



Glasgow Street Pastors

Bulletin - 15 May 2020

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen His glory, the glory of a Father's only son...
John 1: 14

From Linda

I read an article recently which I found very encouraging. It was making the point that there are a number of things happening in our country which is pointing to a possible spiritual awakening.

Here are three of them:

- The UK Blessing has been watched two million times. Go to you tube and have a look if you haven't seen this. It is very uplifting!
- Prayer is very much an open subject. Research commissioned by Tearfund has shown that three million people have turned to prayer since lockdown began.
- Online church attendance has grown across the UK. This includes younger people too.

As well as being helpful to each of us on a personal level, this gives us encouragement as we speak to others and perhaps have the opportunity to talk about prayer; and He is the one we can speak to ... and cry out to.

I also received an email about next week being Scottish Mental Health Foundation Awareness Week. The theme for this is kindness. It is good that the simple act of kindness is being promoted again and again during this lockdown period. And also, very positive that mental health is increasingly an open subject.

God bless you as you continue to stay at home, work in your own setting and continue to serve as the hands and feet of Jesus.



Here is an update from Stuart:

- GCM has raised concerns about people who were trafficked into businesses which have closed who could now be homeless. They have produced a leaflet with Restore Glasgow on how you can spot signs of trafficking.
<https://www.glasgowcitymission.com/admin/resources/trafficking-info-leaflet-1.pdf>
- GCM team is calling 223 people at least once a week, making sure they are not left isolated.
- Scotland's Homeless project are providing 350 meals a week, made by their own volunteers, for distribution to over 15 projects in the Glasgow area including Turning Point Scotland and the Salvation Army Wallace of Campsie project in East Campbell Street.
- Team leaders met on Thursday 14 May 7:00pm and had a very constructive discussion on the theme 'Looking Beyond Lockdown'.
- Thanks to team leaders and to all who are participating in Zoom meetings and other means of communication. These are proving to be positive 'bonding sessions' for those taking part.
- GSP will feature in the next episode of Inside Central Station on Sunday 17 May, 9:00pm, BBC Scotland.

PRAY

*And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert. 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.

Linda Burke

Chair - Glasgow Street Pastors

SCO39983



Context for prayer

- As the period of lockdown continues and shows no sign of ending soon, many people are suffering from stress problems and mental illnesses. Street Pastors are used to interacting with people who have such issues and have experience in encouraging and supporting them. We need to be observant of those around us, watching for signs of not coping, such as behavioural changes like different sleeping patterns, dietary and behavioural changes or increases in alcohol consumption.
- One thing that is certain is that we are going to emerge from lockdown into a very different world from the way it was before. The Management Team and Team Leaders are discussing how GSP may need to adapt going forward, to listen, care and help effectively and to bring comfort and support to vulnerable people in our city. This may involve possibilities like daytime/early evening working and engaging more with our partners.
- There is some evidence of a growing spiritual awakening in our country. The media are reporting that almost 25% of people in the UK have tuned into on-line services since the lockdown started. That is a huge increase compared to normal church attendance. There has also been a great surge in prayer across the nation and a resurgence in faith among young people. The national blessing song has been watched over 2 million times since it was released a week or so ago.

Please pray:

- That the Lord will help us to have the perception to be aware of those around us who need prayer and practical support. Pray that we will be able to encourage them when they are stressed by changes in life patterns, financial worries and grief and concerns for loved ones. Pray also that they may be aware of the Lord's comforting presence with them as never before.
- For all of us as we try to figure how best we should respond and engage as the city centre comes out of lockdown. Pray that we will be guided in our discussions with the police and other partner organisations and as we consider where and how we can offer help, while taking care to protect our pastors from infection.
- For this awakening, that it will not be a temporary flash in the pan in a time of crisis. The Lord works in all situations for good and He is working in the tragedy of Coronavirus to bring people to seek after Him. Pray that His Word may bear fruit. Pray for church and other spiritual leaders in organisations like Evangelical Alliance, that they will be creative and winsome in the way they reach out to the unchurched through virtual services and in other ways and that the message will be clear. Pray also for individual Christians that we will be bold in our witness to friends and neighbours in a time of social distancing and that the Lord will use our conversations.