

ASCENSION TRUST NEWSLETTER



JANUARY 2017

A MESSAGE FROM CEO LES ISAAC



At the start of 2017, I would like to say thank you to all of our supporters and everyone who has been involved in the work of the Ascension Trust. Thank you for your ongoing prayers and encouragement,

as well as the continued generosity shown through those who give their time and finances. I am very grateful for each person who plays such an important part of the team.

We wish to say a fond farewell to a number of people who have committed and dedicated their time to serve at the Ascension Trust for a number of years. Our thanks and gratitude go to Ros and Roger Ede, Ray Bell and Nick Tissot who are stepping down as Ascension Trust Representatives, as well as Wendy Thomas who has recently stepped down from her role as the National Prayer Coordinator. Wendy alongside her husband Colin have been committed to praying and have faithfully helped to lead prayer across the network of Street Pastors for the past 10 years.

We pray God's blessing on them all and acknowledge the impact that they have had locally, nationally and further afield which has benefitted and raised the profile of both Street Pastors and the Ascension Trust.

STREET PASTORS



At the start of this New Year, we wish to thank the local managers of the Street Pastor teams across the country

for their diligence, hard work and ongoing commitment to ensure best practice and their continuing care for their local teams. Thank you to all of the Street Pastors up and down the country who contribute to making communities safer.

Research by Premier Christian Radio calculated that Street Pastors would save the NHS roughly £13 million in the month of December. Working on Friday and Saturday nights throughout the year, they are keeping many people away from A&E which has a positive impact on the NHS across the year. Read the full article here: <http://www.premier.org.uk/News/UK/Street-pastors-will-save-NHS-13million-during-festive-period>

PRAYER PASTORS

All of the great work that is carried out on the streets would not be possible without the faithful and continual prayer of the Prayer Pastors. In July 2016, there was a Prayer Pastors gathering in Birmingham where Prayer Pastors came together to pray with the vision to train people who will train others to pray.

In 2017 we want to take this further and focus on getting more areas across the country to be trained as Prayer Pastors. On the 10th February 2017 a few prayer coordinators will be meeting in London to plan a strategy of prayer across the nation for the Street Pastors.

SCHOOL AND COLLEGE PASTORS



We thank God for Bejoy Pal who has stepped into the role of National School and College Pastors Coordinator in January



2016. He trains, supports and coordinates all 30 School and College Coordinators and their teams across the country, including those already established and those in the process of being setting up. Bejoy also manages the annual Urban Youth Mission residential week, providing leadership training to young people which will take

place in Cardiff this year.

We ask you to continue to pray for the schools and pastors, especially in an urban context which can often prove challenging at times. If you are interested in becoming a School Pastor, you can contact Bejoy at: b.pal@ascensiontrust.org.uk

RESPONSE PASTORS



The team of Response Pastors has been developing over the past few years and is coordinated by Operations Director Eustace Constance and National Response Pastor Coordinator, Mike Freeman. Response Pastors are largely made up of Street Pastors who have been given further training to respond to major disasters and incidents.

Recently, a team of Response Pastors were on hand to support families who were affected by the plane crash at the Shoreham



Air Show and at the tram crash in Croydon. Looking to the year ahead, we are praying for more Response Pastors to be trained who will provide reassurance and support when disasters and incidents occur.



To find out more about Response Pastors, contact: responsepastors@ascensiontrust.org.uk.

RAIL PASTORS



Another new development within the Ascension Trust is our team of Rail Pastors who work

with the British Transport Police at rail stations and on board trains. They come alongside individuals who are contemplating suicide and have already helped several people in this way. This can prove to be very emotionally and psychologically challenging for the team and we ask for prayer, that they will be skilful and sensitive to the vulnerable people that they meet. For more information about Rail Pastors, email: railpastors@ascensiontrust.org.uk.

URBAN YOUTH MISSION



Every summer, there is an opportunity for young people to spend a week staying in churches for a time of teaching and spiritual guidance which can then be applied practically in their communities and with their peers through

social action. It encourages young people to discover that they have potential in leadership and that they can achieve. It aims to inspire them to be all that they can be and to develop their unique gifts.

We look forward to working with Susan Stevenson who is the Regional Minister of the South Wales Baptist Association and is involved on the Street Pastors Management Team in Cardiff. She will be helping us to facilitate Urban Youth Mission in Cardiff this year.

If you would like to find out more, contact Bejoy Pal who organises and runs Urban Youth Mission: b.pal@ascensiontrust.org.uk

GHANA OVERSEAS MISSION TRIP – OCTOBER 2017

Every year individuals get an opportunity to work with the Ascension Trust in a developing country and from **12th-20th October 2017** there will be a mission trip to Ghana. It will involve working with vulnerable children on the streets of Accra. If you are interested in finding out more or participating in this overseas mission trip, please contact: missions@ascensiontrust.org.uk

OVERSEAS DEVELOPMENT

There are exciting developments taking place as the Ascension Trust team continues to expand and develop across the world. Currently there are three Street Pastor



initiatives in the United States, two in Australia, and other areas include: Ireland, Gibraltar, Jamaica, Antigua & Barbuda, Trinidad and Tobago, Nigeria and one scheme is about to launch in Canada.

ASCENSION TRUST SCOTLAND

We pray for the continued work of Ascension Trust Scotland, and 2017 marks 10 years since the first Street Pastors initiative was established in Aberdeen. Chief Executive of Ascension Trust Scotland, Sandy Scrimgeour said: "The police value the Street Pastors and recognise that they are the eyes and ears on the street. They are offering training to the Ascension Trust in Scotland to raise awareness of child sexual exploitation and counter terrorism awareness." We thank God for the cooperation and respect that has developed between the police and the Ascension Trust and that there is an opportunity to meet more needs within the community.

The partnership with the Church of Scotland Guild has provided funds to support the work of the Ascension Trust. The National Executive of the Guild chooses six projects for a three year period and the Ascension Trust has been given funding from 2015-2018. Costs of essential training have been provided which has included Roles and Responsibilities and Team Leader training.

In October 2016, Walk the Talk Conference took place to encourage and equip the Street Pastors to greater effectiveness. There was emphasis on the important role that every person in the Ascension Trust plays at each level of the charity. We ask for churches to continue to pray for the work of the Street and Prayer Pastors who collectively represent churches from all denominations, as they continue to be a Christian presence on our streets every week.



Ascension Trust
Equipping to Serve