

*"I have seen you in the sanctuary
and beheld your power
and your glory."
Psalm 63.2*

Dear Friend

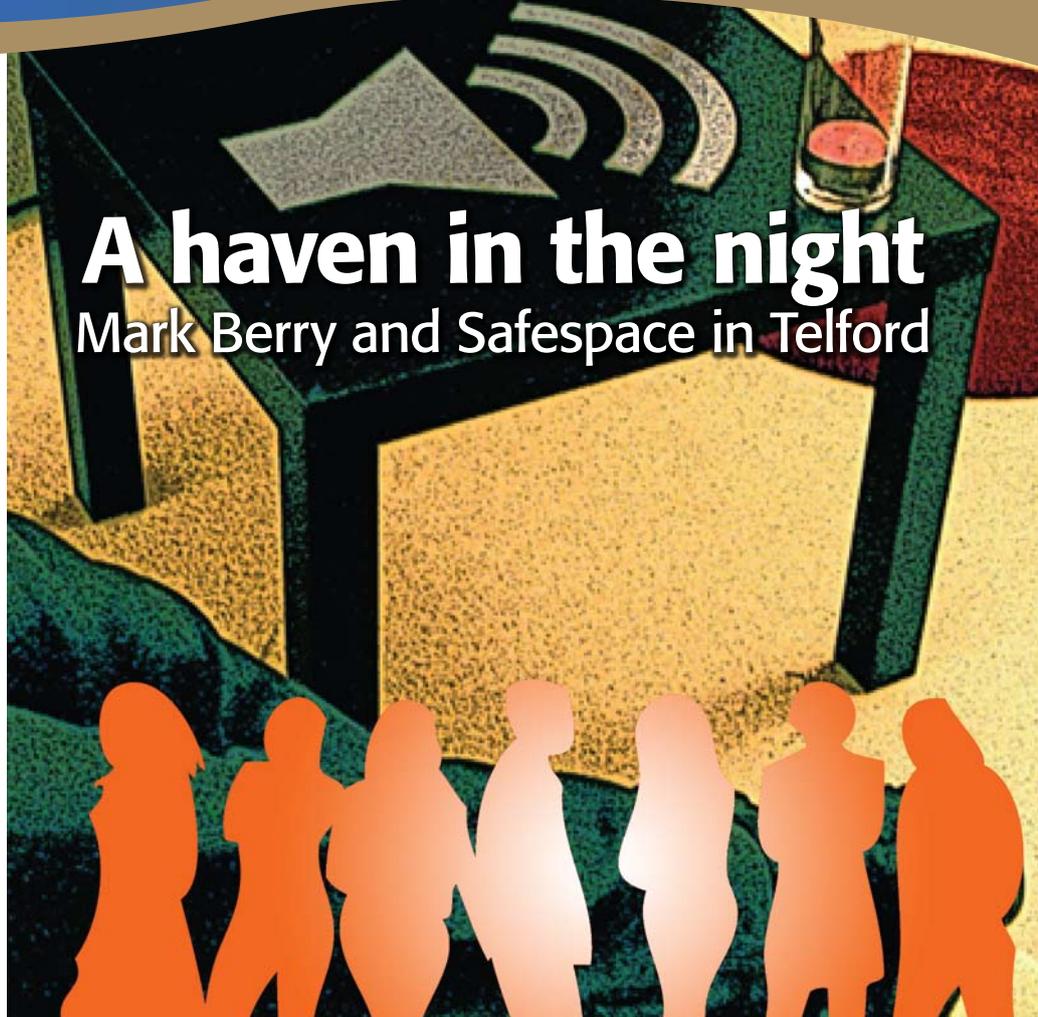
In this March edition of Mission Update, we're pleased to share a story that has received quite a bit of attention in the UK media, as well as inspiring accounts from Nepal and Bangladesh...

The music is pumping, the dance floor is packed, and the alcohol is flowing. It's a bit past midnight at Pussycats Night Club in Wellington, Telford and the people are ready to party. Some will have a fun night out with lots of laughs, maybe even a romantic connection. Those less fortunate might drink too much, get in a fight or do things they'll regret the next day.

Others will end up at Sankuary, just down the street. Sankuary is a venue set up by Wellington Methodist Church in Telford and Safespace, a Christian community pioneered by Mark Berry.

Open every Saturday night from 11:30 pm to 3 am, Sankuary is designed to be a haven where people can relax, sober up, order a taxi and have some coffee and baked goods. They'll also find a listening ear if they need to talk.

Since its opening in December, Sankuary has welcomed a steady stream of late night clubbers. In their words, Sankuary "feels so safe." "As soon as you walk in



A haven in the night

Mark Berry and Safespace in Telford

you feel at home," one person said. "The people here are so nice; it's amazing to find people who just want to help."

Mark and others at Sankuary have established a good relationship with the local council and police: "The police, environmental health and the Safer Communities partnership came through for us... providing us, amongst other things, with a radio which means we can speak directly with the mobile police unit and the officers posted outside both Pussycats and the nearby station."

It's a necessary precaution. In January, "We had our first ambulance call as well as several walking wounded... but on the up side we had a constant flow of people

who...seemed to really value what we are doing..."

By making themselves available in the wee hours of the morning, Sankuary volunteers have connected with a variety of people they may not have met otherwise. On a recent visit to Sankuary, a BBC Radio 4 producer overheard people discussing topics such as the nature of evil and the existence of God.

Praise God for this new initiative in Telford, and for media coverage Safespace has had recently on the BBC. Please pray that Safespace will continue to be a faithful presence in Telford.

Mark Berry of Safespace

Make me a servant



Manoj, far left

Manoj Pradhananga in Nepal

Kushiram comes from a Hindu family.

Eight years ago, he was infected with Japanese Encephalitis. He sought several treatments and approached witch doctors for a cure. Yet, his health kept

deteriorating. One day, as he struggled in his death bed, he asked a friend to pray for him in the name of Jesus. Slowly, his health improved and he began to go to church. A few months later, his young son

passed away, but Kushiram never gave up his faith. One year later, he was baptised. He joined our Tikapur leadership training programme in February 2008, where he learned about being a servant leader. He completed his training in four months. Afterwards, his church sent him to a nearby village to begin a new church. Kushiram started with one unsure believer. Within six months, sixteen new people have joined him and his wife in fellowship!

Christianity is growing fast in Nepal, yet the majority of church leaders have little, if any, training. Praise God for Manoj, who directs the much-needed Leadership Training Department of the National Churches Fellowship of Nepal and for the hundreds of Christians like Kushiram, whom they've equipped for service.

Anytime children

David and Sarah Hall in Bangladesh

"Jahangir! Faisal!" The staff at the Ekota Project stared in surprise at the two 12-year-old boys. Not because the staff aren't used to drop-ins; that's what the Jokhon Tokhon centre is—a safe place run by the Church of Bangladesh, where Dhaka street children can drop by anytime. Most of these children fend for themselves, working for a pittance as water carriers, domestic helpers, garbage collectors, hawkers, or sex workers. They come to the centre for non-formal education, food, games and rest. It was the sight of both boys dressed

smartly in school uniforms that caused the excitement. Jahangir had regularly attended the centre for three years. Eventually, the staff referred him to a night shelter, which helped place him in a school that gives him a monthly allowance, food, clothing and education. He no longer looks like a street child.

"We just wanted to come by and say hello," Jahangir said. It was wonderful to see how the boys hadn't just received help from the teachers at the centre; they had built a lasting relationship that won't soon be forgotten.

Praise God for how the Ekota Project has practically shown the love of Jesus to children and vulnerable women. Please pray for Shabnam, a woman who was involved in sex work until she encountered Ekota. Now she desperately wants a different life for her children: Sumia and Kamal.

I hope you've been encouraged by these diverse reports from CMS people in mission. Isn't it amazing how "sharing Jesus changing lives" can take so many different forms? Please pray for continued impact in these places, and know that we are so grateful for your willingness to be part of God's mission through your prayers and gifts.
Sincerely in Christ,



Tim Dakin General Secretary



Dhaka street children