

# RESPOND

*Hope for the homeless*

a resource from Manchester House of Prayer

N°001



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# RESPOND

Hope for the homeless

*"...Lord, I know that you defend the homeless and see that the poor are given justice."* **PSALM 140:12(CEV)**

One of the joys of prayer is that as we speak to God He shares His heart with us. And as He speaks, the things that are on His heart begin to burn within our own heart. One of the primary things that is on God's heart is justice and righteousness.

The challenge we then face is, how do we respond to the injustice we see in the world around us? Jesus taught us, in Luke 18, that the release of justice was connected to night and day prayer, so let's pray that the God of justice would bring forth justice and that hearts, especially our own, would be changed.

We want to press into God's heart for justice specifically for the issue of homelessness. Our intention is that this prayer guide will lead you to seek to pray for one of the most pressing social justice issues in our nation.

# HOMELESSNESS

Homelessness is a devastating and dangerous epidemic in our nation. On average, homeless people die at just 47 years old. People sleeping on the street are almost 17 times more likely to be victims of violence. Homeless people are over nine times more likely to take their own life than the general population.

Homelessness is a nuanced and complicated issue and there are many factors that cause homelessness such as the breakdown of relationships, lack of employment, mental and physical health problems, substance misuse and other social issues, like a lack of affordable housing and poverty. Whatever the cause, this is an issue that we as the Church should be fervently praying over for God's intervention and restoration.

We believe that God's heart is to see those caught in homelessness restored to fullness. To see families reunited and communities supporting each other. We can pray boldly for the healing of hearts

and minds, for the provision of homes and for that the Lord would direct our hearts and minds into His love and into the patience of Christ.

There is an increasing number of key civil and governmental figures who are taking a lead in tackling homelessness which is a sign that the Lord has already been working in the hearts of our leaders. Manchester is already leading the way with the Manchester Homelessness Charter, which is a pledge to end homelessness in Manchester. It is significant that it is sponsored by The Right Reverend David Walker, Bishop of Manchester and we shall continue to bless the leaders in this area that they may know God's heart and do His will. We can see that our prayers are powerful and can change policies in this nation but we want more of God's fullness, restoration and freedom. If the church caught hold of the depth of God's heart for this issue would we not be crying out for an end to homelessness within our lifetime?



KEY VERSE

*Pray for us, that the Word of the Lord may run swiftly and be glorified, just as it is with you...The Lord is faithful, who will establish you and guard you from the evil one... May the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God and into the patience of Christ.*

2 THESSALONIANS 3:1-5



## PERSPECTIVE

*God, we ask that You would give us a fresh revelation of Your heart towards those trapped in homelessness in our city and nation. Change our subtle attitudes, our hardness of heart, help us to love like You do. Help us to treat each person with the dignity they deserve, as Your creation. Open the eyes of Your church, that we would see them as You do, be moved with compassion, unable to ignore them any longer, and respond both in prayer and action.*



## THE HOMELESS

*God of justice and compassion, of mercy and grace, reveal Yourself to those living on the streets of our nation. May they know Your love, that You care deeply for them. Thank you that no one is too far away from You, that You desire that each person would come to know You. Would You come and break every addiction, restore relationships, bring peace and establish hope.*

PRAYER STARTER



## OUTREACH

*We lift before You every organisation, charity, church, government agency, that is working with the homeless in our cities. We ask that You would give them compassion, fill them with Your love and guide them by Your Spirit. We ask for fresh strategy, grace in partnerships, and a clear prophetic leading, that the work would be led by You through the power of the Holy Spirit.*

PRAYER STARTER



# PRAYERS

To help you continue to pray, these are some prayer topics to dig deeper, including a specific biblical prayer for each one. This list is by no means exhaustive but meant to serve as markers as you navigate through praying for this issue.

## Prevention

For protection for those at risk, for breaking of addiction and for healing from emotional, physical and mental illness.

**COLOSSIANS 3:12-14**

## Families affected by homelessness

That they would know God's mercy and compassion

**ISAIAH 30:18**

## The Church

That God would release His love through His people that we would see salvation spring up on our streets

**JOHN 3:16-17**

## Police

That God would give fairness, compassion and the pursuit of righteous justice for those on the street

**PROVERBS 31:8-9**

## Local Authorities

That justice, mercy and humility would permeate every decision concerning the homeless especially concerning housing

**MICAH 6:8**

## Nation Government

That God's Spirit would fill each person and that legislation would honour and dignify the lives of those in poverty and homelessness.

**EZEKIEL 11:19**

# ACT

prayer - faith - action

We hope that this guide of focused prayer has inspired, encouraged and challenged you to continue to seek after God's heart for homelessness. The one true solution is that we pray unceasingly that we become a nation captivated by the love of God and that we let Him bring healing and restoration to us.

Our desire is that you will confidently continue to hold this issue before the Lord on a regular basis. Be encouraged, your prayers change the course and destiny of our nation and affect the lives of many!

***"To clasp the hands in prayer is the beginning of an uprising against the disorder of the world"***

**KARK BARTH, THEOLOGIOAN**

We also hope that the Lord will be encouraging you to act on what you have seen and heard in prayer and that He will stir you to respond in ways which will be unique for you in the context of your own life.

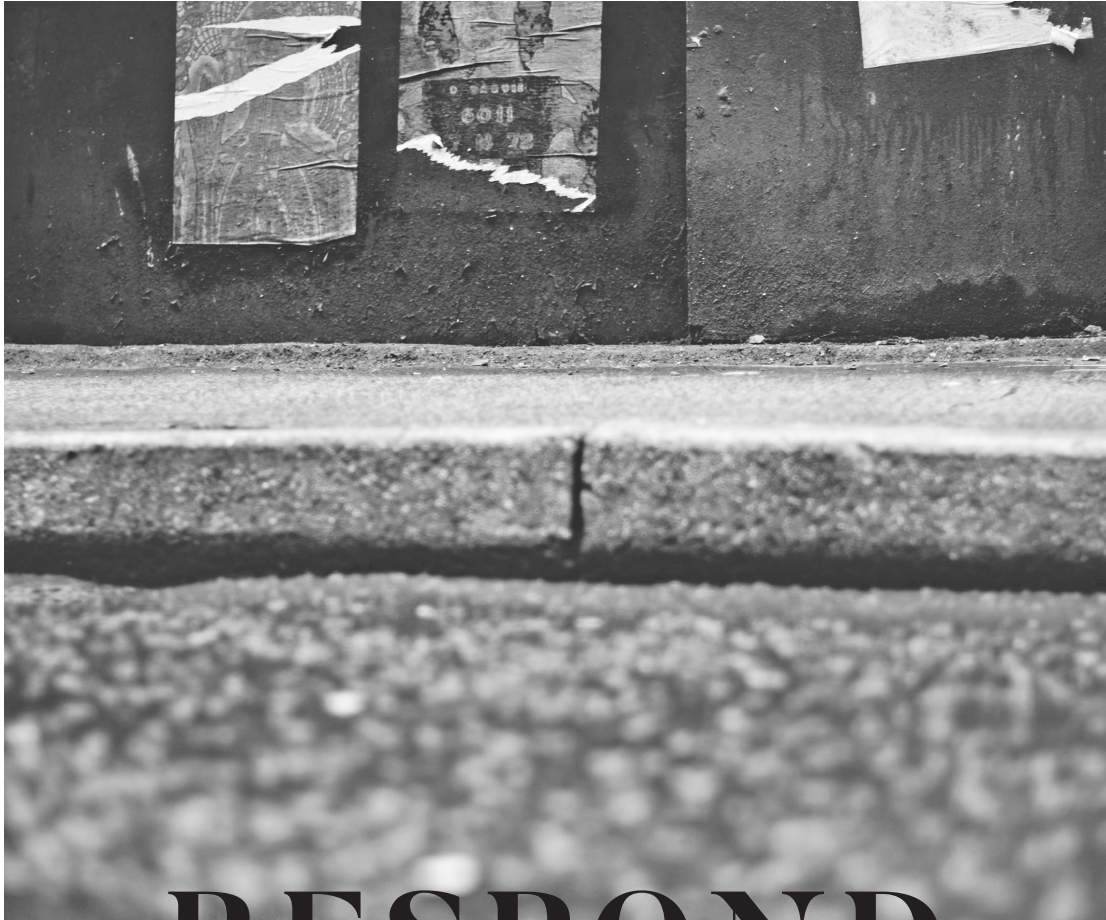
**How to respond:**

**Continue to pray.** Your prayers are powerful and we know that the Lord hears the prayers of the saints. So, keep pressing in!

**Engage friends, family and church with the issue in prayer.** Why not gather with some friends and begin to pray together regularly. You can join with what your church is already doing or encourage your church to partner with an organisation in your city.

**Be creative in raising awareness of the issue publicly using the perspectives you've discovered from God's heart.** We all have so many different skills and resources at our disposal that we can use to consciously make a change in our society. Whether that's writing a blog, or sharing a Facebook post or using your business to advertise justice issues and raise awareness. You may want to engage your local MP or council leaders to encourage them to consider how they are addressing this issue.

**Find local ministries working with the homeless and discover their needs.** They may need volunteers, regular financial givers, and/or practical donations. In Manchester, there are so many great Christian charities who are fighting to see freedom and restoration in the city, such as Barnabus, Manchester City Mission, The Mustard Tree and The Salvation Army.



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Manchester House of Prayer is a registered charity no. 1157052  
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