

"A NEW UNIVERSITY YEAR BRINGS THOUSANDS OF STUDENTS...THE CHANCE OF A FRESH START, A PLACE TO FIND OUT WHO THEY ARE AND, BEST OF ALL, A PLACE TO MEET JESUS"

LAUREN BROWN, QUB CU

PRAYER NEWS

OCT/NOV
2010



**We are Christ's ambassadors!
It's the season of introductions!
'What's your name and where**

do you come from?' – We know the routine. Now add: 'What are you studying and where are you staying?' and you step into the world of Ireland's universities and colleges. Introductions form first impressions, which can shape lives eternally. Pray for enthusiastic CU students at the start of this year, who as Christ's ambassadors, could see their lives, and those of the people they meet, transformed by the gospel.

And read on for further introductions: new CU staff, a new Student Resource Centre in Dublin, and a new-ish name. Thank you for praying and partnering with us, because as students, graduates or praying friends, together we are IFES Ireland: the Christian Unions. Adam Jones/Director



Same Purpose But Changing Ambassadors!

ADAM WRITES...

'God has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.' (2 Cor 5:19,20) Our student CU ministry is constantly changing as students join and graduate. But our purpose as Christ's ambassadors has been core to IFES movements worldwide for decades. This continues today through our network of CUs. Emboldened by last year's FREE gospel project and now with many new Fresher students joining, the CUs together form the missionary arm of the church to the university world.

Hopefully our enclosed new Team Card is now attached to your fridge door! There are some new faces including CU Staff workers Robert McFaul (NW) and Rachel Logan (Belfast), along with several Relay and InterAction team members. Sarah Keene has also started at our new office in Dublin; her primary role will be communication and PA work. You will also see this year's CU leaders. Ed Vaughan will speak at this year's Joint Colleges conference (October) and Becky Pippert returns for e:con. I hope this helps you pray for our fellowship.

After many hours of refurbishment by teams of volunteers, we have moved into our new Student Resource Centre in Dún Laoghaire, south Dublin. We want this centre to resource students and CUs, with meeting and training facilities, IFES resources and a library. The centre will also be home to administrative support, team and Board meetings.

We also have a newish name. Fellowship is at the heart of IFES. We are a fellowship of CUs in Ireland and a fellowship of supporters, partnering in prayer and finance to bring the gospel to this generation of students, through this generation of students. We feel a small tweak in our name better reflects this reality, where together, we are **IFES Ireland: the Christian Unions**.

Dublin International Outreach (DIO) SUMMER 2010

KAH FOON WRITES...

Summer's big excitement for the Dublin InterAction team was the DIO, which aimed to reach out to the hundreds of students flooding into Dublin to learn English over the summer. The concept was simple: gather a team of Christian students to be trained in the mornings



ABOVE: New CU leaders – The Ambassadors.

and to run a café every evening for international students to meet Irish people and practise their English. During the café, we'd present a short drama, which highlighted the theme of that evening's optional bible study, and then invite guests to it.

We were so encouraged by the response to those invitations. The café attracted on average 25 international students every night, and the bible study drew 6-15 each evening. Three students (one Polish, two Korean) came to almost every one, and had deep conversations with team members as they wrestled with questions of faith. Another two students (both Japanese) had never opened a bible before, and were sufficiently intrigued to come to the follow up bible studies after DIO ended. These follow up studies (using the Free Gospel materials) have been encouraging too, with about 7 students attending every Tuesday evening.

Our prayer for the CU students who were on the DIO team, and for all CU students, is that they'll be inspired and equipped to continue to reach out to international students on their campuses. There are 35,000 international students in Ireland's universities (and 83,000 going through language schools) annually. Many of these come from countries closed to missionaries and yet they would respond to an invitation to find out more about Christianity while they are here in Ireland. Many international students struggle to make any friends from Ireland, and it's such a testimony to Christ's love if Christian students befriend them.

This year's Dublin InterAction team comprises Emma Stevenson, Elizabeth Sergeant, Bryan Davidson, and Jonathan and Kah Foon Gillespie. Do pray for us as we seek to help the CUs in Dublin develop an international student ministry and grasp the exciting opportunities that God has given us by bringing the world to our doorstep.



ABOVE:
International
students in the
DIO cafe.

Peru 2010

RACHEL WRITES...

In the early hours of Monday 28th June, the IFES Ireland Peru team began their month long trip to Cusco. This was the fifth IFES Ireland team to Peru with the purpose of partnering with the IFES movement there, called AGEUP. The team was focused on working alongside the Peruvian students in their outreach, which included working with a community in the Andes called Ushpabumba, partaking in a mission conference, visiting local churches and taking part in campus evangelism in the universities. The campus evangelism to me was one of the most incredible aspects of the trip. After much discussion with the Peruvians about what outreach should look like, we decided to make a banner with a thought provoking question on it and a space for

response, in the hope that it would spark discussion and encourage the students to take part in our bible study. After giving out fliers for fifteen minutes on the first day masses of students came to ask questions and for four days that week, for a session in the morning and evening, we held 2-hour question and answer sessions on Christ. The response was so positive and many went away saying that they were going to pray to Christ and that they were going to start reading the bible for themselves. Some came to our final leaving party and got linked in with the AGEUP students which will hopefully lead to long term support and relationships. The team as a whole had the opportunity both to share their faith and to grow in their understanding of the character of God. One of the most encouraging conversations I had with a member of our team was that they had realized the importance of God’s word and how it has the power to change lives. Praise be to God!

Freshers @ Queen’s

LAUREN BROWN, QUB CU, WRITES...

A new university year brings thousands of students at Queen’s University Belfast the chance of a fresh start, a place to find out who they are and, best of all, a place to meet Jesus. The CU at QUB tries to make the most of this opportunity and help the Freshers settle in, make friends and see God on campus.

Throughout the year, there are various events held specifically for Freshers. The first of these is Preterm – a few days at the start of September for those starting university in any of the four universities in Belfast. This gives students a chance to meet other people starting university and hence they will see some familiar faces when they begin.

Next in line for Freshers is Fresher’s Week. During this week, QUB CU try to be as active as possible holding acoustic nights, quizzes, Frisbee in the Park, the annual Cinema Night and providing help moving in to halls, with prayer ministry to finish off the week. After that, we only hold Freshers specific nights once a week and these nights can vary from bible studies to games nights and DVD nights. We finish at Christmas time with a trip to the Christmas market. The aim of the Freshers Team is to be a friendly face and provide a place to come and relax with other Christians.

Please support all the Freshers at QUB this year by praying that they will be happy at university, find a good group of friends and grow closer to God as they begin their lives as students. Also please pray specifically for international students coming to Belfast, that they find the love of God within our city.



STAFF & RELAY: Adam Jones – Director / Ashleigh Harrison – Relay, North-West / Bryan Davidson – Dublin InterAction Team / Catrin Petherbridge – CU Staff Worker, Dublin / Cosmin Pascu – CU Staff Worker, Dublin / Dónal Walsh – Relay, Munster / Elizabeth Sergeant – Dublin InterAction Team / Emma Stevenson – Dublin InterAction Team / Jonathan & Kah Foon Gillespie – Dublin InterAction Team Leaders / Kieron Lynch – CU Staff Worker, Dublin / Peter Kenny – CU Staff Worker, Munster / Phil Alcorn – Relay, Belfast / Phil Howe – CU Staff Worker, Belfast / Rachel Logan – CU Staff Worker, Belfast / Robert McFaul – CU Staff Worker, North-West / Sally Patty – Finance & Personnel Administrator / Sarah Keene – Student Resource Centre / Tim Montgomery – Relay, Athlone / Vadim Malakhovski – Relay, Dublin

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 (NUIJM); 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).

OCTOBER 1-10

• Give thanks for the Belfast CUs inter-CU Preterm, for the relationships built among the 150 students who attended and for the opportunity they had to grow in their faith.

• Please pray for Siona and Hannah in CSM as they continue to build the CU following its establishment last year. Pray that they would be brave in sharing their faith and that the hearts of those in this relatively small college would be seeking Christ.

• 4th – The Dublin Team meets for the first time in the new Student Resource Centre. Pray for an encouraging start to their weekly meetings.

• Magee CU began their year with Fresher's week, providing information about the CU and helpful hints about beginning life as a student. Continuing on from last year, they also handed out Free gospels. Pray that those who received gospels will be blessed and encouraged.

• TCD CU start their teaching series this month. Kieron will be preaching on Matthew 13 (7th), Matthew 16 (14th) and Matthew 28 (21st). Pray that God would grant them exceptional insight into his Word (Eph 1:16-17).

• Pray for QUB CU's evangelism seminars running throughout October and November to equip students in sharing the gospel. Pray also for the faculty small groups where they will be studying Acts.

• Please pray for Simon Ball as he begins working as an Associate Staff Worker alongside WIT. Praise God for his willingness to undertake this role. Pray that the students in WIT would continue to be faithful to the gospel and that they would see some of the fruit of their labours.

• 10th – Pray for the UUU iCafé (international ministry) training day.

OCTOBER 11-20

• Praise God for the new Christian students in CIT. Pray that Stephen, Roxy, Andrew and Shane would feel welcome in the CU and be encouraged by meeting with fellow Christians. Pray that there would be good friendships forged and that this would be a powerful platform for the campus to be reached.

• There are 256 Freshers beginning at Stranmillis

this year. Give thanks for opportunities during Fresher's Week to build relationships, invite students to CU and distribute Free gospels in halls. Pray that God would use the CU to speak to those who do not yet know him as their Lord and Saviour.

• 12th – The All-Ireland team meet in Dún Laoghaire for prayer and ministry planning.

• 15th-17th – Pray for Andrew Mullan speaking on Daniel at UUC CU Fresher's weekend. Pray that new students would feel welcome and part of the CU as they settle into university life. Also pray for Robert as he speaks at UUM CU's weekend away.

• 16th – The Presidents' Forum meets in Dún Laoghaire. Pray for CU leaders from around Ireland as they meet for training, envisioning, prayer and consultation discussions regarding the fellowship of CUs. Pray that they will dream big dreams.

• 18th – Pray for the acoustic and testimony night at QUB CU. This is the first of their 'GO' nights which happen every fourth week and are specifically aimed at reaching students on campus.

OCTOBER 21-31

• NUIG CU give thanks for God's provision. Pray for wisdom as they decide whether or not to move the weekly meeting to a new and bigger room.

• Please pray for the students in LSAD who are seeking to share the gospel with their classmates. Pray that they would be able to communicate in a way that engages with these students and would challenge them with the reality of God. Pray also for friendship and unity as they build on the foundations laid last year.

• Pray for NUIM CU's plans for a debate with on-campus political parties, that their speaker and CU members will contribute clear and relevant opinions to the discussion.

• Pray that TCD CU's vision of 'Living the Gospel' will be a source of encouragement and challenge.

• Last year UCC CU tried, largely unsuccessfully, to start prayer groups. They hope to restart these this term. Pray that people will be motivated to pray and that those prayers will be part of what changes the campus this year as the gospel is preached.

• 29th-31st – Joint Colleges, Avoca, Co. Wicklow.



**NB. New address
for Dublin Office:**

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Pray for Ed Vaughan as he prepares his talks on 'The Kindness and the Love of God' based on Titus.

NOVEMBER 1-10

- Pray for the Trinity, Adelaide Road Presbyterian and Immanuel international cafés as they continue.
- CIT CU are planning evangelistic film events this term. Pray for wisdom as they choose which Christian film to show.
- Currently there is no CU in St. John's in Cork, with Amy having left the college. Pray that in the future there may be someone else interested in starting up a CU there.
- 5th – Please pray for the evangelistic concert with Trang Trinh at RCSI.
- 5th-7th – Pray for good teaching at UUU CU's mid term.
- 8th-9th – The All-Ireland team meet for two days of prayer, support, training and ministry planning. Please pray that God would strengthen and encourage the team.
- 8th-11th – The IFES Europe regional team meets in Marburg, Germany. Pray for Martin Haizmann as he leads the team and for safety for Cassells as he travels from Ireland.
- 10th – Pray that those attending the Right Move Christian careers conference in QUB today would find it helpful and thought provoking.

NOVEMBER 11-20

- Pray for encouragement, vision and Godly leadership for CU presidents Zanetta (UCD), Pete (TCD), Beth (NCAD) and Ruth (DkIT).
- 13th – Please pray for the IFES Ireland Board as they meet today to support the CU ministry and address on-going challenges and developments.
- 14th – Adam and some students are speaking at Finaghy Baptist Church, Belfast. Pray that churches would continue to see the strategic nature of student ministry/CUs as the missionary arm of the church.
- Give thanks for progress on Kieron's Masters dissertation, with 15,000 words completed over the summer. Pray that he will be able to complete it by Christmas.
- 17th – Peter is speaking at Carrigaline Baptist

Church's midweek meeting to inform and update the church on student work in Munster. Praise God for their continued support of IFES Ireland.

- Pray for NUIM CU as they plan and run a Thanksgiving celebration. Pray that it would be a night of fellowship, friendship and fun! Give thanks for plans already made and for a helpful Students' Union.

NOVEMBER 21-30

- 21st – Adam is preaching at Limerick Baptist Church, along with UL students. Pray that this church will be encouraged by the CU at UL.
- Give thanks for the many students who attended the seeker bible studies during and after DIO and pray that they would come to faith in Jesus.
- 23rd-26th – Rachel and Robert, along with Adam, join new staff from UCCF for a week of training.
- The next European Evangelism Conference will take place in Hungary over Easter weekend 2012. Pray for Igars Rautmanis from Latvia as he chairs the overall process and for Cassells and others on the programme team as they follow up decisions from the first planning meeting.
- UCC CU want to be a mission team reaching out to the campus. Pray that in all they do the gospel would be the main focus and that reaching out to others would be their goal and the most important aspect of their CU.
- Praise God for UL CU's continued desire to begin each day in prayer. Please pray that these prayers would be answered, that many would come to the prayer meetings and for a growing realisation of the power of prayer.
- UUC CU are planning a series of evangelism training talks leading up to a week of prayer and a mission week (22nd-26th). Stuart Argue will be speaking at the CU that week on the subject of 'How can I know God?' This is a great opportunity for new and returning students to engage in what it means to be missional Christians. Pray that they will be excited about the opportunities they have to share their faith, not only through specific CU events but as they live and study alongside those who don't yet have a relationship with Jesus.