

Park Ministry Prayer Update

Last Sunday Jamie gave a passionate and heartfelt message, sharing some excellent wisdom on a Spirit-led response to homelessness. As a church, we continue to be committed to serving the homeless community in Parramatta through our weekly Park ministry. Although this happens offsite, it is very much a part of our heart as a church family and so we will keep everyone better informed throughout the year with park team updates like this one.



Thankfulness

There is much that is a cause of thankfulness as we reflect on Jamie's message and our park ministry - the privilege of being involved in people's lives; our own abundance and ability to share that with others; the generosity and practical support of so many; and the many stories of hope. We are also thankful that many from within this church have contributed by donating socks, clothing and other essentials over the years or by demonstrating practical care to the homeless in ways that are unknown to most of us. Join us in thanking and praising God:

- For Jamie's message on Sunday and our continued Park Ministry
- For the ways God is at work among those experiencing homelessness
- For those who have served in this ministry over many years, and for those who have recently joined the team
- For key volunteers like John Monk, Bruce Redding, Tracy Hillier and the Park Team leaders
- For the local business that support our ministry by donating food
- For the truth that God is at work in all of our lives, and lovingly values each of us; even those who some sections of society may deem "unlovely or beyond hope".

Be more informed or become involved

Coming out of last Sunday, we encourage you to become more aware of the needs of those experiencing homelessness and allow God to soften your heart as you do. One very practical way to do this is to talk to one of our park team about the ministry - ask them about what happens, why they do it, what some of the joys and challenges are, what the opportunities are and how to be praying for them.



If you were interested in finding out more, joining the Park Team or wanted to come along one Sunday to get a taste of what happens then please talk to Tracy (who is our wonderful Park Team Co-ordinator). You can also email her at tracyhillier@gmail.com for more information about what is involved.

Join us in Praying

Like any Ministry, our Park Ministry needs to be under girded by prayer. Thank you to those who already support our park ministry in this vital way. We believe that God is bigger than the issues facing the homeless community, and our desire to see God's presence powerfully breaking through in the lives of those we minister among requires the praying of big faith-filled prayers. So please join us in praying:

- For protection over those who serve and for those whom we serve
- For those caught in the cycle of homelessness that they will be set free
- For a continued and growing trust between us and our friends at the park
- For wisdom and spiritual discernment for those involved in this ministry
- That our friends at the park would get a taste of what God's love is like, and that we will always remember that Jesus gave His life for them
- For those who felt personally impacted by last week's message, that God would continue revealing how He is calling them to respond
- For our street chaplain Bruce Redding (and Gizmo) as he comes alongside the homeless during the week.

"And the King will answer them, 'I assure you: Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine you did for me' . Matthew 25:40