

Get Involved: Pray



EMBRACE Prayer Group September 2011

"Do not judge by appearances, but judge with right judgment." John 7:24

"Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven." Luke 6:37

I think it is fair to say that the majority of us passing someone sleeping rough will have a fleeting thought about that person's life. Questions such as, "how did things get this bad?" and "where was their family support?" are often meant in a sympathetic way, but often there is an implicit judgment of the person who has become destitute or on their families. We want answers to these questions because of our curiosity of the unknown and to distance ourselves from responsibility.

It has become clear to me from having contact with people living on the streets that these types of questions are not important to discover the answer to. Instead, it is important to focus on supporting those who have found themselves homeless, and to do this without judgment.

Contributed by Ashleigh Hunter

This month we give thanks for...

- The individuality of all people, whether destitute or homeless, and the unique life stories that they bring.
- The fantastic work of local organisations dealing directly with destitution and homelessness, including the Welcome Organisation, Homeplus, Simon Community, British Red Cross and St Vincent de Paul. Thanks should especially be given to the effective way in which all of these organisations work with each other.
- Those churches and individuals who have donated items to 'EMBRACE on the Street' throughout the years it has been running, providing sleeping bags, toiletries, clothing items, coats, food stuffs, towels, etc.

Please pray for...

- Strength and encouragement to those who have fallen on hard times.
- Families and friends worrying about a loved one that they have not heard from in a long time.
- Families and friends attempting to reach out and support those with alcohol or drug addictions.
- The continued enthusiasm of volunteers and staff involved in supporting the destitute and homeless.