



Glasgow Street Pastors

Bulletin - 6 November 2020

AT PRAYER MEETING - from Stuart

Ascension Trust is the name of the organisation which started Street Pastors and whose CEO is Rev Les Isaac OBE. That's as much as many of us know about 'AT'. In my role as co-ordinator, I have had contact and dealings with almost every member of the Ascension Trust 'team' but on Tuesday this week something was added to my relationship with them.

Every Tuesday a prayer gathering is held from 12:00-13:00 which includes staff and other members of the Street Pastor family from across the country. I had been asked several months ago to share about GSP and bring a devotional thought too. Of course, this was a Zoom prayer gathering! As well as talking about our journey during the first lockdown and beyond, I spoke from Judges 7 on Gideon and the theme 'it doesn't take great numbers to do great things for God'.

The rest of the hour was led by a member of staff who gave us topics to pray for in five-minute sections during which we were invited to 'unmute ourselves' so that a cacophony of prayer ascended to heaven before each section was closed by a single voice. We prayed for our nation and its leaders and for the USA election. We prayed for those working with young people and the difficulties being experienced in supporting them during lockdown and we prayed specifically for people with disabilities who felt isolated due to restrictions. We cried out to God for the co-ordinator from Kettering who informed us that her husband had been released from hospital to be at home for the last days, weeks of his life and we prayed for Street Pastor initiatives across the country. Les Isaac brought the time together to a close by exhorting us to be 'optimistic rather than pessimistic' a message he believed needed to be heard throughout the country at this time.

The experience reinforced for me that we are not simply part of an organisation or ministry but a family and to use the old but true cliché, the family that prays together stays together. To use another cliché, 'I'll be back!'



IN DAY 2021

At our MT meeting we agreed that the In Day on 30 January 2021 would be held 'electronically' either by Zoom or live feed.

- Two one-hour sessions with a break in between, the first session being our AGM.
- Reports to be emailed out in advance and posted on the members section of the website.
- Questions on reports to be taken during session 1. These could be submitted in advance.
- Session 2 to focus on the theme GSP Fit for the Future.
- A time for reflection and rededication through a variety of experiences including time for 'group chats'.

More details to follow as plans develop but remember the date....30/1/2021.

Management Team meeting - Tuesday 3 November

- WESP (West End Street Pastors): ongoing communication with WESP in advance of welcoming them to be part of GSP.
- AT online training: Stuart attended a pilot session. AT is developing online training over the next 2 years.
- SCIO: we are completing the last part of the process which concerns our banking. Almost there!
- Finances: the finance team continues to monitor our finances carefully. Our accounts to June 2020 are in the final stages of being examined. Thanks to all on the team and to Lorna for keeping things up to date.
- Day patrols are continuing over the weekend period. If anyone is interested in finding out more, please contact Stuart or Linda. We are closely monitoring updates around restrictions and will make changes to patrols in line with this.
- Our thanks for long service goes to Susan Ralston and Robin Easton who have both decided to retire from GSP. Blessings to Susan and Robin.
- Team Leaders meeting will be on Tuesday 24 November.
- Good news!! We have been awarded a grant by the Mary Brown Trust to update our IT and office equipment. This is all about preparing us as we move towards 2021 - GSP, Fit for the Future. As stated above, looking forward with optimism. This award is a great blessing for us. Thanks to Stuart and the team for the work associated with the application.
- InDay: please note the date - Saturday 30 January 2021. This is a day for us to connect on a wider level with one another and with our way ahead.



Regular giving: continued thanks to all who give to GSP on a monthly basis or as one-off gifts. Your giving is greatly appreciated. Our finances are only being used just now to cover our financial commitments. 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)

It was agreed at last month's Management Team meeting that we should simplify our banking arrangements and use our account with the Charities Aid Foundation (CAF) Bank for all of our banking. Donations should no longer go into the Bank of Scotland account. CAF Bank is dedicated to serving charities and not-for-profit organisations.

From now on all donations to GSP should be sent to the following account at CAF Bank.

Account Name: Glasgow Street Pastors SCIO
Bank Sort Code: 83-91-46
Account Number: 20401096

Thanks to everyone who has already made the necessary banking changes to direct their giving to the CAF account.

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.

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

God bless you as we experience the changes in our daily lives.

Linda Burke

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Context for prayer

- GSP are continuing to operate two hour daytime patrols, but these are now being restricted to Friday, Saturday and Sunday. To comply with social distancing requirements we are going out in teams of two, supported by prayer pastors. Daytime patrols have been a really fruitful extension to our work, as we are encountering people whom we would not have met during our night time patrols. We are continuing to monitor the coronavirus situation and may have to stop patrolling for a time if the infection rate worsens.
- One of the main concerns for the Management Team is to make GSP fit for the future in an environment which is likely to be very different from the situation pre-March 2020. We have recently been awarded a substantial grant by a Trust, which will enable us to upgrade our computer and office equipment as part of this exercise. However, we also need to make our teams fit for the future and our next Team Leaders' meeting will be held on 24 November, at which we will be exploring how best to build up leadership to meet the changing demands of the city.
- Glasgow City Mission are opening a Glasgow Overnight Welcome Centre for homeless people on 1 December. The plan is to stay open until the end of March 2021. This Centre will be located on a floor of a City Centre hotel and 25 beds will be provided. Currently there are around 600 homeless people being accommodated in hotels in our city.

Please pray:

- For the day time patrols, that they will be able to continue. Give thanks for the ways in which the Lord has used the daytime patrols to reach people, and offer help and support. Pray that the management team will be sensitive to the changing Covid situation so that we can make the right decisions as to whether patrols should be suspended.
- For the GSP Management Team, as they decide how best to prepare street pastors for the future needs of the city. Pray that they will have wisdom in developing policies and organising training for the street pastors. Pray for the team leaders meeting on 24 November, that we will be able to begin discussion on this. Give thanks for the grant that has been awarded to GSP and pray that we will invest effectively in upgrading our equipment.
- For the new Overnight Welcome Centre that it will operate successfully and may form a prototype for other similar ventures in Glasgow and across the country. Pray that the Scottish Government in conjunction with charities, may be able to develop policies that will provide a sustainable long term solution to the scourge of homelessness.