

Helping the homeless in our city

Well this is some sort of record, a third GCM newsletter in one month!

We are now starting to plan for a change back to some semblance of normality, we have been out on four outreach sessions this week and supported just under 90 people who have been out on the streets during the day (this figure isn't necessarily 90 different people, its just a total for the number of conversations, prayers, drinks and snacks that we have been able to give out).

The real joy that we have found by doing more regular outreach (usually we do 1 day a week plus Project Beacon), is that we have been able to spend more time than usual talking to people and offering them prayer. We can breakdown some barriers with the clients who don't want to come the the centre, either because they don't want to be with large groups of people, or because they might feel intimidated by the enclosed space.

Over the next few weeks we aim to continue finding out more about their lives and what brought some of them to the places where they are now as well as sharing the Gospel to offer them something to think about and we hope to offer them hope. When we have their stories we would love to share them with you, but it can be a slow and difficult process to get people to open up - one client this week told us he no longer works in months and years so has no idea how old he is or how long he has been sleeping rough. We think he has been on living rough for well over 20 years - through his own choice I hasten to add.

I am also really pleased to say that we will back to full strength next week as Lou and Elaine come back to work having been furloughed for the past 6 weeks. We needed to furlough staff just to keep some small element of financial security and we appreciate that the Government initiated the scheme to help us out.

When they come back on Monday they will hardly recognise the place since we have been working hard to give the centre a good sort out and have rearranged the offices and main hall - I haven't dare to touch the kitchen area because the consequences from Lou would be dire! :) Special thanks to Richard from the Foodbank who has improved the lighting in the hall significantly.

By being back to full strength we can then carry on with outreach work and within the next fortnight we can hopefully reopen the centre on a partial basis to restart doing takeout food and clothes. We just have to wait and see what the latest Government guidance says. On page 3 is a list of items that we would like to start asking for donations of please - at the moment we still don't need any clothes though.

Please continue to hold the guys, whatever their backgrounds and circumstances in your thoughts and prayers.

Take care,
Kevin

A Extract From A Testimony of a Special Person

Growing up for me there was no love in the house and my parents were very violent people, so i was very nervous at a early age. I knew Jesus was very special at primary school but i had difficulty saying prayer, so i really never felt safe.

Much later i found out that he was watching me all the time, and the only thing keeping me going was alcohol. I lost everything because of my drinking and found myself sleeping rough. I made several attempts to end my life.

Then on July 16th 2017 i found Jesus after having a spiritual awakening. I now volunteer at the Mission 3 days a week and il' also a cook at Mariners. I will always be grateful to Jesus for believing me and now i can help others.

This testimony is from one of our closest friends who has overcome all of the horrific things that have happened in his life. Through God he started helping us a volunteer and we were delighted when he recently moved into a new flat near the centre.

Outreach

We have taken a strategic decision to focus on doing as much outreach in the City as possible to help the clients out with snacks, drinks, underwear, sanitary products, sun cream and prayer. We are currently doing 4 sessions a week but aim to increase this over the next few weeks if we can. Thank you to the volunteers who have been in so far to help out. For more details about our outreach work please contact paula@gloscitymission.org.uk

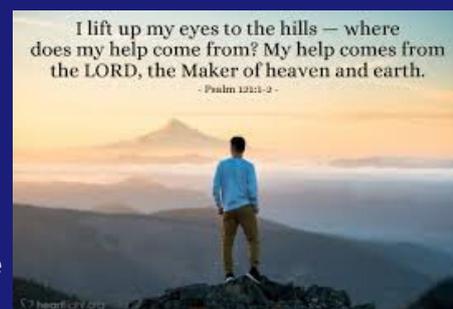


Prayer List

As well as praying for GCM's clients, volunteers and staff please also hold these people in your prayers. To add someone to the prayer list please email

GCMprayer1@gmail.com

- Clients in emergency hotels and those who have found themselves back on the street;
- Families who we cannot be with;
- All those who have lost someone to Covid19;
- Our volunteers and friends who are isolated;
- The Homeless Healthcare Team who continue to look after clients on the frontline;
- The Foodbank for the amazing work they are doing;
- Our Church leaders and their staff;
- The NHS, Care Workers and Emergency Services who are doing such an incredible job;
- All essential and key workers in schools, shops, the Government and everyone else keeping the country running;
- Darren, Pat and Eric, Jayne's son and daughter, Robin and Pete.



Donations Needed Please

It has been a long time since we asked but we could very much do with donations of the following items please to take out on outreach;

- Face Masks - to give out to clients during outreach and when we reopen - Please click on this link of how to make them here - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-52609777>
- Sun hats (Baseball style caps)
- Sun tan lotion (mini bottles - only £1.49 in Aldi at the moment)
- Small and Medium T shirts (or size 10 and 12 women's t shirt)
- Shorts

We still have quite a lot of kit in storage so these are the only items that we are short of at the moment.

We regularly put out appeals for items on Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn so please follow us on those channels as well.

MONTHLY TEXT GIVING

We have set up a new Text Donate Appeal to encourage supporters to give a £1 or even a couple of pounds per month through their mobile phones. This will help us with cash flow and to keep us going in the future.

As we are sure you are aware, charities are under pressure at the moment due to Covid19 and the effect it has had on fundraising events but they still have to pay rent, wages and other costs.

Because this donation is done through your phone we hope that you might not even miss the amount that you are giving us :)

It is so easy to do, just; Text GLOSCM to 70085 to donate £3 a month
(Texts cost £3 (or the amount you donate) plus two standard rate messages)

If you would like to give another amount per month you can do this as well up to £20;

“To donate £1 a month text GLOSCM 1”

“To donate £5 a month text GLOSCM 5”“

To donate £10 a month text GLOSCM 10” etc

WWW.GLOSCITYMISSION.ORG.UK

PLEASE DONATE

£5 will pay for 3 meals

£10 will pay for fresh underwear, clothes, toiletries and a shower

£25 will pay for someone to get off the streets for a night during the winter months

Maybe you could sign up to give a monthly gift.

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Online www.virginmoneygiving.com/charities/gloscitymission

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By Text

To make a donation, text gloscitymission followed by the amount you wish to donate to 70085 (ie 'GLOSCITYMISSION 5' to 70085 to donate £5).

This costs £5 plus a std rate msg, you can opt to give any whole amount up to £20.

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It was really great to meet Sgt Blyth for Glos Police when he dropped off a tray of sandwiches for us to distribute with an outreach walk. :) We appreciate not just the donation but everything that the police do for us and the clients.



A special thank you to Ed at Jolliesocks who sent us 1000 pairs of great quality socks for us to give out as part of their Sock it To Homelessness campaign.



Thanks also to Quantock Christian Trust, Tesco and Asda for grants towards our work as well as all of the individuals and churches who have given this month.

PLEASE COME AND VISIT OUR ONLINE SHOP. YOU CAN BUY A WHOLE RANGE OF T-SHIRTS, HOODIES, PHONE CASES AND BAGS IN DIFFERENT COLOURS AND SIZES AND ALL PROFITS GO TO OUR WORK

WWW.GLOSCITYMISSION.ORG.UK/SHOP



Please take a few minutes to have a look at our website www.gloscitymission.org.uk Also follow us on



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