



GREENWICH STREET PASTORS NEWSLETTER – SPRING 2010

What an exciting 12 months have passed! In March 2009 we had the Training Launch service at Woolwich Town Hall and our first batch of volunteers starting Street Pastor training. Following on from their 12 Saturday sessions they were all raring to go in September of 2009. And so it was on 18 September 2009 following our Commissioning Service at Woolwich Central Baptist Church our first Street Pastors (SP's) hit the streets of Woolwich.



Some comments from our first few outbound teams from their weekly reports are as follows:

Rather a quiet start but number and depth of conversations increased as night progressed. Some team members felt a little unprepared/not in the right frame of mind to start but this improved and God blessed the team, enabling each member to engage in meaningful conversations.

Team worked well, walking down street in two, keeping a short distance between; in some cases two would enter an establishment whilst others waited outside. All went into pub spoke with door staff, bar staff, manager and patrons. Manager and bar staff at second pub welcoming and were pleased SP's went in to say hello.

Left WCBC about 10: Les Isaacs of Street Pastors joined the team for one night. Very encouraging evening able to pray for several people, good atmosphere several good long conversations. Described as having "peaceful faces" and "not plastic people".

On the run-up to Christmas we also had the joint Greenwich Borough Commanders/Street Pastor Christmas Carol Concert which was hosted by St John the Evangelist in Blackheath. This was a wonderfully uplifting service, with many visitors including Bishop Christopher

Chessun of Woolwich, Rev Dr Pat Took of the Baptist Union, Rev Ruth McCaughren of Woolwich Central Baptist Church and a wonderful performance by the children of Charlton Manor School.



As you will remember the last couple of Friday nights before Christmas (and afterwards) were very cold and sometimes snowy, and we suffered like everyone else trying to travel and with many Street Pastors succumbing to various illnesses. We regrouped and went back out on the streets as of the 15th January 2010.

Towards the end of February we were blessed with the second group of Street Pastors starting to go out following their training. This meant we now had another 8 people giving us a total of 24 trained Street Pastors.

Team worked well, one old hand working with each new SP. Although it was exceptionally cold and quiet, it was a good night.

Below are just a few of those we have prayed for over the past year:

- *For the lady still getting over the loss of her son*
- *For the rough sleeper, hoping to be helped over the weekend by local agencies*
- *For the atheist outside local pub*
- *For the lone people waiting for buses home*
- *For the young Croatian man who has gambling problems*
- *For the young girl who missed last bus home and asked for some support while she went to cash machine, and then to cab office – sensible, but on her own*
- *Please pray for the homeless man that we met three times during our patrol*
- *A prayer for the lady suffering from MS*

We have had many requests for prayers, and we are blessed with a large group of people who regularly pray for the Street Pastors and those that they have come into contact with on their journeys on Friday evenings.

We have also been blessed with a small but loyal group of local ministers who have prayed with the Street Pastors before they go out onto the streets and I know that our Street Pastors are very happy to have their input.

If you would like to know more about Street Pastors or receive a weekly email please contact either Rev Ruth McCaughren - Greenwich Street Pastors Chair or Christina Agin - Administrator on 07711 822656 or on the email link greenwich@streetpastors.org.uk