

ries, but it's a privilege being in the lives of these chaotic, yet beautiful people, many of whom have had horrendous upbringings. Though our time at the van is short, we continue to see it as a bridge to building relationships. It also provides some great opportunities to invest into their lives during the week.

Our House: We continue to have people stay with us — helps to build stronger relationships and provides greater opportunity to share the Gospel. Most stay for a night or two, but others for longer when it's right. Ernie and Colin stay regularly and we find it such a joy having them with us. Many comment about the peace they feel (God's presence) and the pleasure from sleeping in a comfortable bed. It's wonderful to see guys cooking the type of meals they would never be able to make in their own situations. Many times we get up in the morning and the dishes have been washed. We praise God how He uses our home to bless so many.

Trustees: We are pleased to announce a new group of trustees to lead our future plans and direction. We would like to thank Ian Harrison, and Nick and Sue Matthews for their years of commitment to the running, care and growth of CCMM. The new board of trustees are Stuart Whittle (Chairman), Tina Smith, Tyrone Daniel, Beth Raynor, Malcolm Sterling, Cecilia William (Treasurer), and Steve & Irene Brown. Please pray as we seek the Lord for the future of CCMM.

Financial summary

Financial needs	£2750 per month
Regular donations	£950 per month
Shortfall	£1800 per month

Your continued support for this ministry is appreciated. We thank God for his provision and may He richly bless you.

Please get in touch if you would like to make a one-off donation, start a direct debit, and/or receive regular updates and prayer needs via email

Acknowledgments

Altrincham Baptist Church / Life Church / Caernarfon Pentecostal / Kingsway / Flixton Fellowship / St Mary's & Sale West Community Church / St Mary's & St Cuthberts (Cheadle) / St John's (Flixton) / Cornerstone Methodist (Davyhulme) / Lightbowne Evangelical / The People's Church / Sale Methodist / Heathfield Evangelical / Bramhall Methodist / Trinity Platt / Woodheys Primary School / Acher Hall School / Greggs Bakeries and all those who make sandwiches all year round and support us financially and those who are committed in prayer. Thank you and may God continue to bless you all.

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City Centre Ministries Manchester

Serving Christ in the City

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If sinners will be damned, at least let them leap to hell over our bodies. And if they will perish, let them perish with our arms about their knees, imploring them to stay. If hell must be filled, at least let it be filled in the teeth of our exertions, and let not one go there unwarned and unprayed for" (Charles Spurgeon)



When God called us to preach the Gospel to the homeless and disadvantaged in Manchester, He clearly told us that we must be willing to be in it for the long haul. Some 20+ years later, we are still serving the same group and we will continue to do so until told otherwise. Over the years, we have often wondered if we are making any difference to the lives of those we minister to. We don't always see the fruit from our labour and at times feel despondent, but continue to serve from hearts of obedience. Now and again we hear from people we previously supported:

Dan* was on the streets for several years and addicted to heroin. After building a friendship, he began to attend Church and made a commitment to the Lord Jesus. He lived with us for a few weeks and we saw God do some amazing things, but sadly Dan went back to Scotland several years ago, got involved with his old crowd and continued to use drugs. Recently, Dan contacted us to say he's now established in a Church, doing voluntary work and going to college. He's off heroin, has his own flat and has never felt happier!

Sam was one of the most chaotic people we've ever worked with – a drug and alcohol abuser, who also worked the streets. On one occasion, she nearly lost a leg by falling asleep in front of an electric fire while under the influence of heroin. Sam moved to another town with her boyfriend and we visited them once, but they were in a total mess. After 5 years of silence, she contacted us through Facebook and is now a totally changed woman! They are both drug- and alcohol-free and have a 5-year-old boy. Sam posts photos on Facebook every day and looks amazing. She is also connected to a Church and thinking about being baptised.

These are the things that keep us going and we thank God that, by His grace, He allows us to see the impact that the Gospel has on people, albeit not always in our time. Thank you for supporting this work, which enables us to continue to reach out with the transforming good news of the Lord Jesus Christ. Please continue to pray for this work and for salvation.

*The names used throughout the newsletter are not the real names of the people discussed.

Recent news

We're sorry that it's been well over a year since our last newsletter. We have much to share about the past year and we have seen God touch the lives of many people.

In October 2014, we met a young 25-year-old girl at the van called Lilly. She was in quite a mess, having just come out of jail and then falling out with her mum. We rarely open our home in this type of situation, but we felt it was the right thing to do this night. However, Lilly stayed for 3 months. We helped to get her a Methadone script and started discussions with the council about housing. We met her mum and brother, and also got Lilly connected with The Message (she met some of their team in prison). Lilly had been jailed 26 times for shoplifting to feed her drug habit. We shared the Gospel whilst Lilly was with us; she made a commitment to Jesus and attended our Church each week. We had many prayer times and worship times in our house, and she was touched deeply by Almighty God. Her partner came out of jail and sadly that changed everything – she took some money from our bedroom and left us. Unfortunately, Lilly's was imprisoned again – we visited her once, but have now lost contact. Although this did not turn out as we wanted, we are certain that Lilly was touched by God and we continue to pray for her and that she will be influenced by more Christians.

Jim came to the van 3 years ago, when he made himself homeless following a family breakdown. Over the 3 years, we built up a friendship and took him out for lunch and coffee a few times. We encouraged Jim to come off the streets and last year he accepted our help to find him accommodation. Jim came to stay with us and within 2 weeks he had his own flat in a sheltered accommodation scheme. Jim was amazed at how God's favour was so evident. He now has a beautiful flat with amazing furniture, which we know was from God. Jim also comes to Church quiet often and is making friendships with others.

Mike came to stay with us for 6 days, but then disappeared. We then received a call from his partner, who we knew nothing about, and she informed us that Mike had cancer! We visited their house near Rochdale, and were shocked to discover it had been their home for 18 years. Despite the shock, we were pleased to know he was not homeless and had a better life than we thought. We started to support Mike and his partner, Claire. His cancer progressed quickly and Mike was admitted to Christies. Just before he went in, Mike became a Christian. We arranged a wedding for Mike and Claire in Christies. This was a very touching day and Irene had the amazing privilege of leading Claire to the Lord, 30 minutes before they got married. Mike then moved to a hospice and we visited them both over the next few weeks before sadly Mike was taken to be with the Lord. We understand that Mike's brother (they had not seen each other in 15 years) was so touched by the funeral service that he went home to Scotland, found a Church and gave his life to the Lord. We praise God for this amazing outcome and for allowing

to be part of this eternal story. We see Claire quiet often, she regularly stays with us, is growing in the Lord and is part of a local Church.

These are just a few of the people we have been able to reach with the love of Jesus Christ. There are many more and we praise God that He continues to supply all that we need to sustain this ministry.



Guys at the van getting a drink

Prayer points

Christianity Explored: At the end of 2014, we ran a 6-week Christianity Explored course at The Methodist Hall in Manchester. A regular group of 6 people attended each week and a few others came intermittently. It was great to partner with Greater Manchester Community Chaplaincy and to use their facilities. Duncan Hunter led the meetings and it was great to see the Gospel being shared by him. We are hoping to run another course this year and intend to invite even more people.

Never too old to learn: Steve completed the first year of a bible training study course with North-West Partnership, and he is half way through his second year. This has been a challenging time, though he is learning so much about the Word of God and how to teach and preach it. It has been a great resource in preparing him to preach the Gospel on the streets. We pray this study will equip Steve to share the transforming power of God's word.

Street Outreach: The van is out every Wednesday and Saturday without fail. Although the numbers of people coming has dropped, we still have some wonderful opportunities to minister the love of Jesus in a practical way and preach the Gospel. There seems to be an increased number of younger men on the streets, especially Eastern Europeans. We still see the van as a vital resource to those who use it. We are often told that we are seen as a lifesaver to many. **Irene** has built up some amazing relationships with the working girls. One young woman called Mel was pregnant and living in an abandoned car. Irene started to get alongside her and was asked to be Mel's birth partner. Irene spent 24 hrs at the hospital with Mel one night, but it was only a false alarm. We then received a phone call at midnight the following day from St. Mary's. Mel had given birth in the car with her boyfriend, who was then arrested for bail conditions. Irene spent most of her time during the next 2 weeks at the hospital trying to persuade Mel to move into a mother and baby unit. Sadly this did not happen and Mel is now back on the streets with her boyfriend, and the baby's in care. This is just one of many sad sto-