



22.4.21

Dear All,

"All glory to God, who is able, through His mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think." Ephesians 3: 20

Apologies that it is so late in April to be writing and that this is not a full Update! We hope to have a May patrol rota and more news to share with you for prayer and praise early next month, but meantime, we will really appreciate your prayers for the following:

1. Preparation & Planning for the 're-opening' and reducing of lockdown restrictions. Partnership meetings with the police, council, etc. Wisdom and guidance for Inverness SPs (& elsewhere of course too) as individuals consider when, what, how, and even if, it's right for them to return to patrols - and for renewed relationships and teamwork for those who can start again soon. Strength for Mark, our coordinator, in contact, communication, and drawing up rotas, working on feasibility of using the Hub again, etc. (N.B. I hope that Mark will not mind me also mentioning that he and Sue have had some time of compassionate leave following several recent family bereavements, all in a short space of time, and they are grateful for understanding and prayer).

2. May Public Holiday W/e, Fri. 30 April - Mon. 4 May: It looks likely to be a busy weekend. People are permitted to travel and to book accommodation from the 26th April. Many city centre pubs are preparing beer gardens open to 10pm (and some are applying for 10:30pm). Saturday morning sees the return of the outdoor Farmers Market on Eastgate. We've had good weather recently and people are eager to leave lockdown. We're expecting a busy city centre. We are currently seeking to know if we will have enough SPs and PPs available (and patrol team leaders) to have some day-time and evening patrols during this w/e.

3. Love Inverness Management Committee Meeting (by zoom), Friday afternoon, 30 April: There are some important items on the agenda.

4. Prayer Walking: a few SPs & PPs & prayer supporters have been able to go 'informally' for short prayer walks in the city centre and Merkinch - hopefully Hilton/Inshes too - in preparation for the patrols going out. There is still room for more of these (if anyone is interested, please let me know). Or any of us may be able just to go out and about, shopping, etc. again and could spend a few minutes, as you do so, more intentionally praying. (*In case it is any help I have copied below some notes from a recent talk which Louise Isaacs gave during a SP National Prayer Gathering on zoom.)

I'm also attaching the Here to Serve newsletter for your interest - it includes a helpful suggestion on "Asking the right 'prayer question'".

With many thanks,

Marilyn

Marilyn Archer, Inverness Prayer Pastor Coordinator

(e-mail: prayer.inverness@streetpastors.org.uk Tel. 01463-417971, mob. 07933-771058)

*Louise Isaac – Fresh Vision

Genesis 13: 14-18 “After Lot had moved away...” – had been a difficult turbulent time; some relief that change was coming. Cf. pandemic time. What is God saying to us now, at this time? Cf. Abram – “Look as far as you can see in every direction ... I am giving all this land... to you and your descendants ... I will give you so many descendants ... Go and walk through the land in every direction, for I am giving it to you! ...”

Where we are as SPs/PPs has been given to us by God. **Stop, look, see with fresh eyes what is around us, spiritually and naturally.** Like moving to a new house/property – first view it, decide what to keep and what is to go, what needs to change. First remove what is harmful or what is in bad taste. We can change it because the property is now ours; we are God’s children. Meditate and believe again God’s promises in Eph. 1: 16-19. Have faith that we can be part of God’s plan for the places we are in; that we are stewards of what He has given to us. See both the places and ourselves with new eyes, with God’s perspective. Take authority in prayer, in Jesus’ Name, individually and together. Compassion and holy indignation to make change happen.

Go and walk through the land – literally, and/or in our mind and imagination - individually, with family member or friend, and as SPs/PPs. Name the things that need to go, that are spoiling the lives of the people living here (e.g. despair, rage, fear, anxiety, violence, domestic & youth violence, unemployment, poverty, addictions, etc.). As farmers, gardeners, etc. will know – first need to remove stones, weeds and clear the ground, before sowing or planting. Remove the rocks and weeds before evangelism and planting the Kingdom of God. Put God’s identity on the property – peace, joy, calling, righteousness in local govt, etc. Don’t leave cleared places empty, but pray something of God’s kingdom into the places. Remove AND plant, establish. See the potential in our area for good things.

In this new season coming, believe God afresh for our area. Walk through the community with fresh eyes, pray afresh. Go out and make these ‘spiritual exchanges’ and believe God to show this in the natural, to His glory.

Song: God of this city (Bluetrees) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zoe-h1gHh3o>