

PRAYER ON THE STREETS

Our vision is to take Jesus, and his church, out into the streets!

A number of ideas have been circulating amongst the churches with a common theme; they are all broadly evangelistic and they all involve doing our church out on the streets rather than in the buildings. Prayer on the streets is one of those ideas.

Having been exercised about this for several months John Miller shared a vision for this ministry at a Transformation Prayer meeting and there was a broad agreement that we should explore the possibilities further. To this end a meeting was held on 6th June where 20 people from around ten churches were present to lay the idea out before the Lord.

Our conclusion is that we should establish a public ministry for prayer in the streets.

What are we contemplating?

We are proposing a ministry of prayer for healing and wholeness in the streets with a team of Christians offering prayer to members of the public.

Why would we want to do this?

We want to introduce people to the compassion and power of the Lord Jesus Christ. We are motivated by love for the people in our communities whom Jesus sees as "harassed and hopeless, like sheep without a shepherd."

By using our gifts we will glorify Christ, declaring his Lordship and, crucially, we expect to see the kingdom grow as people encounter Christ and are transformed by his power as they put their faith in him.

Who will be involved?

We are all Christians from local churches.

We believe that we should be accountable to our own churches and that every one of us should have the specific blessing and spiritual "covering" of our church leaders.

We also think that each street worker should have the committed support of at least two prayer partners. This reflects a shared concern that we may be provoking a spiritual reaction from the enemy of souls.

The people who came to the meeting on the 6th June represent a broad spectrum of opinion about such a ministry from the enthusiastically positive to the cautiously-questioning.

We'll need some training and some sessions are planned for this.

A recommendation from your church leaders and attendance at the training are essential conditions for acceptance on the prayer team.

How will we go about it?

Having considered a number of different models for healing on the streets, each reflecting its underpinning theology and the character of the participants, we believe that our ministry should focus on the broad offer of prayer for whatever concerns people share with us.

We will identify ourselves as Christians willing to pray and approach people with that offer. Having prayed for people we will offer our testimonies, gospel literature, referral to other services, connection with local churches and so on.

Our own model, adapted to our local circumstances and the possibilities of our community, seems preferable to the adoption of any external and generic model. But we will be public and avowedly gospel centred. Our goal is to go beyond the felt needs which people have to the underlying need of forgiveness and a relationship with God that the bible makes clear is what mankind needs more than anything else.

Where will we do it?

There doesn't seem to be any argument about Staines town centre being the starting point. The exact location has to be pub-

lic and permissible so the High Street by the "lino men" seems a good choice.

When will we do it?

The obvious answer is "Saturday." But this poses the challenge of working in the market which is tightly controlled. Sunday is a more likely possibility; there are plenty of people around and the High Street is effectively free.

It is generally recognised that the healing team should commit to a regular time, usually a couple of hours once a week or once a month. Presumably the more frequently the team appears the more likely it is that people will become familiar with them.

Our first three prayer sessions will be on Sunday 15th September, 20th October, 17th November. From 2.00pm (meet at the Baptist Church) to 3.30pm

Prayer on the Streets TRAINING

Choose a session to suit you

Thursday 5th - 7.30 pm

Saturday 7th - 10.00 am

Tuesday 10th - 7.30 pm

Friday 13th - 7.30 pm

All sessions are in September and will take place at 16 Hale Street, Staines (next to the Baptist Church)
Contact John Miller (details below) to book a place

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15th September

20th October

17th November

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