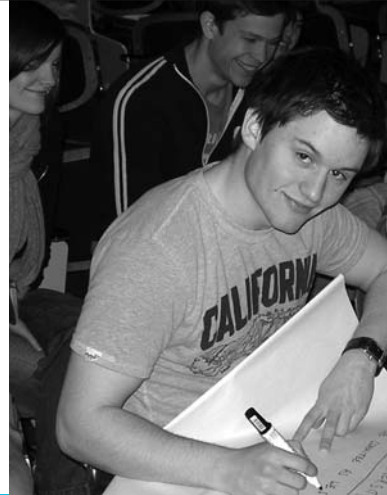


"BEING ABLE TO STAND WITH OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS FROM ACROSS 40 COUNTRIES AND HEAR STORIES OF BOTH JOY AND PERSECUTION WAS SO HUMBLING AND SUCH A PRIVILEGE."

LORRAINE, STAFF WORKER IN DUBLIN

PRAYER NEWS

MAY/JUN
2008



Welcome to the May-June edition of Prayer News. Over the past months CUs around the island have been continuing to live and speak for Jesus on campus. Preparations are in full swing for summer teams, new leaders are praying and dreaming about what God can do on their campus, and events in Belfast and Dublin are helping prepare final years for life after university. Holding e:con in Trinity College provided a vivid reminder of the reason for our existence, as we trained new leaders in the midst of thousands of students who don't yet know Jesus. Your partnership is vital as together we pray, give and work to see students transformed by encountering Jesus, transforming their campus, society and the world.



'Because of Love'

EUROPEAN EVANGELISM CONFERENCE/LINZ, AUSTRIA, 20-25 MARCH
LORRAINE, STAFF WORKER IN DUBLIN, WRITES...

Queues, chatter, praying, space, people, languages, flags, laughter, silence, singing, questions, thinking, listening, talking, eating, music, art, dancing, snow, camp-mats...welcome to the European Evangelism Conference!

I would never have imagined what it felt like to stand among 2000 students from across Europe who are all part of the IFES movement. Each time I allowed myself to become somewhat aware of all these people, their journeys and the countries that they represented, I was overwhelmed by God's faithfulness and power and also the potential that was literally packed into the sports arena in Linz.

Rebecca Manley Pipert helped us rediscover the irresistibly of the gospel and with unique wit and charm she shared story after story of how people have and continue to be drawn to the person of Jesus, encouraging us to 'let Jesus loose' in our campuses and cities. Charlie Hadjiev stretched our minds and hearts, provocatively helping us come to a much fuller understanding of the kingdom of God and what it means to be part of it. He winsomely challenged our stereotypical mindsets on evangelism and the gospel in a way that liberated and empowered us to be people whose lives and words invite others to be all that they were created to be. Seminars, where we could draw from the wisdom of others, ranged from 'plastic arts' to 'developing an evangelism strategy for your campus' and everything in between.

Being able to stand with our brothers and sisters from across 40 countries and hear stories of both joy and persecution was so humbling and such a privilege. This conference was incredible. My only sadness is that there were not more Irish students there to experience it. Don't miss out next time!



e:con 2008

SARAH FROM QUB CU WRITES...

After a very early start and a long bus ride, I arrived in Dublin for **e:con** 2008 along with five other new committee members and six new small group leaders from Queens. Not having been to an IFESI conference before, and still trying to get to grips with what it would mean to serve on CU committee, I was feeling a little apprehensive.

Using examples from Nehemiah, Jason Lane clearly laid out various aspects of vision. What is vision? How do we make vision personal to us? How do we communicate vision and what do we do when we face opposition? These sessions were interactive, allowing us time to discuss issues in our committee groups, get to know the others we will be working with and providing time to dream together about what God might have in store for the CU. I found these sessions helpful in my personal life as well. Amidst university and CU it is very easy to get so caught up in activities which, although not wrong



in themselves, can often become a substitute for an intimate walk with God and lead to burn out. Through Jason's sessions I realised the necessity of seeking God for my personal vision and to live life and make decisions in light of that vision.

There were also various seminars conducted by the IFES Ireland staff. The new leaders' seminar which I attended explored the purpose of CU, how to cope with the dynamics of working in a team and how to deal with conflict when it undoubtedly arises.

All that remains for us now is to allow God to translate all that we learnt at **e:con** into a practical reality and trust that He will move on our campuses this year for His glory.

Learning to Trust

ALICE FROM NUIG CU WRITES...

Blessed are those whose strength is in you, who have set their hearts on pilgrimage. As they pass through the Valley of Baca [weeping], they make it a place of springs... Psalm 84:5-6

"Why did you choose to study in Galway?" People often ask me this question and I have no explanation other than God seemed to choose for me. Looking back, my three years in Galway have been some of the hardest but the best of my life. Six weeks away from completing my final year I am still learning something God has been teaching me through these years - Trust. Basic as it is, trust is something I have continually struggled with and I am beginning to see that trusting God, although the best choice, is often the most frightening one.

I have often made the mistake of equating trust in God with guaranteed success, at least my version of success. Such a notion is untrue as even when your strength is in God and your heart set on journeying toward Him there will be times of weeping. My time in Galway has not been characterised by 'weeping', far from it, but I have often been scared senseless, doubted God's purpose in placing me here and wondered would things have been 'better' if I had decided to study English elsewhere. In short, whilst trusting that God was in control I did not always trust His goodness.

I have also struggled with this during my time on the NUIG CU committee. We recently had the privilege of being asked to organise a Prayer Breakfast - a huge challenge, but also a God-given opportunity to reach out to our campus. It seemed disastrous to me when no one came, a waste of time and effort. Such feelings were wrong and in reality one person did come - our efforts were appreciated by the president of the Human Rights Society.

God has been patiently teaching me that He is trustworthy

"...TRUSTING
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ALICE FROM NUIG CU

BELOW: Trinity
College Dublin,
venue for
e:con 2008



– not just because He is in control but because He is good. I see this most in His patience towards me as, even though I continually doubt Him, He lovingly leads me to the cross and to forgiveness. I have been overwhelmed at times by how He blesses despite our collective and personal frailties. In this past year we have had 3 regular attendees who do not yet know Jesus and I am amazed at how God is using our community to teach them about the gospel and draw them to Himself. God is good - He is a God who chooses to use people like me, the 'weak...and the foolish' to further His kingdom; a God who doesn't care about how many people come to our CU but who cares about the people in our CU; a God who is not wholly concerned with what I am doing but who I am as I do it; He is the kind of God, so lavish, that He plans Prayer Breakfasts for just one person, because that person matters. These have been the 'springs' and the 'pools', the blessings that Psalm 84 talks about in my Valleys of Weeping.

CU Profile – University College Cork

RACHEL FROM UCC CU WRITES...

UCC has 13,000 undergraduates, of these 20-30 regularly attend the CU. Over the last year we've run some very successful events including our Carol Service, which attracted over 100 people; 'Searching for God Knows What' - an inter-religious discussion about the character of God; a look at how God speaks through secular film and literature; and John McCarthy, Irish senior surfing champion, came and shared his testimony with over 50 people. We've also stepped forward in the area of evangelism on campus - something we're eager to develop. Lunchtime prayer meetings have been slow getting off the ground, but we're not giving up and we'll never stop praying!

One of the greatest difficulties we have as a CU is getting busy students involved and keeping them involved. This coming year we have decided to alternate the weekly meetings between praise and prayer nights (which have been few but very encouraging this year) and interactive bible studies. We're hoping to start up small groups to deepen relationships and provide support for the Christians on campus. We are also beginning a mentoring system for first years – people who will meet with them weekly to talk and pray together about all things spiritual and college related. We're seeking God's heart as to how we can encourage the Christians on campus, create a sense of community, and spread the word of God. Please pray with us.

STAFF & RELAY: Adam Jones – Director/Hollie Steele – Staff Worker, Belfast/James Fleury – Relay, Munster/Jessica McCall – Dublin InterAction Team Leader/Judith Orr – Relay, Belfast/ Jürgen Karwig – Relay, Munster/Karen Buttimer – Communications Administrator/Lorraine Wylie – Staff Worker, Dublin/Mark Gorman – Relay, Dublin/Patrick Boland – Staff Worker, Dublin/Paul Gibson – Relay, North-West/ Peter Kenny – Staff Worker, Munster/ Rachel Gilmore – Staff Worker, North-West/Sally Patty – Finance & Personnel Administrator/Sam Moore – Project Manager/Steve Skinner – Staff Worker, Belfast

KEY TO ABBREVIATIONS: Church of Ireland College of Education(CICE); Cork Institute of Technology(CIT); Dublin City University (DCU); Dublin Institute of Technology(DIT); International Friendship Association(IFA); National College of Art and Design(NCAD); National University of Ireland, Galway (NUIG); National University of Ireland, Maynooth (NUIIM); Queen's University Belfast (QUB); Royal College of Surgeons Ireland(RCSI); Trinity College Dublin(TCD); University College Cork(UCC); University College Dublin(UCD); University of Limerick(UL); University of Ulster, Belfast (Art College) (UUB); University of Ulster, Coleraine(UUC); University of Ulster, Jordanstown(UJU); University of Ulster, Magee(UUM); Waterford Institute of Technology(WIT).

MAY 1-10

- 1st – We are running a final year/graduate event in Dublin tonight. Pray that it will be an opportunity for graduates to network and that it will be helpful for all who attend. It will be followed by a fund-raising gig for Encounter.
- 2nd – Today is the closing date for applications for the new Dublin staff worker job. Pray for candidates as they submit their applications.
- A friend of one of the NUIM CU members is coming over from Germany at the start of May. He came to faith after a journey that involved flirtations with esoteric gurus, demons and drugs, but now is on fire for the Lord! The CU hope that he will be able to come to the CU meeting and share his testimony. Pray that people on campus will have a desire to come and hear, and that people's lives will be touched by his testimony.
- 5th-9th – Adam will be attending the IFES European Gen Sec consultation in Bischofsheim, Germany. Pray for clarity as they think strategically about some of the challenges that face European IFES movements, especially in the area of evangelism.
- 6th – In preparation for their summer planning (28th-30th May), the UUC CU committee are meeting to pray and discuss their vision and direction for CU for the coming year. Pray that this would be productive, God focused, Jesus centred and Spirit led.
- Pray for clear direction and guidance for the current Relay workers as they think about their plans for the future, especially as they attend the 'Transfer of Skills' days (7th-8th).

MAY 11-20

- As exams are approaching the medical students at RCSI would appreciate prayer for diligence, understanding and recall. Pray for students across the island as they sit exams at this time.
- 12th-14th – End of year team days in Avoca, Co. Wicklow. This is an opportunity to say good-

bye to the Relay workers, to evaluate this year and plan for the coming year.

- 15th-21st – Cassells and Hazel are teaching the Sonship course at the Eurasian Institute in Donetsk, Ukraine. Please pray for energy and concentration as they teach about 25 class hours over these days!
- 16th – Pray for Sam as he sits the final exam of his Masters today.
- 17th – The IFES Ireland Board meets in Dublin. Pray for the new student reps as they attend their first Board meeting, and for wisdom as decisions are made.
- 17th – Some of the UUC CU members will be looking to serve the community by picking up litter around Portstewart in the aftermath of the North West 200 race. Pray that this would be a good witness to the community and the local council.

MAY 21-31

- 21st – Interviews take place this week for the new Dublin staff worker position. Pray for God's leading as we seek the right person for Gospel ministry in Dublin.
- Pray for staff who are currently fundraising and preparing to lead summer teams. Praise God that the Peru team is now full. Pray for the France and Encounter teams as they continue to recruit students.
- 24th-29th – Adam and Steve are attending the European Leadership Forum in Hungary. Pray for good teaching and good networking opportunities over these days.
- At the beginning of April we launched our annual appeal to raise €48,000/£35,000 to fund our plans for a third Dublin campus staff worker and give students throughout Ireland copies of Mark's gospel. Please pray for more people to partner with us financially, and that God would provide generously for our needs.
- 26th-28th – UUC CU spend a few days away at the end of term for the CU members to reflect and be challenged. This is followed by their Summer Planning (28th-31st) which is a time for



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the committee to organise the structure and layout for next year. Pray for direction, wisdom and concentration as they plan.

JUNE 1-10

- Pray for all the new CU leadership teams; that people would get to know each other better, build loving team environments, and to be reminded afresh or understand for the first time what God is calling them to do.
- 2nd-6th – Rachel and the 5 Relay workers are attending Relay 3 - reviewing the year, preparing for the future, saying goodbye to friends. Pray also that the Relay workers would make the most of their time in June despite many students not being on campus.
- 7th – Adam travels to Australia at the invitation of AFES (Australian IFES movement). Pray for good networking opportunities as he attends the AFES staff conference (9th-13th), meets with key church and student leaders, shares resources, and experiences a sister student movement that God is really blessing.
- Thank God for Laura and Steve who will be leading the Art College CU next year. As they meet to re-evaluate and plan, pray that they would come with fresh ideas, hear God speaking, plan with vision and pray with passion.
- 8th - Encounter begins in Greystones. Pray that, as has been the case in previous years, this team would be a time of significant spiritual growth for those who take part.
- 9th-13th – Pray for Cassells as he attends the Nordic staff conference in Sweden. He will be doing the Bible teaching on the final two mornings.

JUNE 11-20

- CICE CU have organised a variety of events and speakers over the last weeks of term. Pray especially for the final years as they apply the things they have learnt in CU to their full time

teaching jobs.

- Deborah Byrne is hoping to work with the InterAction team in Nice for another year. Pray that God would lead her in this decision and raise up new financial support.
- Pray for Fay as she takes on the role of president in TCD, for Ruth in UCD, Andrew in QUB, Amy in Maynooth, Nathan in Galway and the many other young leaders in CUs around Ireland. May God continue to be their wisdom and their guide.
- 12th-14th – UUJ CU committee meets to plan next year's CU schedule. Pray that God would strengthen relationships among the new committee and clearly guide them as they plan and prepare for next year.
- NUIM CU praise God for the CU and the two new people that have been coming along this semester seeking answers to their questions. Every week they seem to want to learn more and more about God.

JUNE 21-30

- Earlier this term about 70-80 people, including college academic staff and researchers, attended a presentation on 'The origin of man' organised by RCSI CU. Give thanks for those who attended, and that the talk was easily understood and facilitated good discussion.
- 22nd-27th – Pray for the Stranmillis CU leaders as they plan for the coming year.
- 28th – Rachel is leading a summer team to Paris. Pray that the team would be a support to our sister movement in France, and for the team as they experience student work in a different culture.
- Pray for the new leaders of UUM CU - Claire, Ruth and Laura-Ashley - as they think about planning for the year ahead.
- Pray that God will provide new members for the Dublin InterAction team, including a team leader. Two of the current team members hope to stay on for a second year. Give thanks for the work which this team has been involved in up to now.