

"...TO LEAD BY SERVING OTHERS
AND ENCOURAGING THEM TO ALLOW GOD
TO USE THEM AND THEIR UNIQUE GIFTING.
IT **IS THE OPPOSITE** OF THE DOMINEERING
LEADERSHIP MODELLED BY THE WORLD"

JORDAN FROM TCD ON E:CON/PAGE 2

PRAYER NEWS

MAY/JUN
2009



'This is my prayer', says Paul, 'that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ...' (Philippians 1:9-10).

What a great focus for our prayers: for new student leaders as they meet to pray and prepare for their year ahead; for the planning of the gospel project 'FREE'; for our summer teams to Peru and Cambridge and the Encounter team in Ireland – that our love for others may be rooted in our knowledge and understanding of God. Pray that we are able to discern what is best, as we seek to find campus staff workers for both Belfast and Dublin. Once again, thank you for your prayerful and financial support. *Adam Jones/Director*



E:CON 2009

JORDAN FROM TCD CU WRITES...

e:con was amazing! It was a whole weekend filled with truth and wonderful fellowship. I found the teaching, both in the main sessions and in the different streams, to be exactly what I needed to hear. Pete Lowman taught on Old Testament leaders, such as Samuel and Caleb, whose leadership is both challenging and inspiring. Lowman said that good leadership mobilizes the gifts of the ones you are leading. Godly leadership is servant leadership. We are to lead by serving others and encouraging them to allow God to use them and their unique gifting. It is the opposite of the domineering leadership modelled by the world, and is something I hope characterises our leadership throughout all the CUs in Ireland. We were reminded how Caleb, at 85, requested the biggest challenge Canaan had to offer because he knew the Lord was mightier than anything the land could throw at him (Joshua 14)! There is no challenge that our God cannot handle, and when we lead with Him, our leadership will always be victorious (2 Corinthians 2:14).

The different sessions for new leaders were incredibly important as they allowed our new committee to start working together. The questions and discussions from those forums provided a great foundation for our committee planning weekend. It was also incredibly encouraging to meet with the other leaders around this island. They love God with an earnest faith. From every person I had the privilege to speak with, I heard a passion for God, a love for the people around them, and a desire to serve well and glorify Him. With that kind of heart found on every campus, look out Ireland! I am so excited about what God has planned for this year through His servants on campuses in every place. Our God is living and active! May His servants be eager to listen and quick to obey.



SUMMER TEAMS

RACHEL, STAFF WORKER IN THE NORTH WEST, WRITES...

With four months' worth of holiday time, students have a lot of time to spend over the summer. Mission trips in these months are not designed to keep idle thumbs out of trouble; rather they are an opportunity, not only to envision students about engaging in God's mission in the world near and far, but also for staff to spend significant time discipling students within this high-contact, high-impact context.

This year, IFES Ireland teams will go to Lima, Peru (19th June – 14th





July with Steve & Lisa Skinner) to work alongside staff and students from AGEUP in a community development project, taking part in campus outreach, and helping lead English bible studies; Greystones, Dublin (13th June – 13th July with Lorraine, Sam and Rachel) to root students in the gospel through significant bible teaching and church and community teamwork; and Cambridge, UK (5th – 19th July with Catrin) to reach out to international students with the gospel.

It seems that no venture is complete without mentioning the effects of the current economic climate, and summer teams are no exception! Four months is a significant amount of time which could be used to work to supplement the cost of a year's study and so there is increased pressure from many angles for students to find employment rather than serve on short term mission teams. Please pray that even in the midst of a credit crunch, Christian students would be willing to give sacrificially of their time and money to see His kingdom advance, not only in their own lives as they engage in service, but in the lives of those they go to serve.

STUDENTS TRANSFORMED

WE LONG TO SEE STUDENTS ACROSS IRELAND TRANSFORMED BY ENCOUNTERING JESUS - AND IT'S HAPPENING.

JOAN FROM NUIG CU WRITES:

"CU was the best thing that ever happened to me. I couldn't have gotten to know God without the CU... well God would probably have swept me off my feet some other way but the CU was a massive help! It was the beginning of a brand new chapter of my life. Before being involved in the CU I wasn't anywhere near God. I was one of those people who drifted through life and didn't care what I did or who I hurt as long as I came first, and my friends were the same. The CU members and my Christian friends were so different and wanted so much more from life – lives based on the word of God. I ventured out into the deep waters with God and trusted in Him, and have not looked back since. Obviously there have been a few pitfalls but on the whole life can't be much better than with God. God is my life and I can never see it any other way!"

Please pray that more students like Joan would develop friendships with CU members, come along to CU, and have an opportunity to hear the good news and have their lives transformed.

"BEFORE BEING INVOLVED IN THE CU I WASN'T ANYWHERE NEAR GOD. I WAS ONE OF THOSE PEOPLE WHO DRIFTED THROUGH LIFE AND DIDN'T CARE WHAT I DID OR WHO I HURT AS LONG AS I CAME FIRST ..."

JOAN FROM NUIG CU



CU PROFILE QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY BELFAST

MICHAEL HENDERSON, RELAY WORKER IN BELFAST, WRITES...

QUB CU meets on Monday nights, and throughout the week in faculty based small groups. At the start of this year over 600 students were attending, with around 300 signed up to the small group programme! Numbers tend to drop as the year goes on, but most people keep some connection throughout the year. Many Christians at Queen's go home to their churches at the weekend, so the CU can become a vital part of Christian life at university. We always want to encourage students to go deeper in their walk with God and to live their lives for Christ. But above all we want to encourage them to share their faith in a loving way. The committee this year had a vision to make Jesus known on campus. Through Monday night meetings, music nights, evangelistic bible studies, homeless outreach, international student work, 24/7 prayer weeks, and more, students were encouraged and challenged to live every part of their lives for God.

Towards the end of the second semester a full week of events was held. This was a real chance to engage non-Christians with the gospel. Issues such as science and faith, and the reliability of the bible were tackled through lunchtime and evening seminars. There was also an acoustic café with a short talk, and a seminar on what Jesus says about 'religion'. The week finished with a big five-a-side football tournament and fun day. Although it was a hectic few days, it was a great opportunity to reach out to the campus. As I look back at the last 7 months, I am encouraged by having seen God at work in the lives of students. Non-Christians joined CU small groups, international students heard the gospel for the first time, and God's kingdom was extended!

Want to know more? Go to www.ifesireland.org to read about QUB CU's homeless sleepout and their work with international students.

THE SUMMER PROVIDES A SIGNIFICANT AMOUNT OF TIME WHICH COULD BE USED TO WORK TO SUPPLEMENT THE COST OF A YEAR'S STUDY AND SO THERE IS INCREASED PRESSURE FROM MANY ANGLES FOR STUDENTS TO FIND EMPLOYMENT RATHER THAN SERVE ON SHORT TERM MISSION TEAMS. PLEASE PRAY FOR SUMMER TEAMS.

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 / 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).

MAY 1-10

- RCSI CU recently completed their 'Two ways to live' gospel outline. Give thanks for regular student attendance and encouraging progress in knowing and sharing the gospel.
- Give thanks for the Letterkenny IT CU member who attended and thoroughly enjoyed e:con. Pray the group will be encouraged and inspired by her stories.
- Pray for wisdom and guidance as we recruit campus staff workers for Dublin and Belfast.
- Students in Stranmillis have completed up to 7 weeks of teaching practice before Easter. As the CU comes together again pray that the freshness of being back in college will be positive for the CU.
- 6th – MAP (Mission Agencies Partnership) vision night. Pray students will be envisioned for mission and make the most of the MAP-IFES Ireland partnership resources.
- Pray for Katherine and Sarah who have agreed to take on the running of the Art College CU next year. They couldn't make it to e:con so pray for the girls as they take some time out to catch up on what they missed and consider the vision for next year.
- 9th – Pray for the Board as they meet, especially for new Board members John Woodside and Paul Fleming.

MAY 11-20

- CIT CU give thanks for the campus outreach that has been taking place. Pray that God would give them courage and perseverance as they talk to the students around campus about God.
- 11th-15th – Pray for Cassells and Adam as they attend the European Gen Sec conference in Bischofsheim, Germany. Jonathan Lamb is doing the main teaching.
- Please pray for the new UCD CU committee as they meet this month to seek God, plan for next year, think about the CU's vision and build friendships.
- Please pray for students sitting exams this month – that they would be disciplined in study, and that they would bring any worries to God in prayer.

Pray that the CU members would be an example and support to their classmates at a potentially stressful time.

- NUIG CU give thanks for their prayer room during RAG week, the unity it brought to the churches in Galway, the opportunity to talk to people on the streets and the chance to bring the city before God in prayer.
- Pray for Fay, president of TCD CU, as she deals with the challenges and joys of her role. Give thanks for students around the island who have committed time and energy to leading their CUs for the next year.
- 18th-20th – Pray for the IFES Ireland team as they meet in Greystones to review the past year and plan for next year.

MAY 21-31

- Pray for good relationships between CUs and Students' Unions. In particular, pray that AIT CU will receive help to develop a website and that UL CU will receive funding to run the CU next year.
- 25th-27th – Pray that the teaching on 'Daniel - being out in the real world' at UUC CU's end of year 'weeklet' will be helpful. This 3-day event is open to all members of the CU and aims to prepare them for living out their faith wherever they go during the summer vacation.
- Pray for Sibheal in WIT who is not yet a Christian but has been faithful in coming to CU and is asking questions. Pray that other CU members would have more opportunities to speak with her around campus and build up a friendship. Pray for Richard who has also been asking questions – that he would have more opportunities to hear God's word.
- 28th-30th – Pray for Richard (President) and Ashleigh (VP) as they lead the UUC CU committee in planning for 2009/2010. Pray for confidence, passion and vision to move the CU towards being transformed and transformational on campus. Pray for UUM CU who will also be holding their summer planning this week.
- Give thanks for the prayer room in Stranmillis Students' Union. Pray that students would feel free



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

to use it and that it will provide space for people to engage with God.

JUNE 1-10

- 1st-5th – Relay 3, the last of the Relay training conferences, prepares Relay workers to finish well and keep running the race. Pray for significant encouragement and peace about moving into the future.
- Pray that UCC CU would be able to develop a good website over the summer to help connect with people who know little of the CU and present the gospel to those who have little experience of Christianity.
- This is a very busy time for students in the Art College as shows, including the final year show, are being displayed. Pray that their art would reflect God's glory.
- Please pray that seeds will be planted in the lives of the Saudi students who Michael (mature student) has been talking to in IT Tralee.
- UUC CU have been running a 'Glad you asked' course for several weeks. It began as a response to a panel night they ran in March, which several non-Christians attended. A few of these people have been coming along to the course. Praise God that one girl in particular, Catherine, has shown great interest in what she has been learning.
- Pray for Gareth as he leads NUIM CU and that God will place a desire on the hearts of others within the CU to get more actively involved with the running of the CU.

JUNE 11-20

- 14th-19th – Debriefing conference for IFES InterAction staff near Barcelona. Cassells and Hazel will be teaching on grace and Cassells will be doing a couple of sessions from Hebrews 11 & 12.
- 13th-13th July – Pray for all those leading, giving talks and discipling participants on the Encounter summer team. Pray that students would encounter God in deeper ways and that hearts would be transformed.

- Pray that CU members in CIT would be bold in inviting people to the CU. As current members graduate from this small CU, they would love to see more people come along who are thirsty to know more about God.

- Pray for Robin and Michael who work with the clubs and societies in WIT. Pray that the CU would be a good witness to them and that CU members would have opportunities to share the good news as they interact with them.
- Give thanks for Stranmillis CU's weekly outreach to the kids and families in Sandy Row.
- Pray that the AIT CU committee will find time to meet throughout the summer months, and have fresh ideas as they try to plan a balanced programme for the year ahead.

JUNE 21-30

- Give thanks for those who have left CU leadership and are enthusiastic to seek out leadership opportunities after graduation. Pray that they will be given freedom to use the gifts and skills they've discovered through CU leadership.
- As UCC CU plan for next year, pray that they will be able to build on the outreach on campus this term. Also please pray that they will find ways of getting more of the many Christians in UCC involved in the CU.
- Please pray for students who may have little or no support from other Christians during the summer months when they move back home.
- Pray for more Irish students to come to NUIG CU. Thank God that many people have volunteered to help lead the CU next year.
- Pray for final year students as they move on from university and prepare to enter the workplace. Pray that they continue to follow God wherever he leads and that God would give them direction as they seek to serve him.
- Pray for wisdom for UL CU committee as they plan the FREE gospel project for next semester and as they encourage everyone in CU to be involved.
- Pray for Peter as he prepares to marry Méabh Twomey on 2nd July.