



Newham Street Pastors



The Church in action on the streets

Autumn 2009 Newsletter

'This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down His life for us and we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers.' (1John 3:16)

Celebrating a year on the streets!



Welcome to our first newsletter! It's been some time now since Newham Street Pastors went on their first patrol on a chilly Friday night in December.

The thick winter coats certainly came in handy. The reception that night was positive on the whole, though a few folk were understandably a bit puzzled as to what we were actually doing. Since then the reception on the streets has gotten warmer and warmer with door staff, late night commuters and clubbers expressing their gratitude for our efforts to make Newham a safer place.

We have had the opportunity to come alongside a number of people in distress on the streets, including one young man who was literally getting his head kicked in after a fight outside a local bar. We called for police and an ambulance immediately and later found out that the young man suffered a broken jaw and lost two teeth. However, as the police said at the time, it could have been so much worse if Street Pastors had not been present.

We have also managed to build relationships with the homeless community and refer people with various issues to relevant services. The motto of Street Pastors is 'listening, caring, helping' and we have had many people come up to us, tap us on the shoulder, and want to talk about issues that are bothering them, ranging from broken relationships to housing or work issues.

"Listening, caring, helping"

The team

We now have 18 volunteers from 7 different Churches which includes 5 folk who started training in September. Team are now going out on Friday nights each month from

Highway, the ARC and Ridley Christian Centre between 10pm and 4am. Please pray that the Lord will give us His wisdom and strength as we go out.

The local police have been highly supportive and at a recent meeting said, 'you don't need to push this door. It's already wide open'. Most people out on the streets are appreciative of what we are doing, particularly door staff at the local pubs and clubs, many of whom the team get to pray with on a regular basis.

The local paper, the Stratford and Newham Express, ran an article entitled 'Pastors keep a watchful eye on streets'. At a recent meeting concerning the reduction of violent crime in the borough, it was raised that one of the issues is not just reducing violent crime, but increasing public confidence, so that folk are not afraid to be out and about. We hope that by being out on the streets we can do our part to help people walk the streets with confidence, knowing that someone is 'keeping a watchful eye'.

As time goes on we will be able to expand the base of our activities to include places such as Plaistow, Beckton and Canning Town which have also been identified by the police as areas which could benefit from Street Pastors patrols.

School Pastors

The School Pastors scheme has been in operation for some time now in Lambeth, Dagenham and Croydon. Recently one of our volunteers completed the training and is now coming alongside Roger Reid in Lambeth and working with the project there.



The aim of the School Pastors initiative is to link with schools as part of their pastoral care, get to know the pupils and help them realise and achieve their potential. At the end of the school day School Pastors stay with pupils at the bus stops, helping them to get home safely. Thus far the scheme has been a real success with schools opening up and requesting more support.

We are now looking into the possibility of starting such a scheme in Newham so if you are interested in training as a School Pastor, or supporting in prayer please get in touch.

Street Pastor Profile



Kemi Ajose has been a part of the Newham team since we first went out on the streets last December. Kemi is a member of Memorial Church and is married to Shola Ajose who runs the Plus centre, a computer access facility which is based at Memorial. They have four children. I thought I'd pose a few questions to Kemi to give an idea of what it's like being a Street Pastor.

What did you think of the training?

It was good, particularly learning about developing personal relationships. One aspect of the training that really stood out was concerning observing our environment. Even as Christians we often just hurry past people on the streets without giving much thought to others.

What's it like trying to juggle having a family and Street Pastors?

It's difficult at times. It's really important to have the full support of your partner, Shola has been a real encouragement to me and we pray together as a family before I go out on patrol. One of my children said to me recently that she saw Street Pastors on the TV so they understand what I'm doing and believe in it.

What's been the best thing about being a Street Pastor?

I've really enjoyed meeting the homeless people and talking with them. There's one man in particular that we often get to speak to who is always happy to see us. A lot of these folk don't have anyone speak to them so it's good to be able to be a friend to those that are lonely. We also got to give out flip flops recently to a girl who really needed them which was great.

Please pray for:



Volunteers: we have many opportunities to get involved with various aspects of community life and to be out on the streets on a more regular basis. Please pray that God will raise up folk who can get involved.

Funding: we have received grants from Transform Newham and the police which have been a tremendous help. However, we still need more funding to train new volunteers.

Church presentations: we have been able to give presentations at Transform Newham prayer meeting, Global Day of Prayer and to the Methodist circuit, including Bryant Street. Pray that more Churches will open their doors for a presentation.

The team: many of our volunteers have busy work and family lives so please pray for strength and health. Also for the team leaders, for God's wisdom and direction each patrol night. Pray that God will keep us united and focussed.

Schools: please pray with regards to the possibility of setting up a School Pastors scheme in Newham. That God would open doors and raise up those who could be a part of the work.

The streets: that they would be safe, that violent crime would decrease and that people would not be afraid to walk around their own communities. For victims of crime that God would help them in their distress.

Remember to **THANK GOD FOR:** answered prayers with regards to His protection and provision, for the new volunteers who joined us in September and for the tremendous help and support we have received from Churches, Transform Newham and the local police.



Newham Street Pastors are looking to recruit more team members to make a difference on our streets. If you are aged 18 or over, a committed Christian and a member of a local Church please contact Dave Crisp.

You must be willing to commit to training on 12 Saturdays over a 5 month period and then be willing to give up one Friday or Saturday night per month to patrol the streets.

Get in touch - Newham needs you!!!

Contact details:

*David Crisp
Highway Church
88a Romford Road
Stratford
LONDON E15 4EH*

*newham@streetpastors.org.uk
07944 529 104*