



NEWS FROM BEDFORD STREET ANGELS

A word in your ear from the Project Coordinator

Dear friends,

Welcome to my update as Project Coordinator of Bedford Street Angels in 2010. I trust you have all had a joyous, but Holy Christmas and New Year. It is good to be back with you again after a lovely post Christmas break visiting family in snowy Middlesbrough.

A special welcome to those who are receiving this email for the first time.

In recent weeks when I have been invited to speak at various local churches, I have been reflecting on who Christ is and how we are called to serve him today. At all times, but especially in these weeks of Christmas, we celebrate Jesus coming into the world as Lord and Saviour. But this was a life saturated with irony. Jesus shocked his followers into re-examining basic human prejudices, awakened them to new experiences and provoked action that changed lives and made a difference. Christianity is primarily about a community of liberating action, rooted firmly in the love of God shown in his actions for the world. The Church is not 'chatty little Christianity' brooding in its own corner and kept to itself. The community of liberating action, of which we are apart, comes down mucks in together, as God did that first Christmas in Bethlehem sending his Son, Jesus and it is a Gospel command that we continues to do the same in our own time today.

As we give thanks to God for establishing the work of Bedford Street Angels in 2009, and the blessings which that has brought to so many people in various different ways, let us challenged to afresh commit ourselves to be part of communities of liberating actions.

On New Year's Eve, it was announced that Paul Blakey, the National founder of Street Angels based in Halifax has been awarded an MBE by Her Majesty the Queen for his service to the community. It was Paul's vision, with the support from his wife, Jean who founded the Street Angels model in 2005.

Whilst on annual leave, I was able to see Paul and Jean for coffee, so I passed our congratulations and assurances of prayers to him. There is a piece about his award in the Halifax Courier with the web link below -

<http://www.halifaxcourier.co.uk/news/Paul-the-Angel-is-an.5948275.jp>

As Paul made clear during our coffee, this is not an achievement simply for him but also for the number of Street Angels project which are now operating throughout the country. This is recognition of the work that Christians have to play in the night time economy through street ministry work.

We are looking very much to welcoming Paul and Jean to our celebration on Saturday 6th March 2010.

Please be assured of my continued thoughts and prayers for each of you. Please also do remember the work of the project, and particularly for me as I seek to be a worthy servant for our work.

Every Blessing,
Adam

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