



Glasgow Street Pastors

Bulletin - 28 August 2020

From Linda

Day Patrol - personal reflection:

I met my SP partner for the patrol in the car park just beside Glasgow City Mission. We spoke about his experience of meeting people right away on the walk towards the city centre. And that, indeed, was the case.

We spoke to people on the way and had our first full conversation with a lady under the Central Station bridge.

This was a lady known to me from Safe Zone. We have had many conversations inside SZ and outside on the pavement at SGT. I immediately felt glad to see her and silently thanked God that she had remained safe over lockdown. We shared some chat and some laughter and that was her need for that moment. Our shift continued meeting people known to us and meeting people for the first time. One of those first time encounters was with a small group of homeless young men who had made their way to Glasgow and were unsure how to contact services. We chatted with them and were able to give them a list of numbers they could use. I could go on

I found the day time shift different in a very positive way: meeting people in a calm context alongside doing what we are used to ... meeting people where they are. I look forward to my next day patrol



You may be interested:

Elaine Nicoll has had her book published: Reflections of Life.

Elaine has written poems many of which "acknowledge the impact of my Christian life and thinking ... also have attempted to show it as a humble relationship." Elaine has also listened to other people's stories and has "attempted to capture their hopes, despairs, joys and frustrations." There is a challenge in each poem to help us all help each other through the journey.

Contact Elaine if you would like more information or to obtain a copy of her book. (elaine@brutix.com)

David Anderson has completed his third CD of music and songs: The Revelation

Part 1: The Gospel

Part 2: The Apostles

Part 3: The Revelation

Contact David for more information or if you would like a free copy. (david@theloveandthelight.co.uk)

Stories from the Streets

Stories from the Streets is an insight into the work of Street Pastors and is on track to be published at the end of November. There will soon be a website at www.storiesfromthestreets.org about the book. Stuart has contributed to this book. Something to look out for!

And from Stuart

- During the month of August, 32-day time shifts of two hours will have been completed by 19 Street Pastors supported by Prayer Pastors on each occasion. This includes teams out every Saturday and Sunday afternoon.
- Due to restrictions, teams are not carrying bags with our usual supplies, which means the main 'give away' item has been time to 'listen, care and help' where possible. This includes:
 - praying, listening to people sharing their 'stories', phoning 999 for ambulances, contacting friends, empathising with those sitting on the streets for hours but making no money from begging, (£10 in a day is now seen as an achievement) signposting to other agencies and supporting those going through life defining 'moments' on the journey to freedom from addiction are part of a day time patrol.
- Results of GSP Survey. Of those canvassed.....
69% available for patrol from 25 Sept onwards.
40% 'no concerns' about returning to night time patrols, 30% concerned about physical distancing, 11% personal safety and 19% 'other'.
95% satisfied with measures put in place to safeguard wellbeing.
- First limited night-time patrols will take place on 25/26 September unless Government guidelines/circumstances change.
- The Simon Community 'closed the doors' (Thurs 27) on the emergency accommodation at the Ibis hotel put in place during lockdown. All guests have been accommodated and do not need to return to the streets!
- Stuart will be attending a Glasgow City Centre Planning steering group meeting on 24 September with Police Scotland and other agencies to discuss easing out of lockdown and festive planning arrangements.

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

PRAY



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.

willie.henry@gsp.scot

The finance team continues to meet in advance of each Management Team meeting to keep a close eye on our financial resilience across this time.

God bless you as we experience the changes with the easing of restrictions.

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

Linda Burke

linda.burke@gsp.scot

07870269546

Chair - Glasgow Street Pastors

SCO39983



Context for prayer

- Daytime patrols are continuing and we have been able to cover every day for two hours at least. We have been continuing to meet a lot of homeless people and we are increasingly being recognised by those whom we encounter as being people who are there to help.
- We are currently exploring the possibility of restarting our evening patrols later on in the Autumn. This requires a lot of planning, risk assessment and prayer. We are developing procedures and protocols that will fit the current coronavirus environment and we are prepared to be as flexible as possible so that we can respond to changing situations on the ground. This is a particularly difficult time for individual street pastors, as they have to personally decide whether they are able to continue to walk the streets meeting the public in a pandemic situation.
- There is a great deal happening within GSP at present. Stuart and Lorna are busy and are taking account of the changes in our operating environment. Stuart is liaising regularly with the Police, the Council and partner agencies. In addition, we have recently changed the legal status of GSP to a SCIO and there are loose ends to be tidied up in relation to that.

Please pray:

- For the pastors out on day time patrols that they will be kept safe from infection as they interact with people on the street. Give thanks for this new opportunity for service and pray for the Lord's guidance on how we might be able to maintain this aspect of our work going forward.
- For the Management Team as they develop procedures for possible night time working, that they will be able to combine rigour and flexibility in risk assessments and safety planning. Pray also for the individual street pastors, that they may have wisdom in assessing whether they should continue to operate on the streets in the night-time economy. Pray that if they decide to step down from patrolling they will find other avenues of service within the street pastor family or elsewhere.
- Pray for Stuart and Lorna that the Lord will continue to sustain them at this time of change. Give thanks for the smooth transition to a SCIO and pray that the Lord will help us to complete the detailed finalisation procedures without problems. Give thanks also for the way the Lord has sustained GSP financially during this time of lockdown.