

"SACRIFICIAL, CHRIST  
CENTRED, GOSPEL  
ORIENTATED LIVING ON  
CAMPUS MEANS LOVING  
YOUR NEIGHBOUR  
WHETHER THEY'RE FROM  
MEATH OR  
MADAGASCAR"

# PRAYER NEWS

MAR/APR  
2009



**Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, ditching the sin that entangles and running with perseverance, so we do not grow weary or lose heart. As term rolls on so do the bad headlines. These exhortations from Hebrews 12:1-3 jolt us back to the eternal reality that shapes and underpins our lives and ministry. Updates on CUs, conferences and the Dublin InterAction team will, I hope, encourage you to pray. Of particular significance will be the launch of the FREE gospel project at this year's e:con. Pray for staff and students as we lay careful and thoughtful foundations for this national mission beginning in the autumn. Thanks again for your ongoing support and partnership.**

*Adam Jones/Director*



## CHALLENGES IN LEADERSHIP

SAM WRITES...

The quality of leadership in a CU often determines how effective the CU is in its mission of inspiring and equipping students to follow Jesus. With the many pressures of study, part-time jobs, church commitments and involvement in other clubs and societies, CU leaders often need help to know which of the many good things on offer is the best use of their time. Often it is only

at this time of year that students are getting to grips with what it means to lead, and suddenly it's time to hand over to others. For some the relief of passing on the huge responsibility cannot come quickly enough. Recognising these pressures, the IFES Ireland staff and Relay team seek to support, guide and provide as much input as possible. At the beginning of February over 40 CU leaders from northern colleges gathered in Belfast to enjoy some pizza and dessert as well as explore how to finish well, what to look for and consider as they choose successors, and how they can hand over well both as a team and as individuals. A similar event in the form of a banquet took place with CU leaders in the Dublin area. These leaders (and their successors) will come together again at e:con from 4-6 April. E:con is an incredibly strategic leadership training conference for new CU leaders, new small group leaders and also those finishing CU

leadership. Pete Lowman, pastor and former IFES Europe staff member, will be teaching on the biblical foundations of leadership in the main sessions, with staff and Relay workers responsible for the seminars. Please pray with us for e:con: for Steve as he heads up the planning team; that student leaders will recognise their need for training; that cost and part-time jobs would not be obstacles; and that whole CU leadership teams would come, not just one or two from each.

## EXTENDING THE VISION

CATRIN, DUBLIN INTERACTION TEAM LEADER, WRITES...

*Como é você, jak się masz, wie geht's?* More than 10% of all Dublin students are international. Many of these have little or no knowledge of the Jesus of the bible. Our brief, as an IFES InterAction team, is to work alongside the IFES Ireland staff, volunteers and CUs to reach the international students of Dublin with the Good News. In Trinity, UCD, NCI and RCSI we are involved in group bible study in simple English for seekers, footie playing, English conversation sessions, one-to-one study (discovery and discipleship), culture nights, training and international breakfasts... investing time in people and challenging





and involving CU leaders.

The harvest is plentiful and the workers are too few. What Sandra and I can do is limited and we both come to the end of our contracts in June. We'd love to see the day when Irish students own this ministry for themselves, when they see that sacrificial, Christ-centred, gospel-orientated living on campus means loving your neighbour whether they're from Meath or Madagascar and it becomes the norm not to distinguish between colours, races, languages and faces. Please pray for the work amongst international students in Dublin, for confidence in God's timing and for this work to continue in the future.

Part of us extending this vision and passion to others in IFES Ireland will include a mission trip to Cambridge from 5-19 July, partnering with Friends International which works with international students in the UK. I'll be taking as many students as possible for two weeks of training, teaching, cross-cultural experience, international cafes, friendship building and bible studies with international students in the city. Please pray for our time there and for many students to consider the possibility of taking part.

*"Therefore since through God's mercy we have this ministry, we do not lose heart..." (2 Corinthians 4:1)*

"I HAD BEEN THINKING THAT I WOULD NEVER BE SURE ENOUGH ABOUT WHAT I BELIEVE TO SAY IT IN FRONT OF OTHERS. NOW I'M SO SURE ABOUT WHAT I BELIEVE AND THAT I WANT JESUS TO BE THE FIRST IN MY LIFE. MY FAITH IS SO STRONG INSIDE OF ME THAT I CAN SHARE IT OUTSIDE OF ME..."

LYDIE FROM FRANCE, WHO BECAME A CHRISTIAN DURING HER EXCHANGE YEAR IN DUBLIN.

## MISSIO DEI 2009

ROBIN FROM UUC CU WRITES...

Missio Dei was a conference that, as a CU leadership team, we really believed in. Many of us had experienced the benefits of different IFES events in Ireland and abroad, and wanted others in our CU to grasp this bigger vision, to see that there is life outside of Coleraine CU. We were also excited by the potential for Christian students to see more of God's heart for mission, and the ripple effect that this could create.

The conference cost £70 which I don't believe is expensive (we stayed in a great place and had some great teaching) but still represents a lot of money, so we pursued different avenues to subsidise this for students. Our dream was to be able to send students for a basement price of £26 - the same price our Christmas Formal had been. The North West IFES supporters' group kindly granted £170 (without being asked!) and we received £500 from TBF Thompson Trust. This allowed us to send 11 students at the heavily discounted rate as well as donating the remainder to IFES Ireland who were running the conference at a considerable loss. There is no doubt that the drastic reduction in price was the determining factor in some students choosing to go, and I am personally thrilled for our generous friends who caught our vision for this conference. It's frustrating that money so often proves an

obstacle, but we are thankful that God is much bigger than this.

The weekend itself was outstanding. It was great to see a bigger picture of IFES on an Irish scale and also to get a glimpse of what is happening in Europe and the rest of the world. The folks from Coleraine really benefited from the range of seminars, and we are also now looking to establish a prayer link with CIT.

## CU PROFILE: UNIVERSITY COLLEGE DUBLIN

*JAMES FROM UCD CU WRITES...*

UCD is Ireland's largest university with 22,000 students, of whom 17,000 are undergraduates. Of these just over 100 are members of the Christian Union. On average 35-40 attend the main meetings, with others taking part in Tuesday morning prayer walks, football and bible study.

UCD CU has a diverse make up, with members from many denominations, churches, nationalities and backgrounds. This dynamic mix is the main strength of the CU and creates an open atmosphere where people feel free expressing their views on various aspects of the Christian life.

This year the CU has been reaching out to the campus by being an example of love to fellow students. Events such as dessert nights and social evenings were opportunities for non-Christians to come and chat, experience Christianity in a relaxed atmosphere and have questions answered.

A highly successful day of prayer was held last semester where students were invited to call into the prayer room throughout the day and pray for fellow students and various aspects of college life. Our annual carol service, a time when many students come along to join in the joy of Christmas, went brilliantly. In an aim to show the human face of Christianity, we held a testimony night where two members of the CU shared the moving experience of how they came to Christ. We also organise evenings where people can share what the Lord has been doing in their life and where he has been leading them.

The main problem for the CU in UCD is the sheer size of the university. It very often seems a daunting task to bring the word of God to such a large campus. Please pray for UCD – that the hearts and minds of those who spend their time here would be opened to the Good News, and that we, as a CU, would have the strength and perseverance to carry on doing God's work on our campus.

**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).

## **MARCH 1-10**

- Pray for courage and fresh ideas as UCC CU seeks to build on their series on evangelism last semester and continues to reach out on campus.
- UUM CU are holding a fundraiser in aid of Tearfund, which is taking the form of an 'Open mic night' in the Students' Union. This has never before been done at Magee. Pray that it will go well and help raise the profile of the CU on campus.
- Pray that RCSI CU's evangelism training course will inspire and equip the students to share the gospel on campus.
- Friendships within UUM CU have grown over the first semester as older CU members have gotten to know the first years really well. This has been an encouragement to those new to the CU to keep coming back, and to the committee.
- 7th – Pray for wisdom for the IFES Ireland Board as they meet and make decisions.
- This semester CIT CU are operating a 4 week rotation of discussion, bible study, speaker and social. Each 4 week block has a theme. Praise God for an encouraging past few weeks on the theme of the church.

## **MARCH 11-20**

- UUC CU give thanks for the continued good attendance at CU meetings, and especially the involvement of freshers.
- Pray that the UL CU committee would have strength and wisdom beyond their years, and depend on God, as they seek to uphold and further explore the Doctrinal Basis over the coming weeks.
- NUIM CU are handing out invitations to the CU as a new way of advertising it and to stir up questions about God in students' minds. Please pray that God would give them wisdom each week about what to put on the invitations and that they would be used to challenge students.
- 18th – Pray for Adam's first visit to the CU in Galway, as he meets with student leaders and speaks on Acts 21.

- Give thanks for 'Missio Dei' and pray that those who attended the conference would continue to discover a bigger picture of God's mission in the world and their role in it.
- DIT CU are running a Christianity Explored course. Please pray that both Christians and seekers will discover more of who Christ is through the gospel of Mark. Pray especially for the day course, "Exploring the Christian Life", on 21 March. This is the turning point in the course. Up to this point Christianity is introduced, while after the day session they look at what it means to live as a Christian.

## **MARCH 21-31**

- 23rd-25th – Cassells meets with the IFES Europe team in Oxford.
- UCD CU praise God for his blessing on the events they've held for international students throughout February. They would love to start a bi-weekly series of short talks and breakfasts aimed at international students. Pray that students would come in contact with the gospel and the living God.
- Pray for David as he takes over the running of the WIT CU book stand. It has been a great way to get scripture throughout the campus.
- Teaching practice for students in Stranmillis tends to disrupt the rhythm of college and CU life. Pray that CU members would support each other well and be used by God as they are placed in a variety of schools.
- 23rd-27th - QUB CU missions week. Pray for the committee as they organise the events for this week. Pray that a real buzz will be created on campus, and that God's name will be glorified.
- 29th – Adam is speaking at Kirkpatrick Memorial Church. Pray for the many churches around Ireland who actively support students within their congregations and the ministry of IFES Ireland.
- 31st – Closing date for Relay applications for 2009/10. Pray for the current Relay workers as they make decisions about the future and think about the next step.



## 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

### APRIL 1-10

- 1st – Pray that Sally’s return to work after maternity leave would go smoothly and that she would be able to balance the demands of work and family over the coming months.
- 1st-5th – Cassells visits Iceland to spend time with the new General Secretary Jón Ómar Gunnarsson as well as meeting with National, High School and university Boards and speaking on evangelism to the university group.
- 3rd-6th – e:con takes place in Wesley College, Dublin. Pray for students to attend, for Pete Lowman as he speaks and for staff and Relay workers as they lead the seminars.
- Pray that more students from outside the CU would come along to UUC CU’s weekly evangelism through hockey and football.
- UL CU have been encouraged by the morning prayer meetings, which are a great opportunity to pray for friends and classmates.
- NUIM CU are carrying out a survey to discover students’ views on God. Pray that people will be open to share their ideas and that it would open up opportunities for the CU members to talk about their faith.

### APRIL 11-20

- Please pray for the panel night (Grill a Christian) which UCD CU hopes to run in April. Students will be doing questionnaires the week before to ascertain what questions people have and then a panel of four will seek to address those. Pray for the CU members as they interact with students on campus in the run up to the event. Pray also that those who attend will receive relevant and helpful answers to their questions.
- UUC CU is sending a mission team to Poland at Easter. Pray that planning will go well, for Amy and Louise as they lead the team, and that the trip will impact the team members as well as those they work with.
- Praise God that a number of students who aren’t Christians have been coming along to WIT

CU. Pray that they will encounter Jesus as the group studies Mark’s gospel and come to faith.

- 19th – Adam is speaking at Strandtown Baptist Church, as he seeks to build and consolidate support of IFES Ireland’s student ministry.
- Please pray that members of Magee CU will continue to have opportunities for good conversations as they serve tea and coffee on Monday nights outside the Students’ Union. They’ve been told they can’t stay there any later than 1am which means they don’t really get chatting to people as they come out.

### APRIL 21-30

- Pray for Adam as he prepares to speak at Bray Gospel Hall on 26th.
- Pray for the new members of UL CU who have signed up to explore what Christianity is all about.
- Give thanks for the international students who have been involved in CUs throughout the island this semester. Pray for them as they face many challenges. One student who was involved in DIT CU has had to leave due to rising fees, and the issue may prevent others from continuing their education here.
- 24th – As Claire finishes her time with IFES Ireland (covering Sally’s maternity leave), give thanks for all that she has contributed to the team.
- Pray for the continuing work of ‘icafe’, a weekly café run by QUB CU, where international students can come to relax and meet new people, but, most importantly, hear about Jesus. Pray for Clare Hanson (International sec) and the team as they coordinate the programme and share God’s love with people from all nations.
- Pray for continued growth in size and depth for the small CU in AIT – that God’s power would be evident in their weakness, and that he would honour their efforts to reach out on campus.