

Borders Street Pastors



Listening Caring Helping

Registered Scottish Charity No: SCO46473
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Dear Friends

Well, the nights are starting to draw out again and spring is on its way! I always find this a wonderful time of year as signs of new life start to appear.

A little advance notice. Sunday 9th June will be the first national 'Street Pastor Sunday'. Our committee is looking at marking this event and will hopefully have some material to share with Churches. While realising that Services have to be planned well in advance and there is limited time, if you are able to include Street Pastors in your prayers, it would be much appreciated. If you would like a member of Borders Street Pastor team to attend a Service on that date, please let me know. I can be contacted at borders@streetpastors.org.uk or on 01896 758248.

At Borders Street Pastors we have continued our work throughout the winter and into the spring. Christmas and New Year were busy, but as has often happened in recent months, many of the reports that I received said the same thing... 'a quiet night'. Every night we pray for God's peace on the streets and for His protection; there are others doing the same; and it's working! When we first started out, the number of bottles and glasses (potential weapons) we lifted off the streets each night were in the dozens, now we're 'lucky' if we reach double figures. There are fewer flip flops being given out as people seem to be realising the benefits of wearing flatter shoes. Just some of the areas where we see prayer being answered.

The number of faith conversations continues to grow as well. We don't initiate these conversations, others start them with us. This is a story from Hawick from a couple of weeks ago. If you receive our Prayer Newsletter you may have seen it, but it shows how God is working on our streets at night:

I recently had the privilege of going out with the Hawick patrol. Folks talk about issues in the Howegate area of Hawick, and there is no doubt that there are problems, but I was amazed at the conversations I had with the young people there. Two faith conversations in a row and the opportunity to pray for a young man. This was all instigated by the young people themselves, not us. I am in Howegate really doesn't seem like an ideal time to introduce folk to Jesus, but that is where the amazing power of God comes in!

We continue with our training, both locally and tapping into training being held in Edinburgh. Topics covered locally include Roles and Responsibilities (our 'basic training'), Safeguarding and Drugs & Alcohol. All these topics add to the knowledge and understanding of the team, and also give an opportunity for us to meet up!

Looking forward, we intend to once again have a presence at the Melrose 7s and Earlston 7s and we would hope to cover both the Hawick Common Riding and Braw Lads Gathering in Galashiels. We have an additional 'Day Pastor' this year, so we hope this will enable us to cover one or two additional events.

We were very blessed recently when we received a donation from the trustees of Selkirk United Reformed Church. They recently sold their building and made donations from the proceeds of the sale to various Church and community projects in the Borders, which included Borders Street Pastors.

Our prayer team was strengthened recently with another Prayer Pastor. Rather than coming to the base at Trinity Church as she lives a little distance away, the Prayer Pastor phones in and joins us by speaker. It works really well, the team sits around a table and the Prayer Pastor sits on the table (well, at least the phone does!). We can hear her clearly and she can hear us. During the evening we contact the Prayer Pastor with any issues and she prays into them. It's a wonderful way of supporting our work and really strengthens us with active prayer power!

Thank you to everyone for your continued support and prayers, we couldn't do this ministry without it. Please remember, if you would like to receive our monthly Prayer Newsletter, if you contact our Prayer Coordinator, Maria Spratt at: mariaatseaside@btinternet.com and she will put you on the list.

Every blessings

Duncan Cameron
(Coordinator)