



Eastleigh

Newsletter

Edition 4
October 2010

E-mail: Eastleigh@streetpastors.org.uk
www.streetpastors.org.uk

Welcome!

...to the fourth Eastleigh Street Pastor's newsletter. It was wonderful to be at the graduation service for Street Pastors from Chandler's Ford, Hedge End/Botley, Fair Oak and one new Street Pastor for Eastleigh. The service took place on 23rd June at Chandler's Ford Methodist church. Ringing endorsements for the Street Pastor's project were given by Chief Inspector Diana Boyles on behalf of Hampshire police and Alan Broadhurst on behalf of Eastleigh Council. The inspiring address was given by Roger Reid of the Ascension Trust.

As well as the usual features in this newsletter there is information about the prayer pastors, a reflection on the new late night patrols, information about a new opportunity to train as a street pastor.

With thanks to all the volunteers, prayer pastors and those that take an interest and glory to God for all he is doing in our area and across the country.

Blessings,

Steve Smallwood, Co-ordinator Eastleigh Street Pastors

PS There is also to be a National Street Pastor Prayer Initiative from 24 to 31 October. Watch out for more details shortly!



Roger Reid (far right) and the new Street Pastors graduating at Chandler's Ford Methodist Church

Stories from the Street

The following are some situations that Street Pastors in Eastleigh have been involved in between April and June. They are selected from the weekly reports that we keep.



We met 3 drunk men by the chemists who took the mickey but shook our hands afterwards.



On the way back to town we noticed a house with a broken window. We knocked to alert an elderly couple but they had already reported it to the Police. They were grateful, however, for our concern.



One of us spoke to a man who was angry with his best mate and said he would kill him. He was also angry with himself for having done bad things in the past. The Street Pastor suggested no matter what he had done in the past if he recognised that it was wrong he could learn from his mistakes. If he harmed his mate he would then become like his mate in doing bad so he should let go. The Street Pastor seemed to be a calming influence by listening and giving good advice.



We sat down with the man and he said "I don't know whether to go & do some

damage somewhere or to go home". ...We talked and tried to encourage him to go home! He then said he could go home but I wouldn't make it across the railway bridge – not just because he had had a lot to drink & could barely walk but because he said "I'll jump off it". I was inwardly praying & felt we had to gain his trust. To do so I felt the Lord encouraging me to pray with him. So out it came "Can I pray with you?" He said "well I pray every night - on my knees by my bed". Amen! So I prayed with him. He then shook my hand to thank me & I then knew I had his trust. So I said we'll walk with you over the bridge & he agreed. Three abreast we walked to start with as he could barely stand, just to keep him upright. Once over the bridge his walking started to improve.



By Tesco's we talked to 4 girls & 3 lads. It was here we had the big question asked `Why is there so much pain in the world if there's a God?` from one of the girls. It was great to share and I think we got through and sowed some seeds. Amen.



He then shook my hand to thank me & I then knew I had his trust.

A very good night with plenty of opportunities to talk with people and to offer practical help in preventing a fight and protecting a girl who was afraid of being attacked



Met the lad again in the park, by the bandstand, he was with two mates both had left college and had been unemployed for over a year.

Talked about options and encouraged them to keep trying for jobs, or to go back to college. We said we would pray for them when we got back to the church



The friend who'd come of the Litten Tree said that he wanted to hit the doorman but something stopped him doing it; his comment to us was "I think it was because you were standing next to me". Thank God for his presence in that situation.



Outside McDonalds two guys and two girls came round. One girl in bare feet- the other stopped to take off 4 inch heels. We offered flip-flops which were gratefully received.



Talked with three girls and a youth for ten minutes. When we spoke about looking after all their mates when they are drunk, and not leaving anyone behind, this struck home with one of the girls. She had been abandoned by her friends recently whilst

drunk; she said she would not do the same for any of her friends.



...we were chatting to a professional cricketer heading home early as he had a game tomorrow.



No problems given England v Algeria 0:0 score—people just feeling deflated.



One lady needed prayer – she was brought up in a religious home but her father was a very bad man. She had tears in her eyes when she said this. Now she is agnostic, but has not given up on God.



We continue to give God praise for all the contacts and experiences He has given us.

Over the last few months the town has been very quiet on some evenings. While it is good that the town is peaceful ,please pray for the prosperity of the town. It is hard time for all but if you have some money spare, or are spending on a celebration do support the businesses in Eastleigh.

We continue to have many positive reactions from the community of Eastleigh. We have also seen so many needs—there is so much more that could be done! If you are interested in training please get in touch using the information on the back of this newsletter.

There for Each Other

Prayer Pastors update

Our Prayer groups continue to meet regularly on a Friday evening at the Wells Place Centre. It has been particularly good in recent weeks to welcome some new Prayer Pastors to the team. Thanks to those who have been recruiting at Holy Cross.

We meet to pray with the Street Pastors before they leave to commence their patrols in Eastleigh. When they return for a break at around 10 30 we are there ready with refreshments and a welcome cuppa. That is the opportunity for the Pastors to write up their notes for the first part of the evening and to share anything they have been involved with during their first session out.

8.30 to 10 30 is often very quiet but as we pray for them and those in the town, we know that their very presence is a source of comfort to the folk they meet and also a time for giving out “sweets” as they go round. This act of love does of course open up conversations from time to time.

As Prayer Pastors, we have had some evenings when it has been difficult to have a full team at Wells Place, so I am delighted to tell you that I met with Margaret Matthews a few months ago who is the Prayer Co-ordinator for Fair Oak. They also have the same problems as us on occasions, so now Margaret and I each has the Street Pastors Rota for Fair Oak and Eastleigh so that if needed we can call on each other so ensuring that the Street Pastors in both areas are remembered in prayer each week. Praise God that He brought us to-



Mary Giles and Margaret Matthews prayer pastor co-ordinators for Eastleigh and Fair Oak areas.

gether and we are now there for each other.

If you would like to come into the Wells Place Centre on a Friday evening and pray with us maybe just for a short time please pop in .We are there from 8pm to 11pm and promise you a warm welcome.

Praise God for the work of Street Pastors and the prayer support they receive week by week.

Mary Giles Prayer Co-ordinator (Eastleigh Street Pastors)

Late Night Eastleigh

A reflection on recent patrols

The graduation of 6 new Street Pastors back in April 2010 allowed the pastors to be split into six teams. Now on two out of every four Fridays we are able to send out two teams. One team does an early shift from about 8.00pm until about 11.15pm and then one does a late shift, going out around 11.30pm and staying out until between about 2.30 to 3.00am, depending on the needs found. The next month the teams swap so that teams do only half a dozen late nights a year.

In November 2009 a few of us experimented with a late night and the needs that night were clear and obvious. Many people moving around the town, often worse for wear through drink. Occasional problems between or within groups and individuals and generally a different at-

mosphere to earlier in the evening.

Since we started late night patrols we've generally noticed the town becoming a little bit quieter at that time. This possibly reflects the economic climate and the opening/closing of Flava and then Fusion on the site of the former Martines nightclub. But we also pray that we bring something of God's peace to the streets at those late hours.

Dealing with those we meet later in the evening can be more emotionally and physically demanding. As people are more inebriated a greater awareness is needed of their potential behaviour. Also some of the issues and problems we have come across have been more difficult. Certainly one or two Street pastors have commented to me how much more relevant some of the training we receive had become. One part of our late evening work is that we supply flip-flops to girls who have come out in high heels which are either too uncomfortable to walk in or have broken. Southampton Street pastors kindly gave us a box which has now all gone. We will be sourcing some more shortly.

We particularly appreciate the prayer support of those who pray in their homes late at night (our prayer pastors leave base around 11.30pm). If you are awake in the early hours of Friday night/Saturday morning pray for all Street pastors across the country.

Steve Smallwood

Meet a Street Pastor! The fourth of our regular series of interviews with the volunteers of Eastleigh Street Pastors. This time we meet Karana Assi (Patrice)

Occupation: I work for ASDA as a supervisor; generally nights.

Church: Elim Pentecostal Church

Tell us a little of your Christian story

I was born in non-Christian family but at school I started attending a catechism. At the time it was just a curiosity to find out what it was about. It was then, I heard about Jesus for the first time.

For me, at that time, it was more like fairy tales. But it still made me a churchgoer.

I will go to church on Saturday evenings and occasionally on Sundays when I could, as my parents would want me to work on the farm with them. This way I became a catholic churchgoer in Togo.

In late eighties early nineties I went to USSR to study. It was in Odessa now in Ukraine that I was studying at the Telecommunication Institute. USSR was atheist but there were some churches such as the Russian Orthodox and the Roman Catholic, which hand full of people, would attend. As a foreigner KGB wouldn't be surprised to see you attending a church service. I went twice to a catholic church but stopped going because the service was in Polish language. Few months later I heard two students praying and shouting halleluiah while I was passing by their room. Through them I went to Charismatic church where I was born again

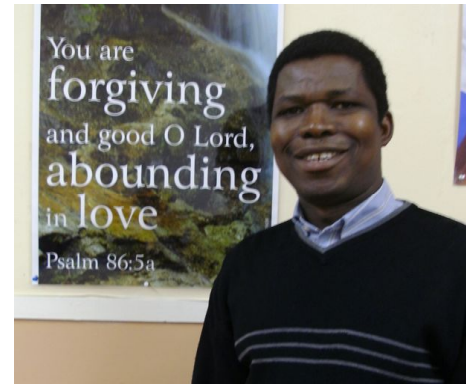
My spiritual growth came when I spent 9 years as a volunteer with Ebenezer Emergency Fund in the former Soviet Union. I joined the charity organisation initially for 3 mounts, as I was about to go back to Togo after my graduation in Odessa's Institute of telecommunications.

How did you hear about Street Pastors?

One Sunday morning the pastor announced that the Street Pastors were coming to Eastleigh and needed volunteers. The minute he said it I knew it was for me.

Why did you volunteer? For some time, I have been praying for young people who are filling up the prisons around the country. I was and still sad that churches were and are empty (some closed down; as a church building became a living accommodation in Eastleigh) and prisons crowded. I have been praying for a way to reverse the situation, bring the anti social behaviour to an end. I believe that young people involve in anti social behaviour are somehow victim of the boring life (life without God) they are condemned to live in. When Street Pastors came around I seized the opportunity. **What did you enjoy most about the Training?** All the training was good and thorough - The training was fantastic. I learned a lot. All of it was impressive and educative. Drugs, alcohol, solvent awareness and youth culture impressed me the most. After the training I looked into being involved in youth work.

What are the streets of Eastleigh like on a Friday night? The streets of Eastleigh on Friday night are quieter than I have imagined. The streets are lively in the really compact Eastleigh town centre but peaceful as I didn't come across violence on the nights I have been out as Street Pastor. Clubbers in Eastleigh are very friendly to-



wards Street Pastors. **Give an example of something good that has happened while on patrol** One Friday night we were walking down High street when a man and his girlfriend stopped us and called the man's brother to come back and talk to us. They insisted he needed to talk to Street Pastors because he broke up with his long time girlfriend and he finds it difficult to cope. I was so blessed by the trust people out there have in SPs. **Has being a Street Pastor changed you?** I have gained knowledge and awareness of the problems in the community (society) we are living from the training and come to love people out there. It is a blessing and an honour to be part of Street Pastors in Eastleigh.

Do you have any fears about going out as a Street Pastor? Concerns but not fear out on the street. I believe Jesus is out there protecting, guiding us and working in people's hearts. We are lifting and carrying the banner for Jesus as we want to see Him in every house and every heart in Eastleigh. **And finally, give 5 words or a phrase to describe you** *Determined, committed, reliable, respectful and having love for the neighbour in Jesus. I believe I can do anything in and for Christ Jesus*
Many thanks Patrice we all appreciate your positive attitude and cheerfulness too. Do you have a question you would like to ask a street pastor?

e-mail Eastleigh@streetpastors.org.uk

Good Bye and Hello

In August Diana Boyles moved on from being in charge of Eastleigh area police. We are so grateful for all her help and support. Her role in Eastleigh has been taken by Chief Inspector Paul Bartolomeo. We welcome Paul to his new role. Please pray for both Diana and Paul in their service to the community.

******NEW TRAINING COURSE******

STARTS 6 November 2010

The four local areas in Eastleigh Borough—Chandler's Ford, Hedge End/West End, Fair Oak and Eastleigh are going to hold a joint training course starting Saturday 6 November. Most subsequent training will take place on Friday nights with only a couple of sessions on a Saturday. We hope to hold a graduation celebration on 26 March 2011. Even if you are not sure if Street Pastors is for you why not come along to the first session on 6 November and find out more. It is 9am to 1pm, St Lukes upper room, Shamblehurst Lane, Hedge End, SO30 2US.

In order to be a Street Pastor you need to have been a member of your local church for a year and we will take up references and carry out a CRB check.

Steve Smallwood
(e-mail Eastleigh@streetpastors.org.uk).

Another Volunteer Opportunity

Would you like to volunteer to help at the new Eastleigh Borough ENERGY Youth Centre, 79 Leigh Road, Eastleigh?

Ideally volunteers should like teenagers and not be upset by noise and occasional bad language. They ask volunteers to work alongside trained Youth Workers to help deliver Youth Work sessions and building positive relationships with young people, plus helping set up and clear up, run tuck shop area help with sign in register, and general policing of the building. On site training will be given plus the opportunity to access appropriate HCC children's services training if you so wished. Please contact Steve Smallwood (e-mail Stevewsmallwood@aol.com) for more details and an application form. You will also need to undergo a CRB check by the Council.

What is Eastleigh Street Pastors?

Eastleigh Street Pastors is an unincorporated association of the Ascension Trust. This means that the project is an entity in its own right. However, it is not recognised as a `legal body` so cannot take on contracts in the name of the Ascension Trust. A constitution was adopted on 20th March 2009. A copy of the constitution is available from the coordinator Steve Smallwood. Membership of Eastleigh Street Pastors is free, although members must be members of a church and either live in; Eastleigh; an adjacent borough; or work in the town. The first Annual general meeting took place on 7 April 2010. if you would like to become a member please fill in the form below.



Get involved!

Please complete the Slip below and return it to:

Eastleigh Street Pastors
c/o Wells Place Centre
Wells Place
Eastleigh SO50 5LJ
Or e-mail Eastleigh@streetpastors.org.uk



Please tick all that apply

- I would like to train to be a Street Pastor
- I would like to be a Prayer Pastor
- I would like to be a member of Eastleigh Street Pastors
- I would like to receive occasional news and updates by e-mail

Name

Address

Postcode

E-mail

Phone

I agree to my details being held on the PCs of the Eastleigh Street Pastors Co-ordinator