
Title of**Dissertation****Street Pastors in Lambeth: A reflection on partnership in mission**

Abstract:

This work investigates the experience of Street Pastors in Lambeth, especially in its partnership with the police and local authority; and asks to what extent such a partnership can be seen as a valid expression of Christian mission.

The first chapter places Lambeth Street Pastors in its historical, social and theological contexts. In this it pays particular attention to some contemporary re-assessments of the nature of Christian hope and the nature of Christian mission.

Chapter 2 listens to the experiences of the different partners in the Lambeth initiative. It does this through a series of recorded, semi-structured interviews with representatives from Street Pastors, the Police and Lambeth Council.

Chapter 3 moves on to look at some of the biblical resources which might help to interpret and evaluate this experience, and also help to shape a possible theology of partnership.

Chapter 4 examines issues arising from the wider church's experience of partnership in mission. For example, reflection on Christian social action in South Africa highlights the underlying tension between a pragmatic and a prophetic approach to social engagement. The image of 'partnership as dance' is explored; and the need to be alert to the dynamics of power within partnerships is highlighted.

The Conclusion suggests that, while it is impossible to prove a theology of partnership *per se*, working in partnership with secular bodies is consistent with the nature of God as revealed in and through the *missio Dei*. It identifies themes of commonality, tension and mutuality as the contours of a possible theology of partnership. It also suggests that Street Pastors should pay attention to a number of issues such as: further developing a theology of holistic mission, power issues, the importance of indwelling and rigorous double-listening, and the need to remain centred in God. Finally, some recommendations are made about the development of the initiative.