

PROTECTED by Prayer

You might feel that facilitating change in your community is a mammoth task: Consider 'adopting' your local police station and see how you can outwork the Great Commission...

—by Nicolette Ferreira



Tony Hoare is an ordinary man who is making a difference together with other concerned Christian citizens. Tony, an electrical engineer by training, watched a video documentary called 'Transformations' that greatly impacted his heart. Having obtained the blessing of his parish council to run a project involving the police, Tony (who then worshipped at St Thomas Anglican Church in Rondebosch) approached the pastors of the other churches in the area. Their response was

unanimously enthusiastic! He visited the Rondebosch Police Station and suggested starting a prayer group for the police and their families.

Upholding the police

On 13 March 2001, the first get-together with the police at the Rondebosch Police Station was held, supported (astoundingly), by all the churches in Rondebosch. "May they be one as You and I are one" John 17:22. On Friday 12 March 2010 the prayer group celebrated their 10th anniversary! God certainly plans to complete the good work He has started (Phil 1:6).

All the churches and most of the schools in Rondebosch have now adopted this Police Station in intercessory prayer. Different schools and churches are responsible for prayer each day of the week (go to www.actionagainstcrime.org.za for a complete roster). Once a month, every second Friday at 7:45 am, there is also a gathering at the station to pray with the police for issues of concern to them. Tony Hoare and the prayer group believe that "our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the Heavenly realms." Eph 6:12

Praying for the protectors

Inspector Lyndom Sisam, Station Communications and Liaison Officer at the Rondebosch Police Station, says that knowing

Jesus is a real help to him as a policeman. As a result of attending the prayer group, he came to realise that following Jesus is a lot more than 'church on Sundays'. He developed a real, living relationship with God and now his family is actively involved in youth ministry at their church.

Inspector Sisam has experienced the real-life results of the prayer group in his day-to-day work as a policeman: "The other day, I had to deal with an emotionally disturbed woman who had become abusive and who would not allow her family or anyone else to approach her to help.

Jesus, our reference point

As I dealt with the woman, I prayed to the Lord for guidance and was able to persuade her to seek treatment. I have no doubt that it was the Holy Spirit guiding me. Having Jesus as a reference point in my life makes everything so much easier to handle. And it all started with the prayer group!"



Experiencing God's power

Captain Conrad Claasen has also experienced God's power as a result of being covered by prayer. One day, he and a colleague were on duty in Main Road, Rondebosch, when he saw a taxi approaching from the direction of Mowbray.

As the vehicle came closer, 'something' told him to stop the vehicle and check it: "Inside the taxi was the driver at the wheel and another man with a young black woman on the floor in the back. The man in the back was in the process of trying to rape the young woman at knife point."

Claasen and his colleague immediately arrested the two men and cared for the terrified young woman. There is no doubt that their action prevented her certain rape and possible murder. At the award ceremony, Inspector Claasen attributed the 'something' he had felt to the Holy Spirit and gave thanks to God for having guided him in the execution of his duty. It was also later

revealed that the young woman was praying to the Lord for help as her kidnapper was holding her to the floor.

ever he lowered his hands, the Amelikites were winning. When Moses' hands grew tired... Aaron and Hur held his hands up.

The Church's role is to stand on the hill in prayer, with the rod of Godly authority in hand, holding up the arms of those who fight the battle (ie: the police).

Spiritual watchmen

Marlene Gildenhuys, a member of such a prayer group at the Wynberg Police station, says that "the police are the watchmen of the city and the Church has been called to be spiritual watchmen."

When the Amalekites attacked the Israelites, Moses demanded Joshua to: "go out and fight the Amalekites", and he would "stand on top of the hill with the staff of God in [his] hands" Ex 17:9. "As long as Moses held up his hands, the Israelites were winning, but when-

So Joshua overcame the Amelikite army with the sword" Ex 17:11-16.

The Church's role is to stand on the hill in prayer, with the rod of Godly authority in hand, holding up the arms of Moses that the battle be won (see Police Station Prayer Partners' website: www.lotsha.org.za/pspp_action.html).

TONY HOARE is available for advice on starting a prayer group at your local police station. Email tony@hoare.co.za

