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In 2021, the Maidstone Evangelism Team (MET) was formed with the purpose of providing an opportunity for any Christian from a local Church to experience sharing their faith on the streets of Maidstone. A team goes out every fortnight on Tuesday afternoons and Saturday mornings, and under the guidance of a trained full time evangelist from Counties. There has been freedom to evangelise in whatever way felt comfortable to individuals, and the benefit is that we are all seeing how the Lord can use some inspired ideas to spread the message of Jesus. We have also tried to tie in with any themes arising from celebration or remembrance days such as Valentine day, Easter, Mother/Father's day and others.

Over the past six months, we have witnessed eight individuals making the life-changing decision to repent and follow Jesus. Additionally, we have had numerous opportunities to share the gospel and engage in meaningful conversations with people. As we engage in countless conversations with individuals from diverse backgrounds, we get to hear their stories, struggles, and aspirations, and we witness the Holy Spirit working to draw them to Jesus. A significant number have been part of Churches before and have realised their need to get back.

I have convened a small group (Brian Evans, Hazel Giles and Miya Williams) to help me to oversee the operation and to provide an element of accountability. After careful consideration we have decided that we will not formalise MET in any way as all those who are part of it are already under a leadership at a local Church. Our mission is not to form a new Church, but rather we wish to see the Kingdom of God built and to bring the love of Christ to those we encounter along our journey. We will therefore seek to connect individuals with local church communities where they can nurture their relationship with God and find a sense of belonging.

It is an immense privilege to be part of this incredible work, and we are fully committed to continuing our mission of sharing the good news of Jesus Christ with the people of Maidstone and beyond. It has been wonderful to see such a wide range of Churches represented and together we believe we can make a tangible difference and bring hope to those who need it most. With the support of the local churches and the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we are committed to continuing this important work and bringing the light of Christ to the people of Maidstone.

If you would like to know more or get involved please contact Mark Bingham. Email: <u>evangelistmark@outlook.com</u> Or phone 07708863982