



Glasgow Street Pastors

Bulletin – 24 April 2020

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever. Psalm 118: 1

Message from Linda:

A friend was telling me that one of the things she does at the moment is to sing "Count your blessings ..." on the phone every week to someone she knows. Singing on the phone is not something we would usually do, but it is ideal for these times! Of course, while there are many situations and people we want to pray for, I am sure we also have many blessings to thank God for. And in these days, being able to do that helps us to deal with the day and look ahead to tomorrow.



What were your thoughts around the questions in last week's bulletin?

- What does it mean to go in God's strength?
- What does "God's presence" mean?

Did you relate them to your role as a SP; as a key worker; as someone who is self-isolating; as a volunteer in a new situation.....?

If you would like to share your thoughts around "Count your blessings" or about the above questions, please email me and these can be included in the bulletin. (named or anonymous)

I know that teams continue to pray together: for the situation and for one another. May we all be energised and encouraged by this support.

God bless.

Here is an update from Stuart:

- GSP volunteers are continuing to serve in other ways in their communities.
- Simon Community staff are continuing to operate from a city centre hotel.
- Welcome packs are being made up daily for guest who arrive with next to nothing by way of toiletries, clothing etc.
- Glasgow City Mission Project Team is meeting twice daily on Zoom to co-ordinate how to help guests who would normally use Crimea Street to stay at home and stay safe.
- The GCM team has identified 221 people who need support by phone. They are also working with the Simon Community to ensure they receive what they need in deliveries
- The Social (Royal Exchange Sq) part of the G1 group, have been in touch regarding a Hot Food kitchen from their premises. We were able to direct them to liase with GCM and the Simon Community.
- Chief Inspector Audrey Hand, a great friend and supporter of GSP, has announced her retirement after 30 yrs service with Police Scotland. She has an 11yr old daughter who is being shielded due to a rare kidney condition. Audrey will be leaving the service on 15th May.
- The Ascension Trust Scotland board is meeting on Tuesday 28th April, 10am, by Zoom.
- Inside Central Station series 2 starts on Sunday 3rd May 9:00pm on BBC Scotland channel.

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

PRAY

Please pray for Lorna and Stuart as they continue to work from home.

'Please see the prayer points from Willie

And finally,

Please be in touch if GSP can be of support to you: please do not be stuck. As a family, we are here for one another.

Blessings,
Linda

Linda Burke
Chair - Glasgow Street Pastors
SCO39983



And from Willie:

Context for prayer -

- As homeless people are continuing to be housed in hotel accommodation, Glasgow City Mission and the Simon Community are working flat out to ensure that their guests are provided with food, clothing and toiletries as well as trying to provide them with the psychological and spiritual support they need at this time. This is taking its toll on the staff who are doing this work as they have to make decisions as they go along to manage situations no one has encountered before, some of which have life and death implications.
- In common with other charities, GSP is suffering a loss of income at this time of lockdown. The Management Team are therefore trying to make sure that expenditure is under control and that we are using our resources effectively. At present we are also going through the complex process of changing the legal structure of GSP from an unincorporated association to a SCIO.
- Ascension Trust Scotland are holding a board meeting on Tuesday 28 April at 10.00 by Zoom. This is Chris Jewell's first meeting as Chief Executive so he will still be getting used to his new post. In addition, the board will have to cope with the difficulties posed by a "virtual" meeting rather than face to face.

Please pray:

- Give thanks for the dedication of the staff of Glasgow City Mission and the Simon Community and for all the volunteers who are helping in the work. Pray that they will be sustained in this time of high pressure and will be able to make wise decisions that will be in the best interests of their guests.
- For the Management Team that they will be prudent and efficient in their use of GSP resources that we may not suffer hardship in the months ahead. Pray also for the team that is completing application forms and considering all the other issues that need to be addressed in relation to the change to a SCIO. Pray that this process will go smoothly and that there will be no hitches or omissions.
- For Chris Jewell as he brings the board together for the meeting on the 28th. Pray that the Lord will guide the board in their deliberations and give them discernment for the way forward for Street Pastors in Scotland. Pray also that they will all be of one mind, with a common vision. Pray for Stuart Crawford as he attends that meeting.