

Clear Call

Do Yourself Some Good!



The Newsletter of
Manchester City Mission

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Director's Bit

Do Yourself Some Good!

"Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things." (Philippians 4:8 ESV).

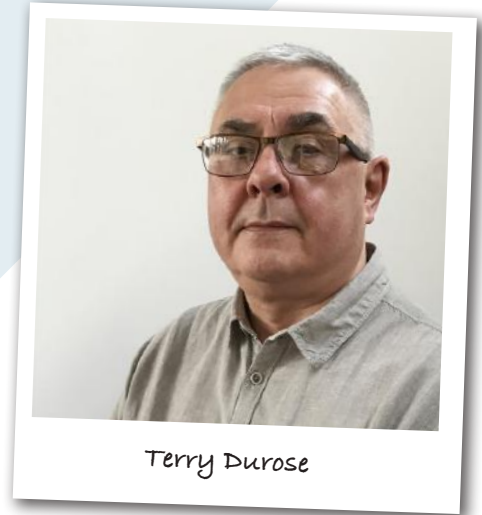
This is one of my favourite verses in the New Testament. It is directly linked with the promise that the God of Peace will be with us and, in a world that often stretches us to the limit, knowing something of God's peace is precious indeed.

Not that following this instruction is easy; apart from the constant diet of bad tidings from the news channels, we also have to contend with the mixed blessing of social media and the internet. We haven't even started on the things we watch to entertain ourselves!

It's as though we are hard wired to focus our attention on untruths, scandal and injustice. Our screens and our minds can soon become occupied by the impure, the ugly, the dubious and, though we are often surrounded by examples of excellence and praiseworthy behaviour, we spend little time focusing on them.

And it costs us dearly in terms of our daily experience of anxiety and stress, frustration and dissatisfaction.

So, at the beginning of this Spring edition of Clear Call, I'm inviting you to do yourself some good. The items in Clear Call are full of good news that lines up directly with Philippians 4:8. As you read about some of the fantastic things that God is doing, I pray that you will also know His presence and His peace.



Terry Durose

Insight

Based on Biblical truth, Insight is our training and equipping ministry. It includes:

- **Resonate**, our personal evangelism course
- **Working with HoPe**, a course for those working with, or wanting to work with, people who are experiencing homelessness.
- **The Five Question Podcast**, where Terry interviews leaders of prominent urban mission organisations asking them all the same five questions.

You can listen in to hear how Sam Ward (Director of Ministry at The Message), Jenny Herrera (CEO of Acts 435), Dave Silber (Chief Operating Officer at The Eternal Wall of Prayer) and Nigel Langford (Director of Domestic Mission at the Bible Society) answer these questions.

The 5 Questions Podcast

With
Terry Durose



Insight

“The Working with HoPe course has helped me to better understand the issues people experiencing homelessness struggle with on a daily basis.”

Dave Butt

On The Wing

Prison is seen by many as a place of dishonour. As prison chaplain it is part of Nick's ministry to listen, and seek to share, the Good News about Jesus who, despite doing no wrong, was sentenced to death by the most dishonourable of means.

The conversations that Nick has with prisoners are taken from an entirely different position to most other conversation that they will have. In seeking to give glory to God in all he does and says, Nick shows that there is a different way, a narrow way, but a way that leads to life.

There will come a time when Jesus will be honoured by everyone. Nick's work encourages the men he meets to make that step to honour Jesus now.

"They say prison doesn't work, but it does! I certainly don't want to come back, I have learned my lesson."

"I now have a wife and child to think about, it's time for me to man up and get my act together."



"...many want to do the honourable thing and live life differently in the future."

Nick Stirling



On The Wing



Nourish!

It's hard to accept the levels of food poverty experienced in this country:

- 16% of respondents to a recent survey were classified as food insecure
- The poorest 20% of households spend a higher proportion of their income on food and are thus more exposed to changes in food prices
- As at February 2021, there were over 2,300 food banks operating in the UK. They report increases in the number of food parcels distributed.



"I do work, but still struggle with money. The food club has made a massive difference to me and my family. It has made me feel better and valued. The Food Club has improved my mental health as I no longer have to worry so much about food costs, etc"



Nourish

"It has made a world of difference. Helped me sort my life out and stopped me worrying. Thank you to the people doing this, I would be distraught without it."

With rising food, fuel and energy costs it is easy to see how families and individuals can be left in the position of having to make tough choices. To many people it seems unfair.

The Nourish Food Clubs work for food justice in our society and do so in a way in which the members maintain their dignity and have choice.

Members come to the Food Club because they are struggling to survive on what they have available. There is no referral process, no need to convince anyone, simply come and ask to join.

For £3 members are able to do a weekly shop, selecting a specific number of items from a range of goods in each section. This element of choice is an important part of giving people their dignity back. We are encouraged that two local Housing Associations recognise these issues and are now involving themselves in supporting the Food Clubs by paying the annual £5 membership for their tenants.

Barry Matley



Barry is always looking for more volunteers for existing Food Clubs and for churches who would be interested in opening a 'Family Food Fayre' Food Club.

Restart



Restart

On the edge of society, in a world that is dark, dangerous and impure, Michelle and her team bring a message of purity, hope and light to people involved in sex work.

Jesus offers all of us the opportunity to exchange our filthy rags for his dazzling righteousness.

The Restart team looks to see this transforming power of God at work in the lives of these women and the eternal purity that comes as sins are wiped away.

As we consider the impact of Restart, let us remain focused on giving Glory to God for all that He does through the team.



Michelle Delaney

Michelle & Terry with Cll Arooj Shah, Ldr of Oldham Council & Laura Windsor-Walsh, Action Together



“Coming to the Drop-In has given me a life line, it gives my life purpose when I think about attending on a Friday.”

Narrowgate Support Hub



The Narrowgate Support Hub

As we write this edition of Clear Call the world watches on as Russia invades the Ukraine. Horrific images fill our screens and our hearts break at the stories of the relentless bombing of Mariupol and other cities.

It is far from a lovely world in which we live.

We are encouraged by the number of people in the United Kingdom who want to open their homes to refugees from Ukraine. This is a lovely response.

Having run the Narrowgate Night Shelter for so many years, Manchester City Mission has accumulated a huge amount of experience of working with asylum seekers, refugees and those escaping from the ravages of war. We thought it would be an expression of love to offer care, via the Narrowgate

One gentleman said "I don't know what I would do without you guys; you have done so much for me".

Support Hub, to any host families coming across difficulties.

Initially we can provide pastoral care through,

- A listening ear
- Prayer
- Signposting to appropriate services
- Access to our Food Clubs

As the process moves forward we would look to establish Support Groups as the refugees and their hosts deal with the effects of Post Migration Stress and isolation.

We would hope, as some hosts become more experienced with the process, that we can set up a Mentoring Scheme for them to provide support to newer hosts or those who may be struggling.

"The Hub has been a lifeline and a great encouragement."

If you or anyone you know wish to engage with this programme, please contact us on

- 0161 736 7959,
- mancitmis@aol.com

Or sign up using our contact form at https://bit.ly/MCM_HfU or by scanning the QR code below.



Narrowgate Next Stage Housing



The Narrowgate
Next Stage Housing

Cath Stirling



Despite the best efforts of our local authorities to eradicate homelessness, there are still many people in Greater Manchester who would, at best, describe their current accommodation as temporary or unsatisfactory. Barely a day goes by when the office phone doesn't ring with someone asking if we can help them, or someone they know, with accommodation.

Narrowgate Next Stage Housing effectively supports those who are experiencing, or at risk of experiencing, homelessness.

When recommending someone to a landlord it would be very easy to skim over their faults, however, Cath's honesty with landlords has helped to build a great reputation for this work; so much so that landlords are recommending her to other landlords.

It is always a moment for celebration when a landlord hands over keys to one of our clients knowing that someone we have supported can unload some of their stress and anxiety and start the next stage of their journey.

"Having my own place is all I've dreamed of... I will be forever grateful to Cath for all she has done."

"After five years involvement with MCM, I can say that my life has completely changed. I have become a Christian and, despite ups and downs, I am still following the Lord."

"They are not angels but we are there to support them." Cath

Groundbreakers

"You have gone above and beyond...", so said the teachers at a Tameside primary school where Mary had delivered two workshops on the Bible.

In the world of education, providing an excellent service is essential to being accepted in the staff-rooms and headteacher's offices across Greater Manchester.

Mary never forgets how, before Groundbreakers was launched in 2006, she found the thought of taking assemblies, training staff, producing online assemblies, and delivering mental-health workshops utterly daunting. However, Groundbreakers now delivers all these services and more, including the recently opened Soul Children Gospel Choir in Saddleworth.

It's clear to Mary and Debs that the excellent reputation of Groundbreakers is all down to what God has done.



Set for Experience Easter

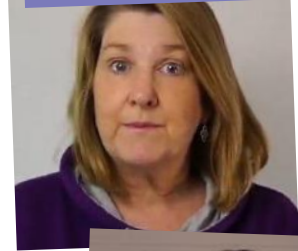
"It is such a joy working with Mary at Groundbreakers. Seeing the joy of the children when we walk in to assembly and how excited they are for Groundbreakers is awesome. They really engage with the stories and I believe that the love of Jesus is reaching their hearts."

Matt Pierce, Youth and Children's pastor, Elmwood Church

"You have worked so hard in producing your amazing assemblies and I want to thank you for such diligence and creativity. I know just how much RE leaders and schools have appreciated each one of your assemblies."

Maureen Hogarth, Manchester Diocese Education Dept

Debs Williams



Mary Butt

Operation Joy

Most would agree that helping people who are experiencing homelessness is a worthy cause.

Operation Joy does just that. Paul and Ryan go out onto the streets of Greater Manchester carrying items that may be useful, and speaking to those they meet.

They build relationships with the people, remembering things like birthdays, encouraging them and, most importantly, praying for them.

Having learnt that Paul and Ryan can be trusted, these contacts might then attend Ryan's Drop-In in Oldham or the Bolton Bethel Church coffee morning to meet with Paul.

These developing relationships have resulted in Operation Joy contacts engaging successfully with other services essential to their progress.

Operation Joy is focused on introducing those experiencing homelessness to the Lord Jesus who is worthy of all praise.

Operation Joy is focused on introducing those experiencing homelessness to the Lord Jesus who is worthy of all praise.

"Say a prayer for me..."

"I'm sick of making bad choices... I've seen the transformation God has done in you, and wonder if the God you serve can do that for you, could he do that for me?"

Paul Winter



Ryan Ackrill



Operation Joy



Ryan at Operation Joy Drop-In

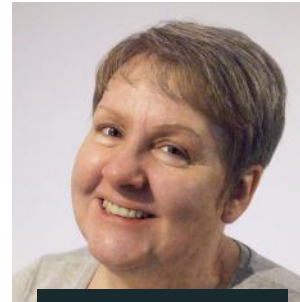
Get Involved!

How can you practically support the work of Manchester City Mission?

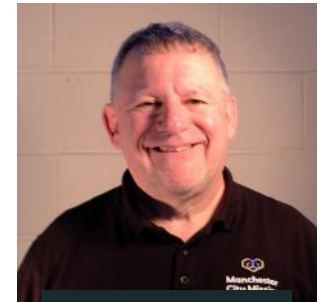
Could you lead a prayer meeting in your church? We can provide information packs that will be updated once a quarter, to give you everything you need to lead a prayer meeting for Manchester City Mission.

To keep up to date, why not make our website and social media sites favourites and see our daily news items.

To find out more about how you can practically support the work of Manchester City Mission contact Dave or Janet in the office.



Janet Durose



Dave Butt

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Rev. Alan Saunders; Rev. Chris Statter;
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