

# Where's Your Chair?

Acts 16 25-40



'Bring my soul out of prison, that I may give thanks to your name;  
When you have dealt bountifully with me, then shall the righteous gather around me.'  
Psalm 142:7

## **Praising:**

Lord, be my guardian and my  
guide,  
be near me when I call;  
uphold me when my footsteps  
slide,  
and hold me lest I fall.

## **Reading:**

Acts 16:25-40  
Paul and Silas in prison in Philippi

Paul and Silas's late-night praying and hymn-singing has their fellow prisoners in wrapped attention, but there is no indication of how they react to the earthquake. For the jailer it is a moment of personal spiritual conviction and he wants to know from the prisoners how to make their faith his own. He takes them to his home where, there and then, his whole household responds in faith and is baptised.

The next morning the authorities are ready to release Paul and Silas. But since as Roman citizens they should never have been scourged in the first place, Paul refuses to go quietly. An official apology is tendered although the missionaries are still asked to leave. They do so only once they have spent a little more time in fellowship with the believers at the home of Lydia.

## **Listening:**

## **Praying:**

Fill our hearts Lord with a desire to worship you

- that in the singing and praising your name would be glorified
- that in the prayer and intercession your power would be released
- that in the fellowship and meeting together your presence would be enjoyed

Father: save me from worship that is safe, predictable and forgettable. By your Spirit, take me by surprise, with worship that is dangerous, unexpected and life-changing. Amen

## **Doing:**