



Glasgow Street Pastors

Bulletin - 3 April 2020

*Trust in God at all times, you people; pour out your hearts to Him, for God is our refuge.
Psalm 62: 8*

Message from Linda:

Last week we were coming to terms with a completely new way of being. This week sees us all facing the reality of our own personal situation as well as that of our communities and our country. So much to process. I hope you are finding time to take a breather; to have a quiet time, to speak to God about your own needs too.

Teams are meeting and connecting in all kinds of ways: by Zoom; by WhatsApp; by sharing bible study; by sharing prayer. This will certainly build us up for what we are doing right now as well as for the future. Thank you all for keeping your teams in touch with one another and further strengthening relationships.

Stuart has received his letter about his 12 week isolation due to underlying health issues. Please be assured that Stuart is well and has been preparing for this. We will, as the GSP family, pray for him and support him through this time. Maybe some others have received their letter too? Stuart and I have wondered if there is a "12 week team" within GSP: perhaps you would like to contact Stuart (in confidence) and let him know if you are now self isolating for 12 weeks?

Stuart, Lorna and I have met again this week. A work plan has been put together to support GSP in the short, medium and longer terms. Of course, we do not know timescales for this, but it is important that we help GSP thrive and emerge ready for the task ahead of us. That is what the plan aims to do.



I am sure you are busy supporting family and friends. As well as that, some of you will be volunteering in different ways: via your church; as part of Scotland Cares etc. And into all of these roles we can take our skills and experience of being SPs: we can listen, care and help. And in all of these areas we are building ourselves up as people who serve because of our relationship with our Lord Jesus Christ.

I pray for your wellbeing, your health and for all you do on your own frontline at present. God bless you.

PRAY

*And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests.
With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's
people. — Ephesians 6: 18*

Please see the prayer points from Willie and Stuart...

Update from Stuart:

- The Glasgow City Mission staff are continuing to make deliveries of food parcels/toiletries to known guests and others.
- The Simon Community is taking essential supplies to those who have been housed in hotel rooms to ensure they do not have to leave their rooms including what they describe as 'kettle' foods.
- While it is a blessing that people are not having to rough sleep, they still have addiction issues and mental health concerns. These have not gone away! This adds additional demands to the level of support required.
- By far the best way to find out what is currently happening and what partner agencies are doing is to follow their posts on Facebook and/or Twitter.
- GCM have been holding phone conversations with guests who have used Crimea St in the last two years. Many have made prayer requests. Here are just a few.....
 - *For things to get back to normal*
 - *Mental health (8 requests)*
 - *That we all get through this*
 - *For food*
 - *Mice in flat.*
 - *Adapting to life as a new mother while confined to a small apartment. Loneliness.*

Your church contact:

I am sure you have many different ways of being church at present. There are so many opportunities to worship and praise God. If you are looking for a worship service, here is a link to Newton Mearns Baptist where we had our InDay this year.

<https://youtu.be/LiGGbSg96n8>

And finally,

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 Burke

Chair - Glasgow Street Pastors

SCO39983



From Willie:

Context for prayer:

- Many of the homeless people have now been accommodated in hotels but they, like us all, are in lockdown because of the coronavirus. They need support for their mental and physical health, in that situation.
- Glasgow Street Pastor Management Team are trying to put together a plan, which will enable us to enable the work to continue, so that we will be able to emerge from this crisis, whenever that will be, in a position to face the tasks that will lie ahead of us. Our Co-Ordinator, Stuart Crawford has been advised to self-isolate for 12 weeks and is working from home. Many of the street pastors are facing concerns about separation from elderly parents, health worries (particularly those who are NHS staff), and tensions from being cooped up together in family groups for a long period.
- The Chief Executive of Street Pastors Scotland (formerly Ascension Trust Scotland), Sandy Scrimgeour, and his wife Pat, who assisted him in the office, have both retired on 31 March. The new chief executive, Chris Jewell, is having to work from home.

Please pray:

- That homeless people locked down in temporary accommodation will be supported by charities and not succumb to feelings of isolation. Pray that they will be aware of God's loving presence with them at this time of huge uncertainty. Pray also for those keeping in touch with them by phone and delivering groceries etc, that they too will be able to stay positive and not be overwhelmed by the scale of the problems.
- For Stuart and the Management Team, as they continue to seek liaise with other organisations to keep our work going and to plan for the potentially different situation that could emerge when the coronavirus crisis finally ends. Pray for the street pastor teams as they try to keep in touch with and support one another, that they will be able to maintain their sense of identity and connectedness. Pray for the individual street pastors, and, indeed, all of us who have concerns for the health and wellbeing of themselves and family members.
- For Sandy and Pat, that they will have a long and happy retirement. Pray particularly for Chris, as he attempts to get to grips with his new role in less than ideal circumstances and as he prayerfully develops a strategy for the future of the Street Pastor movement in Scotland, in a rapidly changing and uncertain environment.