

Belfast Street Pastors Report for 2012



The church
in action
on the streets
to

care,
listen &
help



075 1623 0181

belfast@streetpastors.org.uk

www.belfast.streetpastors.org.uk

FaceBook: Belfast Street Pastors

Belfast Street Pastors,
c/o BCCM, Sinclair House,
95-101 Royal Avenue,
Belfast, BT1 1FE

Welcome to the 2012 annual report for Belfast Street Pastors!

2012 was a year of BOTH **consolidation** AND **growth**! We have spent considerable effort organising ourselves, training and also recruiting new volunteers. At the beginning of 2012 we were going out on the streets once a week (Friday one week and Saturday the next). From the middle of the year we have been able to go out **every Friday and Saturday** and sometimes able to have more than one team each evening.

Numbers tell *part* of the story and the current 39 active volunteers (from 19 different churches) have done amazing work on the streets you can see in the table below. As well as the total, it compares the two halves of the year. Some of the 60 volunteers who have taken part in training have had to move back to their own countries, whilst some are not currently able to go out, and we have welcomed new people. Removing one **bottle** from the streets (a potential lethal weapon) is good, - 4,495 is incredible! The Government estimate that the cost of processing a typical **assault** is tens of thousands of pounds so preventing around 3 per month is a significant contribution. Many women staggering in high heels or walking barefoot are amazed when we offer them free **flip flops** to prevent ankle injury and serious cuts.

As well as the normal street patrols, we have helped at special events such as the Tennants Festival, a cross-community festival and St Patrick's Day celebrations in the Holyland area.

	TOT 2012	Average p. month Jan-June	Average p. month July-Dec	Average p. month Jan-Dec
Volunteer Hours	1,461	69	174	122
Nights out	65	3	8	5
Teams out in the month	100	4	12	8
Bottles/glasses lifted	4,495	323	426	375
Flip-flops used	411	20	49	34
Assist people to transport	153	9	17	13
Street Pastor cards given out	344	15	42	29
General assistance & advice	339	13	43	28
Spontaneous thanks	470	22	56	39
Emergency services called	14	1	2	1
Referral to other agency/service	39	3	4	3
Disturbance/anti-social behaviour	40	4	3	3
Prevention of assault	28	1	3	2
Spiritual conversation	202	8	26	17
Prayer	75	1	12	6
Other	24	1	3	2
First aid kit used	16	1	2	1



Street Pastors enjoys a great **partnership** with the Police, City Council and other voluntary agencies, especially SOS and Community Rescue Volunteers. There is a real sense that we are all contributing what we can to help Belfast be a better, safer city. We appreciated the sincere thanks of the Lord Mayor at a reception to honour the contribution volunteers make to the 'night time economy'.

A visit to the **CCTV control** room helped us understand the benefit of the cameras and radio. Since then the control room has asked us to help someone they spotted in need and on another occasion the police came to help us when they saw through the CCTV, 2 gangs that could have gotten out of control!



We are very grateful to **May Street Presbyterian Church and Urban Soul Café** for welcoming us and allowing us to use their premises as a base each evening.

It has been a great year! We thank each and every volunteer—without them there is no scheme! We also thank the various partners we work with and look forward to a continued and strengthening relationship.

In **2013** we aim to:

- **Recruit** more volunteers so that we can have more teams out each Friday and Saturday evening.
- Complete the **training** for current volunteers
- Strengthen our **funding** base
- Develop **prayer** for Street Pastors
- Become a **registered charity**

On the streets...

"Are you hear to preach at us?"
"No, we are here to care, listen & help"
*"That's *%@ing great!"*

We found 'James' alone and slumped against a wall in a dark side street. As we tried to communicate with him, a mobile fell from his hand. It rang and we answered it. His father and girlfriend were frantically trying to find him. We told them where he was and assured them that we would stay until they arrived. Some weeks later a girl ran up to us dragging a guy yelling "Look 'James' —there are those guys who saved your life!"

We found 2 young men on the walk bridge over the River Lagan. They were not connected, but both were contemplating suicide. We were able to talk to them and walk both of them off the bridge.

Met a group from Wexford tonight who an individual had been arguing with. We saw him safely away in a taxi.

'Barry' (21) was drunk and walking in front or cars at the Odyssey. We helped him communicate with his mum to pick him up.

There are too many stories to write up—people we have been able to pray with, listen to, point in the right direction etc. Sometimes we see the result—a person safely on their way home. We will though, never know the full extent of what we have done, but that's OK—we're not doing it for recognition, but simply as a way of following Jesus - Christians from different churches who want to be a blessing in our city.



Street Pastor Training