

TUNBRIDGE WELLS STREET PASTORS

"The church in action on the streets"

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2009 - NEWSLETTER No. 1

The vital statistics...

- 27** Street Pastor Volunteers (13 women and 14 men, aged from 19 to 65)
- 30** Prayer Pastors
- 22** Churches are involved in Street Pastors across Tunbridge Wells, Hawkenbury, Langton Green, Wadhurst, Bidborough, Southborough and Tonbridge.

**Street Pastors
- the book**

Available from
Amazon or the
Ascension Trust.
0207 771 9770.



Council and police at our initial meeting on 1st July

The Street Pastors National Conference

The aim of the Conference was for practitioners to:

- (i) be renewed in commitment.
- (ii) better understand their community.
- (iii) provide information and inspiration that could be implemented in practical ways.

It was inspiring to share experiences with delegates from English, Scottish, Welsh, Irish and Antiguan teams and to hear from speakers including Church Leaders, Leaders of Partner Charities, Police Officers, Academics and Civil Servants.

Boris Johnson, Mayor of London, was full of enthusiasm and respect for what we are achieving and said he would do his best to promote, extend and facilitate Street Pastors work (including funding). He referred to the recently reported incident where he chased off 3 hooded attackers, saying that he was embarrassed at the praise he'd received, as it paled into insignificance in light of what the Street Pastors do on a regular basis.

Rod Jarman, Deputy Assistant Commissioner of New Scotland Yard spoke of how a fear of e.g. vigilantism had led The Met to resist anyone other than serving police officers going out on the streets. Street Pastors are not just 'allowed' or 'tolerated', we are actively encouraged! The Police recognise that we can engage with people in a way they cannot. It was humbling to hear him say that we are easy to work with because we put Faith first and cannot be manipulated or compromised; people see our motivation is 'to do good', and as a result, they trust us.

Some quotes...

Scotland Yard Rep: "This Street Pastor idea is so good why didn't I think of it?" Les Isaac: "Because you are not God."

"We need to fit in, that's what Jesus did right from His birth." Oliver Nyumbu, CEO CARET
"Being salty is being part of the solution; not part of the problem." Dr. Kate Coleman, Co-Pastor, Regeneration Centre, Birmingham.

Update on Finances

- A huge thank you to the Kent People's Trust who have given TW Street Pastors a grant for £2,500 towards the cost of the training and equipping of our SP volunteers!
- Gifts have also been received from Christ Church, Culverden Evangelical Church, St Augustine's and the Tunbridge Wells Churches' Social Responsibility Group as well as the contributions the volunteers have made themselves.

Please pray...

- > For the selection of team leaders and teams
- > For the training sessions in November & December
- > For the planning of the Commissioning Service on 8th Jan

Dates for your Diary

28th November SP Training (9.30am – 4.30pm) – Police, Drug & Alcohol Awareness

12th December SP First Aid Training (9am – 4pm)

8th January 8.30pm SP Commissioning Service and 1st night on the streets!



Tunbridge Wells Street Pastors and Prayer Pastors in training...