



Street Pastors Bishops Stortford

volunteers from local churches caring, helping and listening

Newsletter 2 April 2009



Teams have been out on alternate Friday and Saturday nights between 10pm – 3am, occasionally earlier at the request of police. Initially we had 16 volunteers and now we have over 20. Working in teams of 4, at present, we are backed up by our faithful prayer team

During this time we have:

- ❖ engaged with over 1,000 people of various ages, backgrounds, beliefs, etc.
- ❖ removed over 400 bottles and glasses from the streets and
- ❖ helped reduce crime and the fear of crime in the local area.

We have had many exciting times where we have engaged particularly with young people and, as the nights get lighter, we are looking to vary our patrol times to take account of the times and places where young people are to be found in large numbers around the town.

There are still opportunities to become a volunteer street pastor or a member

of the prayer team. We are particularly grateful to St. Josephs who have provided a prayer team once a month who meet between 10pm – 2.30am to pray for us in shifts. We can testify that prayers have been answered:

a young lad of 14 asked for prayer to come off drugs, as did a 16 year old;

a young lady we met asked that she might receive prayer to know more of God;

a young lady we met wanted to come to church but always felt too 'hungover' on Sunday. We encouraged her to come along and she became a Christian after Christmas!

Observers: We have also taken out people to see at first hand what Stortford is like at night. When was the last time you were greeted with 'Great, here is a Christian!' (We frequently get: "Great, here is a street pastor!"). We even had a group of young ladies who said, "Preach to me, preach to me!" (even the vicars don't usually get that). If you would like to come along, even for just a couple of hours, contact Paul Senior, the co-ordinator.

Fundraising We have managed to obtain funding from East Herts Community Safety Partnership, Bishop Stortford Town Council and Stansted Airport Trust in addition to generous donations from all local churches.

Many thanks for your continued support, Paul Senior Co-ordinator.

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