

**BEDFORD STREET ANGELS**

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**Major Ian Loxley**

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Saturday 27th March 2010

**To Leaders of Churches, Trustees, Committee Members and all volunteers  
associated with Bedford Street Angels**

I write to inform you that at the meeting of the Bedford Street Angels Trustees held on Friday 26th March 2010, I resigned from my role as Chair of the Bedford Street Angels Committee with immediate effect. I also offered my resignation as a Trustee.

After discussion I agreed to remain a trustee for the foreseeable future to help facilitate the ongoing work of providing secure structure and sound procedures for the future development of Bedford Street Angels.

As I stand down from the role of Chair of the BSA Committee I want to express my sincere thanks to those who, on a voluntary basis, have given so much time, energy and expertise to this project. It is also dangerous to mention names because so many have made significant contributions. However, I must say special thanks to Brenda Sackett. Brenda, during a very busy and tiring period in her life, has put a huge amount of time and energy in BSA. Her enthusiasm and support has been an inspiration. I also want to express my thanks to Peter Hammond who has brought considerable expertise to the establishing of BSA as a company limited by guarantee, and who has proved to be a first-rate treasurer. The faithful prayer ministry of Vee Travers and her team must also be acknowledged. Prayer is the 'vital breath', and this venture would not have succeeded without it.

We have been privileged to have Adam May as Project Coordinator since last Autumn. God's calling of Adam to make a journey into the unknown from his role with the churches in Bognor Regis is, I'm sure, unquestioned. Adam has not only come to us with the right skill base and gifting for the task, but he has brought considerable energy, enthusiasm and commitment to this ministry. The fact that my almost daily communications with Adam frequently take place at before we should really be in work or when we should be unwinding before bed is testimony to the fact that Adam views his role as a vocation rather than a job. Adam has given much more than we could have ever expected. God has blessed us indeed.

One particular blessing that BSA has brought to me is the joy of seeing Christians from such diverse traditions working and praying together. BSA is a magnificent testimony to the fact that ordinary Christians can see a need and be led by God to respond to it in a significant manner. I am sure that we need dialogue at the highest levels of Church leadership, committees, workings groups etc, but the unity of God's people is best expressed in projects such as ours. I hope that all those involved in this project will continue to be inspired by this expression of God's Kingdom in Bedford.

I have been hugely moved by the way the statutory authorities in Bedford have responded to BSA. The shift from scepticism, any in one or two cases, suspicion and hostility, to acceptance into the Bedford Borough Partnership has been remarkable. We have made no concessions. Our principles and practices remain as they were at the onset of the project. Acceptance has come not from us blending in, but from us being true to the Gospel. This has been championed in part by the work of Adam, but in the main from the week by week ministry of the angels on the streets.

So, my biggest 'thank you' is to all those who signed up to wear our jackets into the early hours of the morning when it would have been so much easier to be in bed. Thank you to every Bedford Street Angel. You have been Christ to so many people over the past year, and the work you have done toward the building of the Kingdom, although it can never be quantified, is considerable. The stories of those you help week by week speak for themselves.

It has been a rewarding and enriching experience to be in the privileged position of Chair of Bedford Street Angels. I would like to have been able to give much more time

to the role. For a long time I have been very conscious that I needed to move on. I believe that this is God's plan. I also believe that God will call and equip others to lead BSA. There are many new and exciting opportunities on the horizon. I will be praying God's continuing blessing upon Bedford Street Angels. I leave you in God's hands – the best place to be!!

Major Ian Loxley,

27 March 2010