

Christ Way Baptist Church, Salford



Christ Way Baptist Church in Salford, a city within a city, joined the NWBA in 2009 and during that time have grown both numerically and also in involvement in association life.

Their building is located in the heart of Salford, a couple of hundred metres from the Salford city market, and a short journey in to Manchester city centre too. Their pastor Olan Banwo is supported through Home Mission, and shares something of the church's work during the last year....



"The beginning of the year was a bit unstable for us as some of our members relocated to places outside Salford and our attendance dropped significantly. The relocations had been due to new jobs, marriage, moving back to Africa and a family left for another church. As a result we were unable to hold our usual Easter outreach and Family Fun day. However, during July and August we embarked on a month of witnessing for Jesus around Salford Shopping Centre and in the middle of September we were able to hold an Evangelism outreach within the community. This featured live gospel music by the CBC worship group, while we distributed Christian literature and shared the gospel with the public on a one to one basis.

We had a special one week outreach aimed at the Salford University's new students during the 1st week in September, and we went and booked a place at the University student House and displayed our church welcome banner. We had our members on the stand for the whole week giving a warm welcome as well as helping the fresh students find their way around Salford. This outreach turned out to be a successful one as the Lord gave us about 8 of these new students out of which 4 of them are actually God's answer to some of our prayers. Three of them joined our choir and since then our Sunday worship has taken on a new dimension, it turned out that they are trained and seasoned worship leaders! Praise God. We have also seen about 3 new families join our church since the beginning of the year.

With the winter drawing in, the church has decided to have an outreach charity program to the homeless people within Salford and Manchester. During this outreach we intend to demonstrate the message of Christ's love through the distribution of canned food, hand gloves and stockings to the homeless people in the community, and on the Christmas Day we intend to hold a love feast in the church for the church members and friends."

Christ Way Baptist Church is a fantastic example of a community of believers finding ways of connecting with their local context, from welcoming new students to market outreach and practical deeds with the homeless.

For your thoughts and prayers:

- In what ways could you share the love of Christ with those around you?
- Does the community around you know that the church is alive and well? What steps could you take to 'go public' with your faith?