

# PRAYING FOR PEOPLE ON THE MARGINS OF SOCIETY

Use the points below to help you and your church to pray.

## 1 Pray for homeless and marginalised people across London

Rough sleepers in London have doubled over the past decade. Only a small proportion of those housed over lockdowns are now in settled or supported accommodation. Each one of these people has their own story, but they will all have a common experience of hurt and rejection. More than one in three people sleeping rough have been hit or kicked, a third of women have experienced sexual violence. The average life expectancy of someone living on the streets is just 45.

**Pray for God's protection over these men and women. Pray that men and women who have experienced so much hurt and rejection would hear and respond to Jesus' invitation to new life.**

## 2 Pray for Webber Street day centre for homeless people

London City Mission's Webber Street day centre in Waterloo opens its doors and welcomes in people who are homeless. It's a place where guests can enjoy a hot breakfast and some rest and relief from life on the streets – as well as a warm shower and a fresh set of clothes. It's also here where many hear the gospel for the first time, in the daily bible talks as well as through conversations with staff.

**Please pray for the staff and volunteers at Webber Street day centre and for more opportunities to share the gospel with guests.**

## 3 Pray for Brian, a former guest at Webber Street

After prison, Brian's addictions spiralled out of control, and he found himself living on the streets. He came to Webber Street because he needed somewhere else to eat and freshen up and noticed something different about the way people treated him there.

A team member explained who Jesus is – this was Brian's first step towards going to rehab and giving his life to God. Brian is now living independently, has a full-time job and is part of a church family. When he sees people who are homeless, he sits down and talks with them.

**Please pray for Brian in his day-to-day walk with the Lord and for chances to share his faith.**



## 4 Pray for churches across London

Churches can uniquely care for people who are homeless, because we can share the hope of new life in Jesus. The church has huge potential to reach out to people on the margins, to share the love of Christ with them. London City Mission is coming alongside churches to help them release this potential, so that more people like Brian can experience God's transforming work in their lives.

**Please pray for the churches across London reaching people who are homeless, and for more and more Christians to follow Jesus' lead.**

## 5 Pray for your own ministry to people who are homeless and marginalised

It can so often be difficult to know how to react to someone who is homeless. Should we give money? What should we think about them? Our hearts can quickly become harsh and judgmental. Jesus gravitated to people on the margins of society – being generous with his time. This is sometimes what people so often ignored, appreciate the most.

**Pray for your own heart towards marginalised people you might encounter. How can you and your church find ways to show them Christ-like love?**

Call **020 7407 7585**  
Email **churches@lcm.org.uk**  
Visit **lcm.org.uk/christmas**

London City Mission, Nasmith House, 175 Tower Bridge Road, London SE1 2AH

Registered Charity No. 247186



# PRAYING FOR MISSIONARIES

Below are a handful of prayer updates from LCM's missionaries working with churches to reach homeless and marginalised people.



## Rob Hooks, Missionary, Webber Street

"I met first Andrew\*, a regular guest at Webber Street, over 20 years ago. He recently reminded me of a question I asked him back then: "What is keeping you from following Jesus right now?" I was amazed that he remembered it – it's clear he's thinking about Jesus. Andrew recently started attending a local church. Please pray for him and others like him who are struggling with depression and addiction."



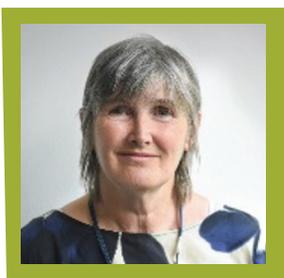
## Luke Carson, Prisons missionary, across London

"I have found that men leaving prison find it very hard to get properly involved with their local church, even those who have made firm decisions to follow Jesus while they were inside. There are two men I've been discipling who are very strong in their faith and who are actively sharing the gospel with other prisoners. They will both be released soon, so they need prayers of protection as they try to live as Christians. Our team has lots of ministry ideas; pray I would discern where to put my energy. Pray also for perseverance, and that God would give me strong relationships with key people across London, so more men can be reached."



## Anni Uddin, Missionary, east London

"As part of my ministry I have the privilege of getting to know extremely vulnerable women caught up in life-controlling situations. Many are involved in prostitution; some have been trafficked. I lead a team working with churches, and other organisations in east London, to reach women on the margins. We want to serve them lovingly, in a joined-up way. Pray for Tina\* whose son was murdered in prison. Tina is now attending church. Pray too for Amla\*, an ex-offender who wants to learn more about Jesus. I'm really excited about the prospect of opening a house with a clear gospel focus for women like this, to help them escape life-controlling situations."



## Carol McFarlane, Missionary, east London

"Paul ended up on the streets after his marriage broke down and he lost touch with his wife and children. It broke his heart. I found him sitting under a tree reading a Jehovah's Witness Bible. We have come to know each other, and I exchanged his Bible. He's avoided church because he felt ashamed of not being washed and clean. Pray he'd become a Christian and find a spiritual home in a local church. Working with marginalised people has brought my pre-Christian life back sharply into focus. I've come to see that God designs work for us to do in advance!."

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