

Dear Friends

Superintendent's Rants

Doesn't time fly? No sooner are we here than Christmas is upon us and then gone. People often ask if we are settling in. We have settled quite quickly and we had a really good Christmas. Now we face a time of change and refocusing, the staffing situation is critical, and the leadership is at a crucial juncture. We face some serious decisions over the next few months which will shape and equip the Circuit for the coming years. We all need to pray and seek God's guidance in all things but especially at this time. Make no mistake, we are at a turning point in the Circuit's life and future. I would ask anyone who has a real heart for this Circuit to consider joining the Leadership Team as a steward.

When you say to God 'Put me to what you will, put me with whom you will' he sometimes takes you at your word. Many times I have been in situations where I have thought 'What am I doing here?' As some of you know in my previous Circuit I went out in the evening as a Street Pastor. The reason for me remembering this is I received an e-mail asking if I wanted to attend the group's tenth anniversary. On one of my last outings as a Street Pastor we had just finished a very dull evening with very little to do when we stumbled across a man very drunk trying to get home. We walked with him so far then he suddenly ran off. On the way back (this was about 2am) we were called into action again and I spent the best part of half an hour holding a powerful torch over a man who had been stabbed while paramedics tried to patch him up enough to take him to hospital. The point is that all the team that night had been talking about was 'Was there any value in being out?' Well, that was answered in the last hour or so of the evening but it reminds me that God has many tasks for us and sometimes we complain we have nothing to do and other times we have too much. But as Jesus said in Matthew 25 verse 40 'The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.' So never think God has nothing for you to do – he might just push to your limits.

And finally, a married couple were arguing who was making the coffee. The wife said that in the Bible it says that men should make the coffee and the husband asked her where it said that. The wife opened the Bible and said 'Right here in HEBREWS!'

Neil