

2011

NOVEMBER

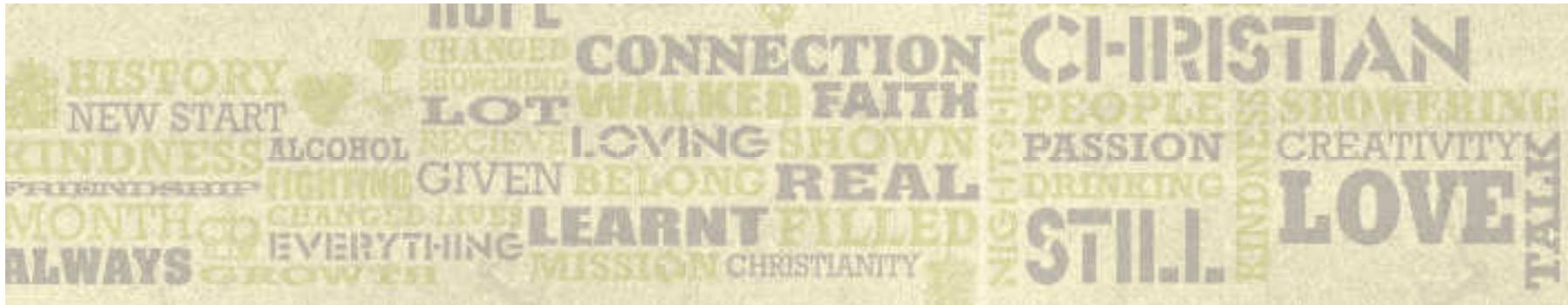


## **PROJECT BOOT CAMP, LOVING TO LIFE CONFERENCE & MORE**

**Read about the latest happenings on Project in our last 'Gap' of 2011.**

**We'd also like to take the opportunity to thank you for your continued support and wish you a very enjoyable Christmas and a Happy New Year from all the Project Team!**

**DON'T FORGET: SLEEPOUT 2012 IS HAPPENING ON FRIDAY FEBRUARY 17TH  
LOOK OUT FOR MORE DETAILS SOON!**



## Conference Report

Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> of November saw over fifty people descend on King's House in Bedford for the first ever 'Loving-to-Life' conference. Focussed very much on sharing and equipping for those interested in working with the homeless and disadvantaged, the day was packed with opportunities to be inspired to see lives change.

Seminars by Jim Harpur, Nigel Ring and Ali Green (among others) covered topics such as 'How to really Support the Homeless', 'Pursuing Excellence' and 'Social Action and the Gospel'.

With opportunities to share over lunch, many spoke of being really encouraged by having the chance to meet those with a similar passion to help the poor and disadvantaged in our communities.

With comments like 'thank you so much for putting it on', 'worth coming all the way from Devon' and 'fantastic – super day' as well as lots of feedback wanting another event in the future, it may be that Loving to Life 2011 could be just the first of many!

We'd like to also say a big thank you to all those who helped make the event such a success, particularly the members of the Project staff team who worked so willingly both on the day and in preparation for the event.



## Project Boot Camp!

The rural setting of the Chellington Centre in the Bedfordshire countryside was a far cry from the streets of Bedford town centre but a great place for the Project Boot Camp which took place on the 15<sup>th</sup>/16<sup>th</sup> November. With cover at Barton House and the Nightshelter provided by a team of volunteers for the one and a half days and one night, it meant that all the project staff and interns were released to participate in the Camp.

An action-packed programme put together by the Project Leadership Team and great input from some of the leaders from the King's Arms church, ensured Boot Camp was a huge success. We shared meals, encouraging stories of positive progress in the Project, went on a scavenger hunt and had lots of fun getting to know each other better (and getting very little sleep!).

One team member enjoyed it so much he said he wanted us to do it every year!

With lots more positive feedback, Boot Camp really refreshed and envisioned our teams, helping them cope with what can be at times a difficult, but ultimately rewarding, working environment.

Again massive thanks go to those who volunteered to provide cover, to Karen Carr who masterminded the event and particularly to our long-suffering Project Administrator, Rob Pearson who ensured that Boot Camp (and Loving to Life) passed off without a hitch.



## OUR MANAGERS

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## Comings & Goings

The last few months have seen many new staff come and join us! We welcome **Joy Barham** back after two years in the USA, and also **Tom Heasman**, both are part-time support workers at Barton House. We also welcome **Nick Wood** as part-time support worker and **Miranda Mack** as part time admin support worker at the Nightshelter.

In November we sadly said goodbye to **Mike Hyden**. Nightshelter Manager for the past two years, Mike has moved on to become Complex Needs Officer with the Borough Council. He led the Nightshelter team with a strong vision for excellence, making many significant improvements to what we do, and serving the Project wholeheartedly – he will be greatly missed! We also said goodbye to **Ruth Willis** who has been with us for over two years. With a great combination of passion and professionalism Ruth is servant-hearted with a great sense of fun. we will miss her at Barton House!

## Meaningful Activities

**Simon Dwight** our recently appointed **Meaningful Activities Coordinator** is making some encouraging progress in his new role and we recently received a grant of £5,000 towards the work he's involved in. More about Simon's work will be appear in a future issue of the Gap.

## New Project Car!

**After long years of faithful service we have finally pensioned off the old Project car which had become a little worse for wear!**

With a grant from the Coop Community Fund, a donation from Tescos, the promise of some matched funding from the House of Industry and some sponsorship towards running costs from local businesses, the new seven-seat vehicle is much more practical and more suitable for our needs.