



Glasgow Street Pastors

Bulletin - 3 July 2020

From Linda

I am sure we were all shocked about the incident in the city centre last Friday. It was a tragedy for all concerned which affected some of the most vulnerable people in the city. It was good to engage in prayer even as the situation was ongoing: for all those involved and for the safety of those who were in the hotel.

You were probably aware of seeing SGT in many of the reports. Support was given to police officers there for a coffee, use of toilet facilities and just to have a bit of down time in the midst of what was a very traumatic time. Two of our Street Pastors supported this. My thanks to them for stepping into this role and to the others who were ready to do so.

I am sure there will be ongoing concerns following this tragedy and its something that we should keep in mind for prayer and as we move forward as a city.

I am pleased to tell you that 400 Street Pastors across Scotland attended the recent online training about coming out of lockdown and about conversations we may have. Thank you for the feedback you have sent me to date. This will help inform our thinking as we plan for next steps.

Ascension Trust has produced guidelines and risk assessment material to support initiatives as we see some restrictions lifting. Work is in hand to look at a city centre context and to identify the need there.



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 from Stuart

During a Prayer Gathering with other GCM volunteers on Tuesday 30 July the following information was shared.....

- The arrangement with the city centre hotel being used for accommodation for homeless men and women will continue until August.
- Many using this service had already been housed in emergency/temporary accommodation but had to be brought to a central location as the temporary B&Bs etc had to close down due to COVID 19.
- The effort now is to get individuals back to the normal forms of accommodation for those declared homeless as soon as these begin to open up again.
- Street Outreach teams have been operating in shifts and have reported a very different 'feel' to the city centre.
- During the day those using the hotel service are out on the streets gathering often in groups.
- Significantly the presence of the 'familiar faces' from GCM has been appreciated and the questions is repeatedly asked, 'when is the building opening again'?
- Heroin is not so readily available; sadly however, new drugs are appearing and an increase in the use of what were called 'legal highs' has returned. This has a profound effect on those with existing mental health issues.
- Reports of increased numbers of overdoses were confirmed.
- Prayer was requested for wisdom for the teams as they go out, to know which roads to walk and who to engage with.



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.

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

- A week ago, we experienced a shocking act of violence in our city centre when a stressed asylum seeker attacked random people with a knife. Tragically, although no one else was killed, the man lost his life in the incident, which highlights the need to continue to support asylum seekers in our city.
- The current hotel arrangements for homeless people are likely to continue until the end of August but thereafter it is not clear what long term solutions can be put in place. Homeless people currently in hotels are meeting up outside in groups during the day and some new "legal high" substances are appearing on the streets. This is impacting on the mental health of already vulnerable people and there has been an increased number of overdoses.
- As we emerge from lockdown a great deal of work is being done on risk assessments in relation to the opening of businesses, restaurants and pubs in the city centre to safeguard against the danger of triggering a second wave of infection

Please pray:

- For the full recovery - both physical and psychological - of all those injured in the attack. Pray also for the way in which asylum seekers are being looked after in our city. Pray that, as lockdown eases, they will be able to return to flats and have more control over their own lives. Pray that we can make sure counselling is available to asylum seekers as they are living in a highly stressful and uncertain situation. Pray also that asylum applications can be dealt with speedily and fairly, bearing in mind that most of these people are fleeing situations that are extremely dangerous for them and their families.
- Pray for the homeless people in our city that steps can be taken by government and charities to come up with a long term solution to the problem that will be effective. Pray against the proliferation of drugs on our streets - "legal" or otherwise - and that the mental health of homeless men and women can be addressed in a more systematic way. Pray also for wisdom for the City Mission workers on the streets that they will know which roads to walk and who they should engage with.
- Pray for our government in Holyrood as they liaise with medical and scientific advisers on how best to open up businesses while minimising the risk of re-infection. Pray that, as rules are relaxed, the people will remain vigilant and comply with the new regulations. Pray for the Street Pastors as we interact with Police and the Council to explore the extent to which we can resume part of our work safely and/or offer our service of listening caring and helping in a slightly different context.