



# Glasgow Street Pastors

Bulletin – 27 March 2020

*“God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore, we will not fear.” Psalm 46:1-2*

I am sure that this has been a very strange week for everyone in the GSP family. We are processing information and learning to live in a very different way. We are not going out on our shifts, but we continue to be a people who can and do serve others. I believe we are being called to serve in ways which allows us to listen, care and help in ways which may be different for each one of us. I know that teams are communicating and supporting one another. Let us talk together, pray with one another and serve one another in ways that are safe for us to do.

Please be assured that GSP continues to be busy. For example:

- Stuart continues to liaise with other agencies, sharing practical support and discussing ways in which we can further work together; he was able to organise direct support to the café initiative at St George's Tron reaching out to the homeless community - this is under review and is dependent on restrictions as things change. Stuart and I are in regular contact regarding developments.
- Lorna is working from home and is able to carry out the admin tasks which are needed; this is a time to be able to catch up on the many tasks which build up.
- Stuart, Lorna and I will “meet” on a weekly basis to check in with one another about work tasks.
- The Management team met by Zoom on Tuesday evening. We were able to talk about our immediate response and ways that we can keep in touch and be of service:
  - Pray as individuals
  - Follow government and NHS advice to keep ourselves safe to protect others;
  - Maintain contact with one another to give spiritual and emotional support;
  - Directly support one another in ways that are safe to do;
  - Serve within our church communities;
  - Volunteer, if you are able, to the services which are looking for people.

The Management Team is aware that this is a new situation and as time goes on we will develop other ways of keeping contact and helping one another to look ahead.

For now, we wait, we pray, we prepare ..... when it is time to be out on shift, we will be. And we will need to be ready to offer even more to people as we all emerge from this current situation.

When will that be? We don't know the answer. Let us trust in the Lord as He leads us up the mountain, let us trust in the Lord and be ready to go in His time, let us trust in the Lord and do what he calls us to do.

## Concern about homeless people

Stuart has put together a summary of the provision for homeless people in our city. This is also changing quickly and there will be additions as we go. As you will see, Stuart has ongoing contact with these agencies.

### City Centre Provision

- Simon Community have gained agreement from Ministers and Local Authority for a hotel accommodation initiative. 64 persons accommodated so far between Glasgow and Edinburgh
- Glasgow City Mission has a list of 600 guests and families that their frontline staff are in contact with.
- Phones have been given to guests so that staff can stay in touch
- Social Bite are delivering food to the homeless and vulnerable through their chain of cafes.
- Simon community have street teams active
- Wayside Café (Marie Trust) are delivering food parcels to venues used as emergency accommodation.
- Following an appeal GSP has donated to the Simon Community ladies and gents underwear, sanitary products and toiletries.
- GSP contact with other agencies ongoing.

A crowd funding campaign has been launched by the Simon Community: SCSCOV1D19 - Just Giving if anyone wants to give to this.

## **PRAY**

If ever there is a time for prayer it is surely now. We will be praying for the many situations around us in our city, our country and our world.

Willie has prepared prayer points within the context of GSP for us to share. They are included as part of this bulletin.

Our home churches will continue to receive prayer points from Willie. If your church wants to be included, please ask your prayer coordinator to contact Willie. (willie.henry@gsp.scot)

*Please be in touch if GSP can be of support to you: please do not be stuck. We are a family together and as such we care for one another.*

*My prayer is for you all as you look after yourselves and care for others; I pray a sense of peace and trust in our faithful God.*

Blessings,

Linda

Linda Burke

Chair - Glasgow Street Pastors

SCO39983



## Prayer Bulletin from Willie Context for prayer

- Because of the coronavirus, the Winter Night Shelter, which was due to stay open until the end of March, has had to close and Glasgow City Mission have also had to close their building. However, Glasgow City Council has managed to acquire rooms in city centre hotels, to accommodate the homeless and it is believed that there should be enough rooms to house everyone.
- Many homeless people (and others who are in accommodation), have serious addiction problems and one of the knock-on effects of the virus has been that the supply of drugs is not being so readily available. While this might be regarded as positive, it has meant that a considerable number of people are suffering withdrawal symptoms and this has put great pressure on community pharmacies and other medical professionals as they try to support these people.
- Glasgow Street Pastors will not be patrolling for the foreseeable future but it is important that the teams keep in contact with one another, keep a sense of identity and offer mutual support at this difficult time.

### Please pray:

- Give thanks that, at this time of difficulty, the Government and charitable bodies are co-operating to look after those who are homeless in our city and that their efforts have been successful. Pray that moving people into hotel accommodation will enable them to be helped and perhaps turn their lives around.
- Pray for drug addicts in our city, who are suffering even more than usual. Pray also for health professionals, that they will not be abused and overwhelmed by the scale of the problem and that they may be able to bring relief and support to those most in need.
- Pray for the Management Team as they explore ways for Street Pastor teams to keep in touch with, and support each other during this period of lockdown.