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Dear Prayer Supporters

There's much to be thankful for, despite the sad fact the need for our work continues to grow.

Trauma

Our research programme into trauma-informed counselling (called DUSK) is working closely with five women who street sex work and are misusing substances. This is a huge achievement for these women and testament to the workers and the wider strategic group who support this work.

Women who've experienced trauma (pretty much *all* of those who are street sex-working) need healing before they can begin to make lasting changes. We hope the research will prove that trauma-informed support can get to the root of the issues which hold women back in their recovery. Please pray that their courage doesn't falter and that they may be restored to wholeness.

Friendship

The 23 women involved in the Pause programme continue to make great progress. Some have participated in group work including a picnic and a trip to the cinema - activities they wouldn't have dreamt of doing before. These women who've had children removed are often very isolated.

Please pray for one woman who has faced many challenges recently including domestic abuse and losing her home. A great relationship with her worker has been at the heart of her bravery in being strong, not taking heroin or sex-working during this time.

Bearing fruits

Staff and our women have worked hard together to make the new Peony programme happen. So we are all excited to see this gearing up to start in early September. It is a blessing that has grown up out of a vision.

Peony will offer women a clear, supported pathway once they are ready to leave our normal service. Please pray for Maria who has just joined us as Peony coordinator. She's been working to appoint two support workers and is planning activities like exercise, a book club, weekly walks and talks about finding work.

Finally, your utmost prayer for those women who relapse or who haven't been able to find the belief that they are worth saving or the strength to begin to resist the overwhelming darkness of their worlds.

Praying regularly for specific women

We've just updated our policy on how we use women's details. This is to protect them from stigma and abuse and to affirm their ownership of their lives. It means, for now, that we don't have any women we can talk about specifically until we've done the necessary work speaking to them one-to-one.

By next time, we hope that women who have specifically asked you for your prayers will be brought to you. It remains an immense privilege to be with and care for these vulnerable and dearly loved individuals.

I ask you to hold them all in your hearts.

He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,

and lifted up the lowly;

he has filled the hungry with good things,

and sent the rich away empty.

(Luke 1:52-53)

Amen.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anna." with a period at the end.

Anna Smith
Chief Executive Officer