

Team News



Sadly we had to say goodbye to Glenn and Pauline Walters in August as they left to take up the pastorate of a Church on the Isle of Man. Glenn and Pauline were a tremendous blessing to the team and will no doubt be sorely missed at Ridley Christian Centre, Forest Gate where they were based with London City Mission.

We were recently given the use of the Salvation Army Centre on Paul Street, Stratford which is a real blessing. Teams will now be going out from there on the second and fourth Friday of each month. On the other weeks teams go out from Highway Church and the ARC in Forest Gate.

We had 7 volunteers finish their training in July and currently have another two undergoing their training in Brixton. This means that we now have 20 active Street Pastors representing 10 different Churches. Many folk on the street ask us which Church we are from, when we say that we are all from different Churches they seem surprised... almost as surprised as when we say that we don't get paid to be out on the streets until 4 in the morning!

We received our own charity status in July, which means we can now reclaim tax on your generous giving! Our management committee, Gary Jarrett, Kemi Ajose and Alan Craig are now the Charity's trustees and will continue to oversee the work.

Grants from Transform Newham and the police have been extremely helpful and have meant that we can continue to assist volunteers with the cost of training and keep the project running.

We visited St Saviour's in July for a presentation on what we are doing and would love to come and visit your Church to talk about how we are seeking to bring God's love and presence to the streets of Newham. Please talk with your minister and get in touch if you would like us to come and share.

BECOMING A STREET PASTOR



If you are interested in becoming a Street Pastor please do get in touch with us. You will need to be:

- Over 18 years of age
- Part of a local Church
- Willing to undergo 12 Saturdays of training
- Able to commit to come out on patrol once a month between 10pm and 4am.

We ask that if you want to join, that you come out to observe what we do. To arrange this please contact Dave Crisp on 0794 6208515 or email newham@streetpastors.org.uk



Newham STREET PASTORS

Autumn 2010

The Church in action on the streets



Welcome to our second newsletter. Newham Street Pastors will have been in operation on the streets for two years as of this December. It's certainly been an exciting and fruitful time. The streets of Stratford are now significantly quieter and teams are going out every week on a Friday night to different parts of the borough, including Stratford, Forest Gate, Manor Park and Canning Town.

The Street Pastor movement continues to grow and it was a real pleasure in the Spring to see the launch of Redbridge and Tower-Hamlets Street Pastors. The main mission of what we do is summed up in three words, 'listening, caring, helping'. We provide a listening ear to anyone who wants to talk, ranging from a sex worker on the street to a man who's just had an argument with the wife! We have also been able to help people in distress who were in need of emergency services.

“Listening, caring, helping”

At the beginning of the year we came across a Russian man who was deliriously drunk, with blood coming from above his eye, lying in a shop doorway, evidently in pain. His friend, also very drunk, was trying to get him to stand up but he was unable to and kept falling back down. We called an ambulance for him and later found that his leg had been broken in a number of places. Thankfully he was able to get the help he needed for a full recovery.

Homelessness in Newham



This continues to be a cause for concern with a large number of rough sleepers in Stratford, Forest Gate and Canning Town. There are a number of local Churches and individuals interested in the establishing of a winter night shelter in Newham as there is currently no provision for emergency accommodation, with the closure of Aram House on Romford Road. At the moment we are referring those that are eligible for assistance to Thamesreach's Street Rescue Team.

Hackney have been running their winter night shelter for a number of years successfully every January to March 7 nights a week. This was done some years ago in Newham but seems to be very much needed again. If you are interested in helping out in any way please do get in touch, as large number of volunteers would be required for welcoming guests, cooking dinner and also staying overnight to watch over those who stay.

Contact us: tel: 0794 620 8515 email: newham@streetpastors.org.uk

Street Pastor Profile



Mike has been a part of the Street Pastor team since starting training in September 2009. He works as a 1-1 Learning Support Assistant at a Primary School in Newham, as well as leading worship at Highway Church, Stratford in his spare time.

What did you think of the training?

I found the training really good, especially the session on mentoring with Roger Reid. It really captured my heart and inspired me to do what I'm doing now, helping to steer young people in the right direction. So the training has helped me in my job and work life as well as equipping me for the streets.

What attracted you to joining Street Pastors?

When Newham Street Pastors had their launch service in August 2008 I was asked to lead the worship. At that time I felt a real call to be involved, I wanted to be involved in the community and effect a change, to be a part of the solution rather than just complaining about the problem. I also thought it was great that the Churches were networking with each other, as well as with the police and council.

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

It's wonderful to get appreciation from people on the street. I especially love meeting people that we've gotten to know over time, chatting with door staff at the clubs and having people we've met before coming up and saying hello.

What are your most memorable moments?

One night we came across a young man at Stratford Bus Station who was so drunk he couldn't move and was lying on the ground. A group of friends were around him, saying they would take him home, As we knelt down and took a look at the young man we saw he was unconscious so called an ambulance for him. His friends said that he hadn't drunk alcohol before but had downed a whole bottle of spirits and may have taken cocaine. The ambulance came and took him to hospital. I felt that we could have saved somebody's life that night.

On another occasion I got to pray with a young man who had just come out of prison, having been convicted of a number of offenses including GBH, drug dealing and stealing. He had been told that if he re-offended he would be put away for a long time. He looked really hard and unapproachable but when we talked with him we saw that he was genuinely reaching out for help and he bowed his head as we prayed with him.

Anything else you'd like to add?

I feel that being a Street Pastor has matured me in many ways—spiritually as well as in other areas of life and I would recommend it to anyone that's thinking of joining a Church based volunteer programme.



Street prostitution seems to be an increasing problem in Newham, particularly along the Romford Road between Stratford and Forest Gate. Neighbouring boroughs are also seeing an increase in the numbers of young sex workers, so have invited the charity 'Beyond the Streets' to come and do a talk on the issue. The one day conference will be held on Saturday November 13th in Greenwich.

Over the past few months we have been able to make increasingly significant contact with those working on the streets, and are aware of a growing concern among believers to make a difference. One of the main battles seems to be a sense of hopelessness. One of our Street Pastors recently saw a young woman coming out of a car, zipping up her jeans, with tears streaming down her face. The Street Pastor asked if she was OK and could she help. The girl replied, 'there's nothing you can do to help me.' and turned away. It was said totally without malice or sarcasm, just her genuine belief. She was beyond help. Thank God we serve a God who is able to save, let's pray that God will shine His light and hope in the darkness and bring salvation from the misery that so many are trapped in.

“There's nothing you can do to help me”

KEY FACTS KEY FACTS KEY FACTS KEY FACTS KEY FACTS KEY FACTS

According to surveys:

- 52% of women in street prostitution were under 18 when they started
- 63% of women involved in street prostitution say they do it to fund a drug dependency
- An estimated 80,000 people are sex workers in the UK
- 9 % of men in the UK admitted to paying for sex

KEY FACTS KEY FACTS KEY FACTS KEY FACTS KEY FACTS KEY FACTS

PLEASE PRAY



That God would continue to raise up more Street Pastors so that we can be out every Friday AND Saturday night.

For the raising up of effective provision for the homeless within the borough.

For peace on the streets and for the police as they seek to make a difference in the community.

For those currently training and existing volunteers that they will have the strength to juggle Street Pastors with work and family commitments.

THANK GOD for continued provision for the project and friendships and divine appointments on the street.