

## History of the Formation of Manly Street Pastors

*In early 2009, The Manly Ministers Association, representing 10 local churches, had been discussing over several months if, and how, the churches could respond to the increasing reputation of Manly after dark as a binge drinking culture with a high incidence of crime and violence.*

*Around about this time the Ministers also became aware of how much ratepayers money was being spent in seeking to manage the situation and felt challenged about the need to enter discussion with authorities to be part of the answer in seeing Manly transformed. A steering committee was decided on with the brief to develop strategies to 'transform Manly after dark with the love of Christ'. In July and August the committee held discussions with the local council and police who welcomed whatever part the churches felt they could play in seeing Manly change. At this stage we didn't know what it was God wanted us to do. One of the options canvassed was providing wholesome family style entertainment early in the evening, but in discussion with the General Manager and the Superintendent of the Police we were challenged about the community's greatest need and that was between the hours of 10pm and 4am. We felt that God was calling us to something sustained and sacrificial that would involve the Church in being on the streets in the hours that would make a tangible difference. The steering committee began investigating various church based volunteer chaplaincy models around Australia that have begun in response to a similar situation. We also became aware of the UK based 'Street Pastors' begun by the Ascension Trust. We were particularly drawn to their ecumenical approach, their emphasis on working closely with local government and police, and their ethos of caring, listening and helping.*

*In August 2009 we had a significant meeting at which over 100 church members from a number of churches gathered to hear a vision of making a difference in the streets of Manly after dark. We presented 'Street Pastors' as one such model that we may adopt in responding to the situation. The Superintendent of Police as well as Council members were also given opportunity to speak. A partnership had begun and we knew that with this momentum and unity there was no turning back. In November the Manly Ministers Association endorsed a proposal from the steering committee to adopt the 'Street Pastors' model as a combined churches response to the issues facing Manly After dark. Then in January 2010, the newly formed Street Pastors management committee, licensed by the Ascension Trust in the UK, commenced the first module of Street Pastor training.*

*The community of churches in Manly have a long history of working together to see transformation and have over that time built significant rapport with community leadership. We are excited about how God will use this initiative to transform Manly after dark with the love of Christ.*

## The Management Committee

Manly Street Pastors Incorporated has been formed. There can be up to 5 voting members from each of the participating churches. They will vote on the membership of the Committee at its AGM each year.



Brett Mitchell



Ian Freestone  
Ruach Ministries



David Barrie  
All Saints  
Anglican, Balgowlah



Brian Hayes  
St Peters  
Uniting, Freshwater

## How you can be involved?

### *Future Street Pastor*

To be a Street Pastor you must be over 18 (no upper age limit), a Christian, a member of a local church for 12 months, be willing to complete 12 units of training over 6 months, commit to one Saturday night from about 10.00pm to around 4.00am every 4 weeks for a year. The second round of Street Pastor training commences at the end of July 2010.

### *Prayer Pastor*

To be a Prayer Pastor you must be a Christian, a member of a local church for 12 months, attend an interview and train by being part of the Prayer Pastor team for a couple of hours one Saturday night.

### *Prayer Partner*

A Prayer Partner commits to praying regularly for Manly Street Pastors.



### *Supporter*

A Supporter provides financial support to Manly Street Pastors. Our budget for the first year is over \$35,000 and after that about \$20,000 per year. Churches are contributing about \$10,000 per year for the first three years. So there is still quite a large shortfall. It is hoped that we will be supported by a number of grants and donations from the community.

Cheques can be made out to Manly Street Pastors and posted to PO Box 129, Manly 1655.

Bank transfers can be made to Manly Street Pastors, BSB 633000, Account 139753941 with Surname and Initial as the reference. Please email [manly@streetpastors.org](mailto:manly@streetpastors.org) if you require a receipt.



## MANLY STREET PASTORS INC

**Caring, Listening and Helping**

PO Box 129, Manly NSW 1655

Email: [manly@streetpastors.org](mailto:manly@streetpastors.org)

Tel: 0410 433 644

### Newsletter May 2010

Saturday May 1, 2010 marks a significant day in the history of the Manly Christian community. Today we celebrate the launch of Street Pastors by commissioning 32 people who represent the local churches of Manly.

The Street Pastors have an important role to play in the life of our community. They will form a Christian presence on the Corso each Saturday evening between 11pm and 3am. Street Pastors are there to engage with people in the community and to build relationships in order to find out their needs and what can be done to help.

While each Street Pastor belongs to a local church, their role is not to preach or to show prejudice. Instead our modus operandi is to walk the Corso looking for opportunities to care, listen and help.

The Street Pastors initiative began in 2003 in the UK. Currently there are over 125 teams who serve their communities all over UK, involving more than 3000 Christians. This model is easily adaptable to the Australian culture and the professional approach seen in the UK will be adhered to in Manly.

It is our prayer and hope that our presence will add a sense of peace and safety as we work alongside other organisations within Manly. We believe that over the course of the next two years we will witness a transformation of the culture on Manly Corso.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the committee members who have given their time and talents to the implementation of this initiative. Without their contribution Manly Street Pastors would not exist.

In concluding can I quote from the Street Pastor's founder Les Isaac's who said, "At the heart of Street Pastors is the stipulation that a Street Pastors team is not resourced by one church alone, but by several, and so the story of Street Pastors is also the story of churches working with each other, and the journey towards an interdenominational church response. One of the obvious hallmarks of Street Pastors – before you mention crime rates or lives changed – is that the initiative has brought the church together at a grassroots level in a very significant way".

Each Street Pastor can see where God is already at work and I look forward to the future as we travel the road ahead. Can I ask everyone to join us in a commitment to pray for the work of the Manly Street Pastors.

In the service of Christ, Brett Mitchell, Coordinator, Manly Street Pastors.

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An incorporated association reporting to the  
Ascension Trust and Manly Ministers' Association  
ABN: 95 172 430 951

Coordinator: Brett Mitchell  
PO Box 129, Manly NSW 1655  
Email: manly@streetpastors.org  
Tel: 0410 433 644

I am interested in being a:

Street Pastor

Prayer Pastor

Prayer Partner

Supporter

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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Phone No: \_\_\_\_\_

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