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NATHAN, NUIG CU

PRAYER NEWS

DEC/FEB
2008/09



As we look towards celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ, we are excited to hear of students whose lives are being transformed by encountering Jesus. Through a Queen's CU welcome event and Christianity Explored course a Chinese student has become a Christian and now regularly attends the CU. Two other students have become Christians in recent weeks, one in Coleraine and the other at the Trinity CU weekend. We are very encouraged and grateful for the generous response to our emergency financial appeal, considerably easing our immediate situation although there are still long-term challenges. Thank you so much for your ongoing prayers and support. May you know God richly blessing and leading you this Christmas and throughout 2009. *Adam Jones/Director*



PURE

HOLLIE, STAFF WORKER IN BELFAST, WRITES...

"Blessed are the pure in heart for they will see God" (Matthew 5:8)

Purity in today's world often seems like it has no voice. Social expectations, the trappings of sin and convincing temptations all seemingly silence God's call for his people to be pure. But it's a call none-the-less and since an early

age this promise in Matthew has captured my sense of hope as well as my prayers. That is why it is so exciting and such a very real answer to prayer to be running the PURE course in Stranmillis over the next six weeks. The course, developed by UCCF, explores the area of sex and relationships, beginning with Genesis and the creation narrative, and continuing by examining the fall and its consequences, the differences and similarities between males and females and the gifts of singleness and marriage. In the last week we will take time to look back over the challenges raised by these issues in light of the cross and forgiveness. The course aims to give practical guidance, steeped in biblical teaching, on what are often very personal and challenging issues not only for people in general but young students in particular. The course lasts six weeks and will run every Thursday morning until Christmas. Please remember us in prayer as we meet. Pray for accountable and trusting

relationships to be developed, the Holy Spirit's help in understanding and applying God's word and for personal discernment as I lead the course.


Joint Colleges

Joint Colleges Weekend took place in Avoca, Co. Wicklow from 31 Oct - 2 Nov 2008
CLARE FROM DCU CU WRITES...

This was my second year going to Joint Colleges and, like last year, it was a brilliant weekend! So what is Joint Colleges? It is an opportunity for students from different CUs all over Ireland to get together, to spend time in the presence of God and to hear and see what is going on in other CUs around the country. This year David Montgomery spoke from the Acts of the Apostles on the Christian community: its form and its purpose. The IFES Ireland staff were on hand to listen, provide guidance and answer questions and there was plenty of free time to get to know everyone.

Why did I enjoy it so much? I received a lot from this weekend. The word of God that was spoken throughout the whole weekend was powerful and very





relevant to what I'm going through at the moment. I gained more confidence in God and an insight into what God's will is for me. I have been challenged to step out of my comfort zone and to fully commit my ways to God and live trusting in him and relying on him alone. He is the one who is able to bring me through what seems impossible. I am praying that God will use me, that I will be stretched, that I will be able to see the gifts God has given me and use them to carry out my roles in leadership, and that I will know what God wants me to be involved in. For now though I will continue to serve on the DCU CU committee and take joy in it. It is a privilege to get the opportunity.

Realisations

NATHAN FROM NUIG CU WRITES...

Attending Joint Colleges weekend last year, I was astounded by what God was doing in all the other CUs around the country. It was a real encouragement for me as a committee member in Galway CU, but it also made me feel inadequate because I felt that we as a CU in Galway could be doing more. As a result of talking to one of the other committee members I realised several things...

Firstly, like people, all CUs are different. God works differently on each campus just as he works in diverse ways in people.

I also realised that God had really worked in my life through Galway CU. When I arrived in college for the first time I decided that I was going to live my life fully for God. Of course it wasn't that easy for someone who had hidden his faith during secondary school. I was making bad decisions and if the fellowship of the CU hadn't been there I can't imagine where my life would be now. My faith was tested and strengthened and God really used my first year in CU to work in my life. During this time CU was the highlight of my week. I remember being hideously sick one week but attending anyway because I wouldn't miss it for the world. I enjoyed the worship and the message but the thing that I enjoyed most was chatting afterwards (and the tea and biscuits!). It was such a comfortable atmosphere which I found nowhere else except in that group of loving Christians. I was always so encouraged and rejuvenated after CU.

Finally, I realised that Galway CU isn't perfect... but I thank God for how he has changed me through it.

LEFT: NI CUs
Re-envisioning Day.

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Supporters' Evenings 2009

Your partnership in praying and giving is vital as we work together to see students across Ireland transformed by encountering Jesus. The annual IFES Ireland supporters' evenings are an opportunity to hear first hand from staff and students how God is at work, to pray together for the CUs in your region and catch up with old friends. Put the date in your diary and invite others who would be interested in hearing how God is at work in colleges and universities across Ireland.

The dates for 2009 are: **Tuesday 20 January / Dublin**
Monday 2 February / Belfast
Thursday 26 February / Cork
Monday 2 March / Coleraine

Misseo Dei

13th-15th February 2009 in Maynooth

JUDY, RELAY WORKER IN THE NORTH-WEST, WRITES...

As a Relay worker I am passionate about seeing students grow in their knowledge and understanding of God, and experiencing the reality of the truth of the gospel as they engage with the world around them, both locally and globally.

This coming year, in place of 'Mind your Head', IFES Ireland have put together a conference that will help students explore the concept of 'mission'. Challenging the stereotypical view of mission as heading to deepest darkest Africa, Ken Simpson (Australian IFES movement) will take a biblical look at God's overall mission plan to redeem creation, as well as helping students to discover the part they have to play in that. Recognising that biblical mission is holistic and involves both proclamation and demonstration of the gospel, seminars will address issues such as mission in the city, workplace, university campus and church, as well as globally. The conference will have an international flavour with speakers from Australia, India, Spain, and here in Ireland, and will also give students an opportunity to pray for their campuses and the world... It promises to be a highlight of our IFES Ireland year, and a weekend not to be missed!

STAFF & RELAY: **Adam Jones** – Director / **Catrin Petherbridge** – Dublin InterAction Team Leader / **Elma Quin** – Relay, Munster / **Hollie Steele** – Staff Worker, Belfast / **Judy Elliott** – Relay, North-West / **Karen Buttimer** – Communications Administrator / **Kieron Lynch** – Staff Worker, Dublin / **Claire Martin** – Administrator / **Lorraine Wylie** – Staff Worker, Dublin / **Michael Henderson** – Relay, Belfast / **Peter Kenny** – Staff Worker, Munster / **Rachel Gilmore** – Staff Worker, North-West / **Sally Patty** – Finance & Personnel Administrator / **Sam Moore** – Project Manager / **Sandra Zaragoza** – Dublin InterAction Team / **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); Dundalk Institute of Technology(DkIT); International Friendship Association(IFA); National College of Art and Design(NCAD); National University of Ireland, Galway(NUIG); National University of Ireland, Maynooth(NUIM); 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(UUJ); University of Ulster, Magee(UUM); Waterford Institute of Technology(WIT).



DECEMBER 1-10

- RCSI CU give thanks for the evening with Dr John Blanchard on the subject of "Where is God when things go wrong?" There was an encouraging turnout and good follow-up conversations.
- Please pray that God would be glorified through the UCC CU Carol Service in early December.
- Having struggled with very few students the past couple of years, UUM CU thank God for the many new enthusiastic Christians in CU this year.
- 10th – DIT CU will be involved in the DIT Carol Service which will be held at the Chapel in Grangegorman, the future combined campus of DIT. Unity between the scattered faculties of DIT has been a challenge over the years, but praise God for progress on the new campus.
- TCD CU praise God for a fantastic weekend away – for the relationships built, the wonderful teaching from Dorman Followwill and for prayers answered. One girl accepted Christ on the final day of the weekend!

DECEMBER 11-20

- 11th-12th – All-Ireland team days in Greystones.
- Pray that God will put the right people in the right places as UL CU elect new committee members for next semester. Pray for wisdom and guidance for the committee as it tries to move forward after having to deal with many issues over the summer and during this semester.
- Cassells, Edith Vilamajó (IFES Europe team) and David Brown (GBU France) were in Luxembourg at the end of November meeting with various people for discussions about the fledgling student work there. Pray for wisdom about how to best proceed.
- 15th – Pray for Adam speaking at the QUB CU Carol service, for the clear and courageous proclamation of the gospel and for the gospel to be clearly seen in the lives of CU members.
- CIT CU's president has recently stepped down from his role. Pray that the CU would persevere and not be disheartened as they review how things are going to be run.

- The new General Secretaries mentoring group meets in Poland from 15th-19th December and in Denmark from 23rd-26th February. Both Adam and Cassells are involved in these meetings and training days.

DECEMBER 21-31

- Praise God for great discussions at the Alpha Course being run by TCD CU. Pray for Geoff and Emma as they lead and for those attending who have not yet accepted Christ. Pray especially for the president of the lesbian, gay, bisexual & transgender society who has come along. He is friends with several of the CU members. May he know how much God loves him and may he have new life in Christ.
- Pray for some Muslim students who have been coming to UL CU and will be leaving after Christmas and for many other foreign students as they return home before Christmas.
- UUC CU freshers' weekend was a real success and those who attended bonded well. Give thanks that freshers remain committed and are starting to get involved with areas such as leading praise.
- Rachel, the current auditor of UCC CU, will be stepping down at Christmas. Pray for someone to take on this role and for others to join the leadership team next year.
- Pray for guidance for the Art College CU as they use the Christmas break to evaluate, plan, consider the possibility of a weekend away in January, and think and pray about leaders for next year.

JANUARY 1-10

- Please pray for the planning team as they finalise details for the mission conference. Pray that students would come.
- Please pray for the NUIG CU committee members as they learn to organize and coordinate the day to day running of the CU as well as fulfilling their other commitments.
- 8th-10th – Pray for this year's staff conference where Jason Clarke, director of staff training at UCCF, will be speaking. Cassells Morrell will also



IFES Ireland

21 Ormeau Avenue,
BELFAST BT2 8HD
tel: 028 9024 2100
email@ifesireland.org

49 Hillside, Greystones,
Co. Wicklow
tel: 01 2872207
www.ifesireland.org

be joining with the team.

- Thank God for those who have been coming to the lunch time prayer and worship meetings in CIT CU and pray that God would continue to use those times to bring people to him.

JANUARY 11-20

- 12th-14th – Pray for those from the staff team attending the Irish Preacher's Conference, that they would be inspired and equipped as they study God's word and learn to handle it better.
- Pray for dedication and commitment from all the members of NCI CU and that their aim of reaching out to students and making them aware of the gospel and the love of God would be achieved.
- 15th – The All-Ireland team meet in Dublin for a training day with David Cook, Principal of Sydney Missionary and Bible College.
- 19th-24th – Pray for Rachel and the Relay workers as they attend the second Relay training conference in England.
- 20th – Dublin Supporters' evening at Grosvenor Road Baptist Church, Dublin.

JANUARY 21-31

- NUIG CU give thanks that people from many different backgrounds are coming to CU and that the CU members are getting more involved in events and in running the CU.
- Pray for preparation for the 'Christianity Explored' course starting in DIT CU in February.
- Pray that UCD CU would continue to be faithful to their vision and the gospel as they deal with topics such as purity and hold a panel night this term. Pray that they find creative ways to include international students in their events.
- Pray that the Art College CU members would become burdened for the college as they continue to study Nehemiah, and that someone would take on the role of publicising CU in the college.

FEBRUARY 1-10

- Pray that those coming to UUC CU's weekly evangelism events would be encouraged to get to

know God personally and pray that the girls running these events will be constantly renewed with enthusiasm and zeal.

- 2nd – Belfast Supporters' Evening at Belfast Bible College.
- As summer team opportunities are being offered in various CUs, pray for a good mix of students from north and south for the Peru and Encounter teams.
- Pray that the CU in Dundalk IT would be relevant to their campus and that each person who comes along to CU will encounter God. Pray that God would raise up people with the right skills and ideas to do the jobs that need to be done.

FEBRUARY 11-20

- 11th-13th – Cassells meets with the rest of the IFES Europe regional team.
- NUIG CU are planning a talk by Christian Surfers Ireland. Pray that people from the campus, especially other surfers, would come along and be impacted by this.
- 13th-15th – Please pray that through *Misseo Dei*, our mission conference, God will inspire and equip students to be involved in his mission in the world.
- Praise God for the safe arrival of Joshua Stephen Patty to Sally and Steve on 13th October.

FEBRUARY 21-28

- As they plan future events, pray that the CU leadership team in RCSI would know what subjects they could address that would excite the interests of students at RCSI.
- Thank God for his blessing on UCD CU – for a great sense of community and fellowship, for how he has provided good teachers and how he is equipping the CU to serve on campus.
- 26th – Munster Supporters' Evening in Cork.
- Give thanks for good relationships between the CU and the Student's Union in Magee. As the CU members give out free tea and coffee every Monday night, please pray for safety, divine appointments and that students would see God's love through them.