



Glasgow Street Pastors

Bulletin - 19 June 2020

Message about the current training sessions from Linda and Stuart

Earlier this week I attended the training for Scottish Street Pastors which looked at the conversations we may have as we come out of lockdown. It was a delight to scroll across the screen and see so many Glasgow Street Pastors there. I am aware that others attended on Wednesday and others of us will attend the Monday and Wednesday sessions this week. If you have not booked yourself a place, I can recommend the training as a good preparation for us all. (Link to book is on the email Stuart sent giving information.) I feel that the training crosses over into all areas of our life: family, friends, church, other organisations we may be involved with.

Trevor Betts led us through some of ways people may be feeling as well as some of the questions which may arise in conversation: Was Covid-19 from God? If God is good, why did he allow Covid-19? If God is powerful and in control, why did he not stop it? Was God judging us -what did we do wrong? He also brought together the great truths about God which help us think through these kinds of questions.

Creation was good
We messed up
We were told to look after it
Our choices still cause suffering
God didn't abandon us
Jesus came, suffered & wept
The cross shows a God who cares, suffered & won
God can bring good out of evil
There is a struggle between God & the enemy
-we can help
Death is not the end
One day every-thing will be put right
God is loving & all powerful
God provides comfort, hope & grace
Love means choices & risk
??? Mystery



And as we think of ourselves in the city centre, in conversation we do so as we always do by grace and by meeting people where they are.

I do hope you found/or will find the training worthwhile.

Feedback:

At the end of the training session there was an opportunity to comment and ask questions. At the training I attended, some of these were very practical and considered operational matters. As this was an event covering Scotland, some of these matters may have a local context. Please forward any particular questions or comments to Stuart or myself which you feel are relevant to GSP as we continue to with our next steps.



Regular giving: continued thanks to all who give to GSP on a monthly basis or as one-off gifts. Our finances are only being used just now to cover our financial commitments; it is important that we maintain this. As with other charities, our donations have gone down. If you are in a position to give to GSP, that would help as we move forward. This can be set up easily: bank details and gift aid information are available from Willie.

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

My thanks to you all for all you do for GSP.

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 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 we move into phase 2 of the easing of lockdown, we have to guard against the possibility of a second wave of the virus if we emerge too quickly. There is evidence of a second outbreak in both China and Iran. So our government has to balance the dangers of a second spike of Covid 19 against the social and economic cost of keeping the lockdown in place too long.
- With the help of Trevor Betts in Northern Ireland, ATS are providing Zoom-based training for Street Pastors entitled *Coming Out of Lockdown*. This is a really important session for us because, although the detailed considerations for each street pastor initiative will vary, it is important that we all follow a consistent route out of lockdown. This training is likely to be repeated to maximise the number of street pastors countrywide who will be able to attend.
- Karen Anderson, leader of Friday Team 2, has been co-opted onto the GSP Management Team. She will be joining the Finance Group. Additional expertise is needed in this area because Willie Henry is required to stand down as a member of the Management Team at the end of 2020.

Please pray:

- That our Governments in Westminster and Holyrood will follow the scientific advice in deciding how much to relax the lockdown. Pray that the Lord will intervene to stop a further wave of Covid 19 cases and pray also that people will follow the rules and not assume that the danger is over. Pray particularly for the issues that concern us as street pastors - the pressure to open up restaurants, bars and, ultimately clubs and to relax the 2 metre rule. Pray also for homeless people and others with mental health issues that they will be looked after in an appropriate way and that as a nation we can address the problem of rough sleepers
- That there will be a good response from street pastors to this training opportunity and that the discussion aspect of the training will be appropriate to enable ATS to develop policies that are suitable for Scottish street pastor initiatives as we emerge into an uncertain situation.
- For Karen as she joins the Management Team and brings her expertise to the group. Give thanks that she is willing and able to join with us and pray that she will be blessed in this service, even as she is a blessing to the team.