RADICAL, GENUINE, JESUS LIVING SPEAK INTO THEIR LIVES. WE KNOW THIS IS RISKY. HONOUR OUR FAITH IN YOU AND OUR FAITH IN THEM.

FATHER, SON AND HOLY SPIRIT, GIVE US YOUR HEART AND HEAR OUR PRAYER.

GOD WE LAMENT THAT WE HAVE LOST SO MANY THAT HAVE ONCE WALKED WITH US. WE CRY OUT TO YOU TO HELP US DISCIPLE, LOVE AND ACCEPT YOUTH WITH THE FATHER'S HEART. MAY WE SURROUND YOUNGER GENERATIONS WITH MENTORS THAT WILL CONSISTENTLY INSPIRE, ENCOURAGE AND CHALLENGE THEM TO GROW IN THEIR FAITH. HELP US TO PRACTICE AND PASS ON YOUR DISCIPLINES SO THAT OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH YOU MIGHT DEEPEN, THAT YOUTH MIGHT BE STILL AND HEAR YOUR VOICE, BE DRENCHED IN YOUR WORD, BE STRONG IN PRAYER AND FASTING, AND LIVING SACRIFICIALLY. MAY OUR CHILDREN AND YOUTH BE SURROUNDED AND SUPPORTED BY THE FAMILY OF GOD. MAY WE ALL JOURNEY TOGETHER, PERPETUATING THE CYCLE OF DISCIPLESHIP AND MENTORING.

FATHER, SON AND HOLY SPIRIT, GIVE US YOUR HEART AND HEAR OUR PRAYER.

GOD HELP US TO JOYFULLY AND EXTRAVAGANTLY LOVE OUR YOUTH WHILE ENGAGING AND HONOURING THEM. HELP US TO EMPOWER THEM TO LIVE BIG KINGDOM DREAMS, SO THAT THEY MIGHT DISCOVER THEIR PURPOSE, POTENTIAL AND PERSONHOOD.

FATHER, SON AND HOLY SPIRIT, GIVE US YOUR HEART AND HEAR OUR PRAYER.

GOD MAY WE VALUE THOSE WHO HAVE DEDICATED, ARE DEDICATING, AND WILL DEDICATE THEIR LIVES TO GATHERING AND LOVING YOUR YOUTH AND CHILDREN. BLESS US WITH THE COMMITMENT AND WILLINGNESS TO INVEST IN THEM, SUPPORTING AND PROVIDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR GENERATIONS TO MODEL FAITH TO EACH OTHER. MAY WE SEE YOUNGER GENERATIONS RISE UP AND TAKE THEIR RIGHTFUL PLACE. MAY WE SERIOUSLY DEDICATE OURSELVES TO THEIR TRAINING AND EQUIPPING SO THAT AT AN EARLY AGE THEY MIGHT BE RELEASED INTO THEIR CALLING AND GIFTINGS.

FATHER, SON AND HOLY SPIRIT, GIVE US YOUR HEART AND HEAR OUR PRAYER.

MAY GOD BLESS US WITH CREATIVITY, DIVINE INSPIRATION AND HUMILITY IN ALL WE DO. MAY GOD BLESS US WITH BROAD DEFINITIONS, BIG IDEAS AND CHRIST-LIKE EXAMPLES OF YOUTH-WORK. MAY GOD BLESS US WITH ALL OF THE ESSENCE HE WANTS THE SALVATION ARMY TO BE AND FREE US FROM THE TRAPPINGS OF INSTITUTIONALIZED FORM. AND MAY GOD BLESS US WITH HIS UNFAILING LOVE, PATIENCE AND GRACE AS WE WORK OUT ALL THAT HE WANTS YOUTH-WORK TO DO AND TO BE.

FATHER, SON AND HOLY SPIRIT, GIVE US YOUR HEART AND HEAR OUR PRAYER.