

doorway for us is unthinkable, but to her it is a miserable reality and that is so very sad. Of course, homeless folk have their difficulties, many of which they have inflicted upon themselves and upon society. But as I look at this lady I have to remember that she is in essence like you and me, loved by God. Please remember the homeless in your prayers this winter, especially their safety, as at night they can become very vulnerable sleeping rough.

### Nightlight Values Statement

Presence - going to where people are

Unconditional care - serving others in Jesus' name

Relationship - listening to and befriending others

Evangelism - sharing the life giving gospel message

#### FOOTNOTE

### *The Ministry of the Flip-Flop !!*



This may seem a strange headline to those who do not know Nightlight so I will explain. Many of the young ladies that Nightlight team members meet are limping badly and walking in their bare feet. Most are carrying an offending pair of high heel shoes. Walking barefoot on some occasions may be nice but is not to be recommended on the streets of Belfast in the early hours of Saturday or Sunday morning. Apart from the broken glass there are many other objects and substances on the footpaths that would deter such a past time. So over the years Nightlight has given out a large number of flip-flops to these fashion conscious young ladies. Flip-flops do not grow on trees and so we have been very grateful to the many Nightlight supporters who have faithfully supplied us with this most useful resource over this period of time. We, at Nightlight, would like to say a very big thank you to these people for what is a very practical involvement in Nightlight.

**THANK YOU**

### Can you encourage others to grasp the vision and become more involved?

BY PRAYER (Points for Prayer / Prayer Topics in NIGHTLINES and Web Site below)

BY FINANCIAL SUPPORT (Direct Debit / Gift Aid)

BY BECOMING A VOLUNTEER

WHY NOT JOIN US ONE EVENING FOR A NIGHT TOUR?

Give the Nightlight office a call

**NIGHTLIGHT**

13 Botanic Avenue, Belfast

BT7 1JG

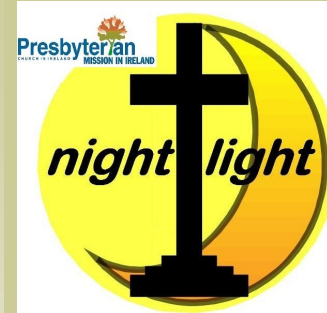
028 9033 2777

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Information online at:- [www.pcinightlight.org](http://www.pcinightlight.org)

and:- [www.missionireland.org/nightlight](http://www.missionireland.org/nightlight)

## Proclaiming and Demonstrating the Kingdom of God through Word and Action



# NIGHTLINES

The Quarterly Prayer Letter of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland's Night Ministry

Winter 2011/2

#### Specific Prayer Requests

Please continue to pray for the team members, particularly now that winter is upon us. Pray that God would direct each conversation and that He would keep them safe through the 'wee' hours.

Continue to pray that God would use our tea table on Botanic Avenue as a means of sharing the Gospel. Please pray for many more opportunities to talk with people who would not normally hear about Jesus. Give thanks for those who have been genuinely receptive to what they have heard.

Give thanks for all that is being done at the Odyssey in Christ's name. Pray that God's love would be shared with members of the Odyssey staff and with those attending the various entertainments offered at the Odyssey.

Please remember the homeless folk who stop by the tea table. Pray that they would be able to find shelter, support for their addiction and a sense of purpose in their lives. Please pray that any spiritual conversations we engage in would be effective and make some positive impact on how they view God.

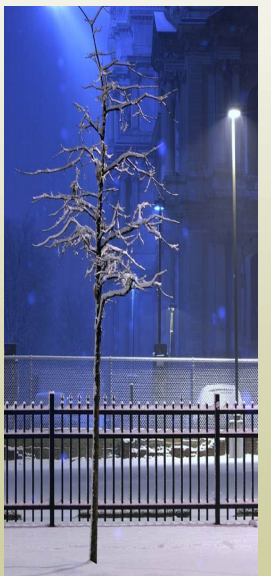
Please remember to pray for other Nightlight type ministries working in other locations. These include Ballymena, Belfast, Coleraine, Dungannon, Kilkeel, Newcastle, Newtownards, Newry and Portadown.



wards the brink. Having no relationship with Christ, people often relate to team members that life, for them, feels very much like being on the edge. Psalm 93:4 says, "Mightier than the thunders of many waters, mightier than the waves of the sea, the Lord on high is mighty." It is this mighty Lord that the team mem-

Some months back I stood close to the edge of Niagara Falls watching and listening as thousands of gallons of water fell some 173 feet to the Niagara River below. On average approximately 5.7 million litres of water falls per second. In a very odd way I wondered what it would be like to go over the falls! Thankfully this insane thought lasted only a short time and rational thinking was quickly resumed. However, it did make me think that many people within society seem to be headed to-

bers talk about each week. Please pray that the Nightlight team members would be given wisdom and strength from God to proclaim His Good News. After all, we read in Ephesians 3:20, "Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work with-

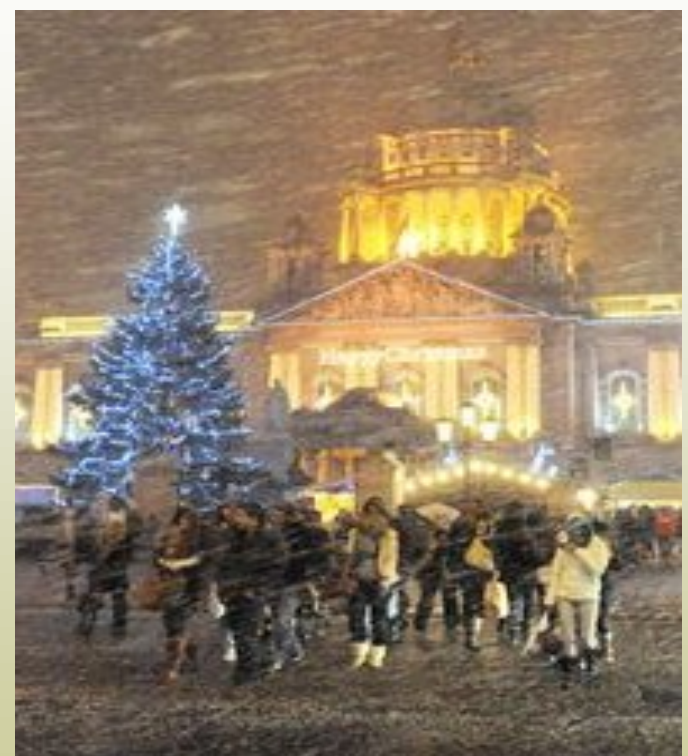




while talking with a team member at the tea table. His two close friends were killed in a car accident not so long ago and since then he has begun to drink excessively. He is now at the point where he realises that he has an alcohol problem. Pray that 'P' would find the necessary help and support to stop this abuse ruining his life.

'G' grew up in a Jehovah Witness family but by the age of sixteen had decided he no longer believed the Jehovah Witness ideals. Today he holds to what he would term as, 'scientific views', towards life. Before leaving the tea table he said, "All religion is a crutch for those who need it." 'G' may indeed prefer to see himself as a kind of free spirit, having no need for religion, but he does need the Lord as we see it! Please keep on praying!

I am sure, like me, you enjoy a night out with friends. 'C', along with his friends, is no exception. The only problem is that he is accompanied by far too much alcohol, which he was quite insistent he could have a good time without! 'C' told the team member that he believes in God but



in us." Pray that God would indeed do more than we could possibly imagine for the people with whom the Nightlight team members talk each week. Thank you again for your prayers, financial support and encouragement.

In the following stories initials have been used to protect individual's anonymity. A man, in his forties, was approaching our tea table on Botanic Avenue one evening when one of the Nightlight team members offered him tea or coffee. As he walked past the table he swore directly at her. Not shocked, as bad language is common place on the streets, she replied, 'safe home and God Bless'. This was met with the angry response, "What has God ever done for me?" As he walked on the team member respectfully replied, "He loves you." We appreciate that he possibly had something on his mind which was annoying him, nevertheless, we would still ask that you pray for him and also that he may return to the tea table, not to apologise, but to hear just how much God really does love him.

Please pray for 'P' who asked for prayer



has no interest in spiritual matters. When asked, "How do you think your friends would feel if you ignored them in the same way you do God?" He replied, with sincerity, "I never thought of it in that way." Please pray that even through this short conversation 'C' would reflect on what he heard.

The Odyssey, with an estimated 25 million viewers worldwide, was the centre of attention on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> November when Belfast played host to the MTV European Music Awards. Not surprisingly the Nightlight team members did not get into the Odyssey that evening – shame, I think Lady gaga and her 'celebrity' ilk would have benefited much from an encounter with a Nightlight team member!! Business as usual has returned to the Odyssey and I know the team members value your continuing prayers as they share the Gospel in this place.

In this culture, if someone was to show you, 'thumbs up', it most likely indicates that something is good, or that an outcome has been successful. 'W', a Roman Catholic, who has been involved with the

security at the Odyssey for many years, told Brian and another team member that his daughter became a Christian at a camp run by Americans. Though her family were concerned about her new Christian faith, they have seen such a transformation in her life that it has had a massive impact on the family. 'W' invited the team members to his office as he wanted to ask them what it meant to be a believer in Jesus Christ. After talking, Brian asked 'W', "What is stopping you believing." He answered, "I don't know." 'W' finished the conversation by indicating that when they see him giving 'thumbs up' they will know that he has put his faith in Christ. Please pray for 'W' and his family, giving thanks for his daughter's witness within the home and continued blessing upon her.

Please pray for the on-going contact that is made each week with clubbers at the Odyssey. Many of these young people are grateful to have had an opportunity to talk with Christians. Pray that more opportunities would arise to talk with folk about Jesus.

As I go to work each morning I walk past a small unused office, just off Botanic Avenue. There, quite often, is a homeless lady lying curled up in a filthy sleeping bag in the recessed doorway. She would appear to be oblivious to all who pass by. The notion of sleeping in a

