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Because London needs Jesus

London City Mission is challenged to help plant and support indigenous churches.

London City Mission held its annual Thanksgiving Service on Wednesday 17th September. Guest speaker Andy Paterson, Mission Director with FIEC, inspired and motivated Mission staff and supporters alike, as he called on them to not to lose their nerve or imagine that somehow they need to give up on verbally sharing the gospel. He also challenged London City Mission to *“help plant and support indigenous churches and go on resourcing gospel-hearted churches with some of the brilliant evangelists that you have. You need to work with those churches,”* he said, *“so that they might effectively welcome, grow and develop people who are coming to faith in Christ. Please use your expertise to grow a generation of working class church leaders.”* Thirdly, he impressed upon the Mission the role it has to play in helping to train and equip churches in London to cross cultural boundaries to create truly multi-racial, multi-ethnic churches in London.

Paterson’s challenge resonated well with London City Mission which has spent the past year praying and reflecting on gospel ministry in London and considering how it can have the greatest gospel impact on the city. Last week London City Mission’s Board approved a new vision and strategy to share the gospel with London’s *least* reached and to support the church of London in evangelism and discipleship.

The Great Commission and the challenge of Samaria

Graham Miller, London City Mission’s Chief Executive, explains: *“Jesus told the disciples they would be his witnesses in ‘Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.’ As Christians in London today, we are good at reaching those who are like us, at planting churches and at sending people overseas. But what about Samaria? Reaching Samaria is about sharing the gospel with people who may be geographically close but are a million miles away in culture, tradition or lifestyle.”*

Miller is encouraged to see the gospel work that is going on in London. *“Churches are growing”,* he says, *“and there is much emphasis on new church plants. But in the midst of this great gospel effort, many are still not coming into contact with the gospel. London City Mission has an opportunity to serve God by seeking to extend the kingdom into the least reached parts of this city”.*

More follows...

SHARING JESUS CHRIST WITH ALL LONDON

London City Mission's Board has approved plans to help fulfil this strategy. The plans will enable 60 extra pairs of feet to be on the streets, working in the most hardest to reach communities in the capital by 2016. Not only that, but London City Mission hopes that as a result of increased training and sharing of resources, many Christians in London will be mobilised to get involved in evangelism and gospel work.

-ENDS-

Note to Editors:

1. The London City Mission exists to share with the people of London, patiently, sensitively and individually, the transforming love of God in Jesus Christ, and to enable them to join his church. In pursuit of that purpose, London City Mission staff, paid and volunteer, go to those least reached – those living in poverty, on the margins of society or from other cultures. We show God's love in practical ways, continuously seeking opportunities to share the life-changing gospel message. We work in partnership with churches, to ensure that individuals who make a commitment to follow Christ are embraced by a loving church family. The gospel is at the heart of all we do, because London needs Jesus.
2. For more information about London City Mission, please contact:
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3. The attached photos can be used solely in conjunction with this press release, but please credit them to London City Mission.

Captions:

- London City Mission Thanksgiving Service
- Andy Paterson speaking at London City Mission's Thanksgiving Service.

SHARING JESUS CHRIST WITH ALL LONDON

