

This has always been an essential part of our ministry as many homeless individuals are refused access to medical care at GP's or Health Centres. God has graciously opened doors to us; we had a Doctors bench donated to us via a contact through one of our medical nurses/trustees. And a specialist substance Nurse from Manchester Public Health was so impressed by our facilities that she now holds a clinic here offering additional vaccinations and testing.



Another blessing is that many companies have been supporting us practically (*see prayer sheet for more examples*). We received a generous donation at our allotment this week from Westland Horticulture (via) Daisy Nook Garden Centre with a half a ton delivery of 36 large bags of compost, manure and fruit and vegetable feeds. And, Unwin's Seeds sent us an incredible wish list of seeds and even an apple tree. If you would like to volunteer with us on a Wednesday at our allotment project in Longsight, please contact us, it's going to be an exciting year!

And, when our photocopier/printer died earlier this year Brother were amazing and gave us a top of the range all in one A3 printer / copier / fax as part of their commitment to community program.



We know that we have a God that answers prayer and we thank you - all our supporters. At this Easter time - when we've given out and continue to give out so much, we pray you'll be moved to support us in anyway you can. Please find our prayer & assistance sheet, donation forms and details of a sponsored duck race; all ways that you can help.



Rejoice with us for 'He is Risen'

Jesus said "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. John 11:25-26"

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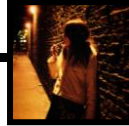
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Barnabus

Care, support, dignity...



Newsletter, March 2010



Greetings In the beautiful Name of Jesus. What a time of year this is friends, a time when all our hopes come to fruition, when our Saviour fulfilled his promise and died on the cross, was resurrected and ascended into heaven so that the likes of you and I can have life everlasting. We are trusting in the Father that at this special Easter time, each of you, our dear brothers & sisters are well.

As usual, friends, things are quite manic here in down town Manchester. We're now open 5 days and 3 evenings a week and the number of our street friends coming into the Beacon Drop-in centre has been quite phenomenal. We now see around 300+ visits per week - that's approx 1,200 hot meals and sandwiches a month! And in a matter of weeks, we gave out over 250 blankets and 30 sleeping bags. Quite amazing when you consider that the official figure of rough sleepers in Manchester is only eight people.

It is sad to see so many men & women standing in line waiting for food and provisions. Because we're seeing such an increase, it has been essential for us to take on another Male Outreach Worker 'Edward Leavy'. Edward's role extends to working during the evening outreach alongside our volunteers. This allows him to be on hand not just to give much needed support and advice but also importantly encourages our friends to revisit again during the day for more one to one sessions. It's during these times that he can work deeper to encourage positive life changes and transformation through God's grace in their lives.

I know you are all aware of the tough times we live in, and I need you to know that Barnabus is no exception to the rule. Over the last few months the number of friends we are seeing has increased by 40% - yet our

income has decreased by 28%.

Friends, you all know me well enough to know that this is something I hate to do, but I have to appeal again, to you our dear supporters to see whether you feel the Lord is convicting you to finance Barnabus with a gift. You all know a great many Christians in your Church or fellowship groups, perhaps they too would love to be involved with this Ministry. Any gift however large or small, one off or monthly (please find forms enclosed) can help to save the lives of men, women boys & girls who are living in poverty in, yes our own city of Manchester.

May the Lord Bless You & Keep You. Please read on to keep in touch with all of the exciting things that God is doing in and through Barnabus.

Love and little fishes,

Peter and Beryl Green



Edward writes: I took up my post as Male Outreach Support Worker with Barnabus in early January, having been involved with the Street Soccer project since Summer 2008. I was always aware of the wonderful work at the Beacon and beyond and it is a privilege to be welcomed into the family.

During the snow and severe cold weather we temporarily extended our evening sessions from 3 to 4 nights to include Thursday nights, this was a tremendous blessing for the men and women. I have found the evening outreach immensely busy, very lively but also amazingly productive, at such times we're able to give emotional, practical and spiritual support to the men and women that find their way into the Beacon.

People such as 'S' who having been street homeless for a number of years was supported to secure his own property and with the help of our friends at Mustard Tree, has furniture. He is now returning the favour to a four legged homeless friend (recently named Ruby). 'L' has been attending the Beacon and Street Soccer and is about to embark on a life changing adventure having found the confidence to apply for and receive the opportunity to work abroad. He is off to work in the South of France next month, he recently discovered the joys of reading the bible and started to attend church so we send him with our blessing and prayers.

'M' had a history of heroin addiction and has been on methadone for the last year, however in recent weeks he has been supported to continue his wish to reduce his dependency. At present he is doing very well and with our continued support and prayers he will be successful.

As God wraps his arms around the Beacon at night, he enables the staff and volunteers to continue to provide a safe haven to all our visitors and we trust with his support we will be able to bring many more examples of God's work at Barnabus.

Caroline writes: It has been a busy few months since the last newsletter, work continues on the Red Light District in Manchester supporting female sex workers through Outreach. In addition to our weekly Outreach sessions we are now working in conjunction with MASH – 'Manchester Action for Street Health', to offer Late Night Outreach until 2am once a month.



The most exciting change to my work has been in HMP Styal, I continue to visit on a weekly basis and the number of women accessing the service has risen dramatically over the past few months from seeing 1 or 2 women per session to 5 – 7. The women have varying support needs from finding a GP, looking for education/training, finding accommodation or maintaining tenancies, some simply want somebody to talk to. One absolute blessing has been securing free Lifeguard Training for a young woman 'K' at Wright Robinson Sports College in Manchester with the possibility of her working for them at the end of her training, 'K' has also just moved out of her supported accommodation into her own flat – Praise God!

Carol writes: Looking back at our last newsletter, it's incredible to see the changes Barnabus has gone through in the last few months; my role has also had to change quite considerably with less time at projects and more time in the office or meeting contacts to raise our profile, develop the provision of services and pursue funding.



When we brought the soup kitchens off the streets into the Beacon, we also converted the upstairs area to create a private medical suite for consultations with our medical volunteers (see picture over side).