

Glasgow Prayer Pastors



Prayer Guide

2017

1. Praise, Thanks and Focus

As a starting point we should thank the Lord for His love and care for the whole of creation, particularly humanity, for our wonderful salvation and for the way He has opened up the opportunity for us to take His love onto the streets of our city in practical ways.

Thanks for God's love and care for His creatures

- Thanks for God's common grace to all men – air, water, food, sunshine, seasons etc
- Thanks for God's interest and awareness of what is going on – not a sparrow falling without His knowledge
- Thanks for God's care for all men, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to a knowledge of the truth
- Thanks that God cares for both the spiritual and physical needs of men and women and that He has called us to minister to both of these.
- Thanks for sending the Lord Jesus to die for our sins and be raised to life for our justification.
- Thanks for the ongoing support the Lord gives His people – sending His Spirit into our hearts, as a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance and His commitment to work in all situations for our good and His glory.
- Thanks for the ongoing work of the Spirit in convicting people of sin, righteousness and judgment.

Praise for the opportunities given to Street Pastors

- Praise for the opportunity to bring the Gospel to the streets in 21st century secular Scotland
- Praise for the opportunity for God's people to bring the Gospel to strengthen their faith by engaging in active witnessing (as per 1 Peter 3:15-16)
- Praise for the chance to show God's love in practical, caring ways and to make a difference to the lives of those we are in contact with.
- Praise for the willingness of people to listen and to engage with the message
- Praise for the opportunity to bring hope by listening, caring and helping people, restoring their humanity and dignity.
- Praise for the opportunity to pray with and for people and their willingness to be prayed with/for.
- Praise for the opportunity to bring God's peace to the city, for the reduction in crime rates in places where street pastors operate and for our cities becoming safer places as a result.
- Thanks and praise for the positive attitude of the other members of the urban trinity (Council and police) towards street pastors and the strongly co-operative relationships that exist.
- Thanks for the Spirit's protection over 8 years for street pastors walking the streets of Glasgow, intervening in difficult and fraught situations.
- Thanks for each street pastor, for their commitment, love and care and their trust in the Lord to accomplish great things through them.
- Thanks that the Lord has resourced the work in terms of personnel, finance and premises and enabled the work to expand through the Safe Zone and the commitment of St George's Tron Church.

2. The Work of the Holy Spirit

Without the work of the Holy Spirit in our city our work would be much more dangerous and well-nigh impossible. In this section we should pray for the Spirit's continuing activity in the city in connection with the work of Street Pastors. We should focus on the work of the Spirit this night, as we are praying.

The work of the Spirit in relation to the people on the streets

Pray that the Holy Spirit will:

- move over the city to bring an atmosphere of calm and peace and frustrate Satan's plans to sow chaos and unrest;
- work in the hearts of individuals to reduce aggression, self-assertion and excess, that they may have a good time without spoiling the night for others, or damaging themselves;
- bring a spirit of co-operation to relationships, that couples and friends may stay together harmoniously and look out for each other;
- frustrate the activities of predators, so that vulnerable people, particularly young girls, may be protected from harm;
- work against the activities of criminals on the street, such as thieves, troublemakers, people traffickers, and drug dealers and expose their behaviour to the police, so that action can be taken.
- protect homeless people on the streets from abuse by revellers;
- garrison the hearts and minds of individuals with mental health issues such as depression, protecting them from self-harm and enabling them to encounter street pastors or others who can help;
- bring needy people generally to the attention of the street pastor teams

The work of the Holy Spirit in relation to the street pastors

Pray that the Holy Spirit will:

- infuse the heart of each street pastor with the love of Christ for the people they will come in contact with;
- give wisdom and discernment to street pastors to know how to speak to different people with different needs. May they treat each person as an individual for whom Christ died;
- enable street pastors to remember what they have learned in training and not to breach protocols, so that they may operate safely and harmoniously on the streets;
- promote harmony within street pastor teams so that team members from different denominational backgrounds may be able to focus on the great truths that unite them rather than the small points of doctrine or practice that separate them;
- foster a spirit of care and support within prayer pastor teams, that they may operate as a team, supporting one another in prayer and in action;
- help street pastors to support their team leaders, being ready to comply with decisions without complaint and to offer suggestions in an atmosphere of support rather than confrontation;

- facilitate solutions to problems encountered by street pastors, enabling individuals' needs to be met;
- enable street pastors to show an attitude of co-operation and support to police, taxi rank marshals, club doormen and other officials working the streets so that the current positive relationships may not be damaged by careless words or attitudes;
- raise up more individuals to be street pastors.

3. The team

Prayer for the team should focus on each individual team member by name. Prayer pastors should ascertain at the start of the evening which street pastors are out and whether they have any issues which require to be prayed for – e.g. physical ailments that could limit them on the streets; other life issues that they may find difficult to leave behind them.

The overall team leader

Pray that the overall team leader:

- may be delivered from tiredness or apathy and may be able to inspire their team members to the task to which God has called them;
- will have a good understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of individual team members, so that they can use them effectively;
- will show wisdom and discernment in allocating individuals to small teams, so that the best use is made of the gifts and strengths available;
- may have wisdom in deciding where to send each small team and how to use cycle pastors effectively.

The small team leaders

Pray that the small team leaders:

- will be inclusive and make sure that all their team members are given opportunities to minister;
- will take particular care of new or inexperienced team members to ensure that they develop their gifts and are not left isolated in difficult situations;
- will be supportive of their team members as they minister to the needy, organising prayer for them and keeping an evaluative eye on the developing situation;
- will have the judgment and discernment to know who to approach and how, and to assess when to prolong or terminate a conversation;
- will have the discernment to identify the most appropriate response to people in need – whether to give on the spot help, take them to the Safe Zone or call an ambulance;
- will remember to keep prayer pastors informed by phone or text to ensure that situations are prayed for as they arise.

Individual street pastors

Pray:

- for each street pastor by name, that the Lord will strengthen them for the work to be done that night;
- for any known issues that affect individual street pastors, that the Lord will over-rule and enable the person to work effectively for Him;
- that street pastors will have the stamina to cope with hours walking the streets at night and that they will be able to maintain concentration so as to keep themselves safe and to identify situations where they may be able to help;
- that they will be able to show true Christian love to those they encounter and not react with coldness or judgment to the folly or awkwardness of needy people;
- that they may have courage to step into situations outside their comfort zone to bring relief;
- that they may have judgment, wisdom and discretion in knowing how to speak to and to pray for people in need;
- that they may have willingness to listen to those in need and give them their full attention;
- for a spirit of love, tolerance and co-operation within the teams, that differences of doctrine and practice may not become issues of contention;
- that street pastors will be alert to potentially dangerous situations and conversations and that they will be protected from physical or verbal abuse;
- that street pastors working in the Safe Zone will be an effective witness, by what they say and the attitudes they adopt, to the police officers and first aiders on duty with them;
- for cycle pastors on the streets, that they and their bikes will be kept safe and that they may be able to reach urgent situations quickly and make a difference.
- That individual street pastors may not be so focused on evangelism that they lose sight of the primary aims of listening, caring and helping.

4. **The people we meet**

Prayer for people in situations that cause problems in our city centre is covered under Section 2 above on the work of the Holy Spirit and prayer for individuals encountered by street pastors is made in response to phone calls, texts and radio messages received throughout the evening. This section considers the individuals that street pastors will meet, whether needy or working and their attitude towards the street pastors.

Needy people

Pray that:

- needy individuals approached by street pastors will react positively to offers of help and appreciate the motivation of the pastors;
- friends and companions of needy individuals may realise and appreciate the support being offered and co-operate with the street pastors;
- needy individuals and their friends will be willing to talk about spiritual issues and that street pastors will be given the opportunity to speak about the Lord and His love;

- the reputation of street pastors among the people on the streets may continue to be enhanced and that there may be goodwill towards the pastors and the work they are doing.
- University Christian unions and university chaplaincies at Glasgow, Strathclyde and Glasgow Caledonian Universities will be able to support students, especially those who are living away from home and strengthen their faith, preventing them from having feelings of isolation and loneliness.

Officials working on the streets

Pray for the police, door stewards, taxi rank marshals, ambulance staff, taxi drivers and others working the streets, that:

- they will have wisdom, patience and good humour in dealing with difficult people;
- they will be protected from harm and abuse on the streets;
- the positive and co-operative relationships with street pastors which presently exist may continue to develop and may not be damaged by careless comments or inappropriate attitudes;
- ongoing relationships between individual street pastor teams and door stewards may develop and that individual street pastors will have an opportunity to minister to these people

5. Street Pastor Media Relations

Relations with the media are extremely important. The work of street pastors is coming to the attention of producers of TV and radio programmes and to the press, and we are keen to encourage and develop this. However, we also need wisdom to know how best to proceed and how to avoid accidental or even deliberate misrepresentation by those who may not be in favour of our witness.

Give thanks that:

- the secular media are interested in the work of Street Pastors and that coverage to date (e.g. in “The Street” and on Radio Clyde) has been supportive and fair;
- the feedback from people on the street on the coverage to date has also been positive.

Pray that:

- this interest may be sustained and that they may realise the benefits that street pastors bring to the city in terms of making the streets safer, helping vulnerable people and reducing crime;
- individual street pastors may be given wisdom in interacting with the media, so that the work of street pastors is not misrepresented;
- street pastor leaders will be given the ability to know the best ways of engaging with the media and to build up relationships with particular reporters who are willing to be supportive of the work;
- street pastor leaders may have discretion to avoid engaging with the media in such a way that our work is used as a vehicle for sensationalised reporting on the city’s problems;
- our work may be protected from the attentions of anti-Christian forces who may try to prevent us from witnessing about the Lord Jesus and who may provide distorted reporting of our work

to suggest that we are forcing “religion” on vulnerable people, making unsubstantiated claims for healing and deliverance etc;

6. Leadership of Glasgow Street Pastors

Glasgow Street Pastors is run by the co-ordinator, Stuart Crawford, and a eight-strong management team. The management team comprises Linda Burke, Alastair Duncan (Chair), Willie Henry (Prayer Pastor Co-Ordinator), Alastair Johnstone (Secretary and Cycle Pastor Co-Ordinator), Ruth Kelso, Elaine Nicoll (Vice-Chair), John Ralston (Treasurer), Linda Todd.

Give thanks for:

- the appointment of Stuart Crawford as co-ordinator, as he brings fresh vision and energy to the work of GSP;
- the accommodation provided at St George’s Tron church;
- the opening of the Safe Zone in the church and the opportunity to extend our help to the people and witness to the police and first aiders in attendance;
- the continuing financial support for the work;
- the adoption of street pastors as a designated charity by the Church of Scotland Women’s Guild, providing opportunities for spreading the news about street pastors and their work;

Pray for:

- Stuart as he develops our procedures and protocols, that they may operate effectively and be well received by the street pastor teams;
- Stuart as he recovers from illness, that he will be fully restored and that he will remain healthy and strong in the months and years ahead.
- Stuart as he establishes relationships with the police, council, media and other group, that these relationships will be positive and long lasting and form a strong foundation to underpin the developing work of GSP;
- Mary Tonner as she works as administrator, in particular managing deputation dates, that she will be given the strength to do this work;
- the management team as they develop and co-ordinate the work of GSP, that they will have the spiritual discernment to listen to the Lord’s guidance on how this should proceed;
- the management team as they seek to raise finance for the work, that they may be able to do this effectively;
- each member of the management team by name, that they will rely on the Lord’s leading and be given wisdom to manage and develop the work of Glasgow Street Pastors, Cycle Pastors and Prayer Pastors.
- the churches in the greater Glasgow area, that they may catch the vision for GSP and be more willing to engage in this work by encouraging their members to get involved and by praying systematically for us.

7. Situations causing trouble in our city

Many of the problems in our city are made worse by underlying conditions and long-term behaviour patterns that have locked people into a vicious circle that is impossible to escape. We need to pray about the issue, for those who are affected by it and also for the government and other bodies who are trying to alleviate the problems. Appendix 1 provides a list of organisations who are involved in tackling the undernoted issues. Pray for them as they operate in the city and pray also for the role of the church and street pastors in bringing help and support.

Pray for resolution to the following issues:

Homelessness

Abuse of alcohol and drugs

Chronic poverty

Family breakdown

Chaotic lifestyles

Lack of hope and self respect

8. Ascension Trust Nationwide

Street Pastors is a worldwide initiative, administered by Ascension Trust in London. The Scottish arm – Ascension Trust Scotland - operates from its headquarters in Perth. We are accountable to them and pay a percentage of our income to them annually.

Ascension Trust London

Pray for:

- the work done by the board of Ascension Trust as they co-ordinate the Street Pastor initiative. Pray that they will have the vision to take the work forward efficiently and the winsomeness to develop lasting positive relationships with government and other public bodies;
- the other spin off initiatives from street pastors including school & college pastors, response pastors and rail pastors, that these may be blessed by the Lord and provide a positive help to the community;
- relationships between Ascension Trust and other street pastor groups, that they may be positive and harmonious and that information, uniforms and other materials may be supplied efficiently as required;
- street pastor teams in Scotland and throughout the world, (particularly the teams in Glasgow West End and Paisley, whom we support in prayer) that they may be able to attract members and that they may be given the opportunity to make a positive impact on their communities.

Ascension Trust Scotland (ATS)

Pray for:

- the board of ATS and in particular CEO Sandy Scrimgeour, as they co-ordinate the work of street pastors in Scotland. Pray that they will have the vision to work with the London Trust, while catering for the particular needs of the Scottish street pastor groups;
- developing activities within Scotland, particularly the request for rail pastors from the Transport Police, that such requests can be met and the right people will be available to do this work;
- relations between ATS and the police, the Scottish government and other public bodies, that these may remain positive and supportive and that these bodies may continue to see the value of street pastor initiatives;
- relations between ATS and the individual street pastor groups, that these will remain harmonious and that there may be an efficient flow of information between the groups;