



The Newcastle Street Pastors Fellowship/Community

Unable to patrol the streets, Street Pastors Newcastle have been meeting online to pray every Tuesday since March, when we had to suspend patrols. We have seen God answer prayers many times. He will never forget us. Some street pastors have been serving God in new ways, some have been through difficult times, and it has been good to be able to support each other. We have also been able to pray specifically as requested by the police. Some of us have joined 50-100 people in national street pastor prayer meetings with our parent charity The Ascension Trust.

On the streets in August and September

Once the lockdown eased and pubs reopened in August, Street Pastors returned to the streets of Newcastle. To make this happen risk assessments were written, checked and approved, 12 volunteers were trained on how to use Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) correctly and how to function as best as we can whilst taking care of those who need our help. We talked with Street Pastor teams across the UK to learn from them as we made our plans.

We found that wearing PPE did not deter people from coming to us for help or a chat, and we were able to have some conversations to reassure those who were feeling vulnerable. On the three weekends we were out, we helped three vulnerable people, had three faith conversations, handed out nine space blankets, ten bottles of water, and nineteen pairs of flip flops. And disposed safely of 58 glass bottles.

“Come and sit by my feet,” said Jesus
“Come and spend some time with me.”
“Learn my voice and hear my word”
“Please come and talk to me.”

“But Lord,” said I,
“I’m far too busy, I have a job to do,
I have to speak to patients all day long,
Some rest is long overdue.”

“Come and sit by my feet,” said Jesus
“Come and spend some time with me.”
“Learn my voice and hear my word”
“Please come and talk to me.”

“But Lord,” said I,
“I have a child. He’s such hard work to get to
bed.
By the time I’ve sang him 16 songs,
Can I sit with Netflix instead?”

“Come and sit by my feet,” said Jesus
“Come and spend some time with me.”
“Learn my voice and hear my word”
“Please come and talk to me.”

“But Lord,” said I,
“I go to church, I do my serving there,
I sing songs to you, I plan events,
I even say the odd prayer.”

“Come and sit by my feet,” said Jesus
“Come and spend some time with me.”
“Learn my voice and hear my word”
“Please come and talk to me.”

“But Lord,” said I,
“It’s my free time! I’ve earned this you know,
I want to watch sport, and go for a walk,
And spend some time on my phone.”

“Come and sit by my feet,” said Jesus
“The world has now come to a halt,
You have no patients, there is no sport,
You can’t even go to the shops.”

“Come sit by my feet,” said Jesus
“You keep saying how you’re bored,
You’ve loads of time and nothing to do,
Come and be with your Lord.” by Carly Aswith



We always knew it was possible that the restrictions would be tightened again and unfortunately in mid September Street Pastors were asked to suspend our patrols again.

Street Pastors are on standby

Given the fact that the coronavirus is likely to be a feature of life for a considerable time to come, a flexible approach is needed to take account of changing circumstances and risks. Street Pastors are on standby and will begin patrols once restrictions are lifted.

Training for the future still continues

We have a 4 new volunteers waiting to be trained. The training will be more online, with limited face to face training due to the restrictions we still have in place.

It is encouraging for all of us that in this pandemic God is still prompting people to become street pastors.

Thank you all for your continued support.

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