

"IT IS SO GOOD **TO BE REMINDED**  
THAT GOD HAS PLACED ME **THERE FOR**  
**HIS PURPOSES** AND THAT MY DUTY IS  
TO BRING GLORY TO HIM THERE."

AOIFE BEVILLE, UCC

# PRAYER NEWS

DEC/FEB  
2010/11



In the face of gloomy news all round, I do hope you will be inspired by what you read in this issue of Prayer News. We have encouraging news from our Joint Colleges Weekend; "life changing", according to one student. And more news: CUs are growing, students are giving to their CU movement, there are lots of training and outreach events planned, the Presidents Forum drew CU leaders from all 4 corners of Ireland for fellowship and discussion, and, crucially... students are becoming Christians! And all this news is about this fellowship of CUs taking the gospel to this generation of students.

**Thank you for your prayers and faith in our God who is so richly at work!**

*Adam Jones/Director*

## The Joint Colleges Conference

...an event for smaller CUs, who don't have the numbers yet to hold their own, individual weekends away. This year, it was held on the last weekend in October, in Ovoca Manor, Avoca, Co Wicklow.

AOIFE BEVILLE, FROM UCC, WRITES...

This year's Joint Colleges is hard to describe, without the assistance of a weighty thesaurus to find the adequate adjectives! Without a care for clichés, I have to admit that it genuinely was both encouraging and challenging.

Ed Vaughan's talks were truly thought provoking. He spoke from Titus, and I was inspired by his challenge to have "sound doctrine" (Titus 1:9) not only in our heads but also in our hearts and hands. The idea of "the knowledge of the truth which leads to godliness" (Titus 1:1) exhorted us to live a life worthy of the gospel because of "the kindness and love of God our Saviour" (Titus 3:4)

It was such a joy to experience the closeness and fellowship that is a defining feature of Joint Colleges. I am really thankful for the many blessings the Lord lavished upon me throughout the weekend. These included time spent in prayer with a close friend from another CU and many opportunities to chat with both new and old friends from other CUs. It was such a joy to fellowship with my brothers and sisters from all over Ireland and the rest of the world. Hearing brief profiles of various CUs during the course of the weekend really motivated me to pray for my fellow students and their endeavours to bring glory to God on their campus.

The entire weekend helped me to (once again) rethink my position in my university. It is so good to be reminded that God has placed me there for his purposes and that my duty is to bring glory to him there. The work of IFES Ireland over the past year has equipped and inspired me to follow Jesus and do his work on my campus. Joint Colleges has been instrumental in this process and I praise God for the blessing and encouragement it was to me, and for how I saw the Lord challenge and grow others around me!

I was also really encouraged by how God has richly gifted my fellow students, from leading worship and co-ordinating the sessions to interpretive drama and opera! The final night's "Talent À-la-Carte" event was a truly hilarious hoopla! What a talented bunch!



ABOVE: Students at Joint Colleges Conference

## New CU at Belfast Met

PATRICK NORWOOD, BELFAST MET, WRITES...

The Christian Union at Belfast Metropolitan College was set up in March 2009. 2 people on separate campuses realised the absence of a CU and the need for one. They met and the first meeting was arranged. For the rest of the year about 5 or 6 people attended. Every week someone led a study, which proved successful. Everyone there was a Christian with one sole purpose: to use their faith purposefully within college. We also had a speaker who was a retired teacher. He had become a Christian later in life and he shared how he had witnessed God's work in his school. This inspired us to see God work on our campuses. It was clear that our CU was having a powerful impact among

ourselves but we felt that it was time to reach out to others. So for our last summer meeting we walked around Belfast providing refreshments for the people that lived on the streets. It was a small gesture but the purpose of this outreach was to show God's love. Judging by the positive reaction of people that received, we knew that we had done something worthwhile. Our CU had begun and we knew that it would continue.

In discussions over the summer of 2009, we agreed on the importance of attracting new members. We had a stall at the Fresher's Fair and were encouraged by the amount of people that signed up. At our first meeting we had 18 people attending; visible growth! Throughout the year there was an average of 11 people, both Christian and non-Christian, all wanting to learn more about God's word. That year we also studied 'The Purpose Driven Life' by Rick Warren, prayed together, worshipped together and had fellowship. We heard a powerful testimony by one of our members and held another outreach event. The CU grew as we grew spiritually, if not always in number.

This year we are blessed to have new people coming along. Our fellowship with IFES Ireland: The Christian Unions makes us feel stronger as a CU and part of the bigger picture. Please pray for us! On a practical level, it can be hard to find a good time and place to meet, as we are spread across 5 main campuses in Belfast. On a wider level, we know the seeds of grace have been planted within our college; pray that they will grow.

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## Relay 2010/11

*PHIL WRITES...*

For those of you unaware, Relay is our training and discipleship programme in a student context. It is a voluntary year for graduates to serve on the campus' around Ireland while being given the time to study and be built up in God's service!

The role differs from day to day but has three main aspects: students, study and support.

Students are what IFES Ireland: The Christian Unions are all about. For the Relay worker, this could mean helping a committee, supporting the CU main meeting or meeting a student for one to one reading of God's word. The student aspect is one that all Relay workers can really get involved with and feel passionate about,

**BELOW: The Relay team 2010/11:**  
(from left to right) Tim Montgomery,  
Athlone and Galway. Vadim  
Malakhovski, Dublin. Ashleigh  
Harrison, North West. Phil Alcorn,  
Belfast. Dónal Walsh, Munster.



having recently been one themselves!

The study side of things is a great opportunity and a real focus for the Relay year. There are several core modules, for example the Relay team has recently spent time studying the Trinity. There is also an elective; a subject of their choice to look at in more depth. The study aspect is exciting as what they do 'on the ground' is not separate from what they have been looking at or studying; learning and applied learning into a live student ministry context!

As Relay is a volunteer programme, support is a crucial factor. This could be writing and asking for prayer and financial support or making people aware of what they are doing for the year or communicating the bigger picture of the Christian Union movement.

All in all, Relay is a grace fueled, Christ-centred, training focused, discipleship nurturing, character shaping time for all involved. Please do pray for the Relay workers and all that they do, they are not just 'extra staff workers' and we really do value them and the relationships that we see growing year after year. May God continue to bless this 'training and discipleship in a student context' and may the Relay workers remember his grace not just through the year, but for the rest of their lives!

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## Supporters' Evenings 2011

Your role in IFES Ireland: The Christian Unions is vital. Your prayer and giving underpins our partnership as we seek to enable CUs to see this generation of students transformed by encountering Jesus.

We wish to warmly invite you to our Supporters' Evenings for 2011. These are opportunities to meet with staff and students and find out what is happening in CUs in your region. There will also be time to pray together and time for a cup of tea and a chat with old friends. The invitations enclosed give you the details for the event taking place nearest to you. Please put the date in your diary and invite anyone you know who might have an interest in our work. We hope to see you there!

<b>North West</b>	Tuesday 25 January
<b>Belfast</b>	Wednesday 26 January
<b>Munster</b>	Monday 31 January
<b>Dublin</b>	Wednesday 16 February

*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 (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(UUU); University of Ulster, Magee(UUM); Waterford Institute of Technology(WIT).

## DECEMBER 1-10

- Pray for energy and inspiration for Peter and Dónal as they partner with CUs in Waterford, Limerick and Cork
- In these challenging financial circumstances, please pray for the financial support base of our fellowship, as graduates, churches and students continue to fund our ministry.
- Pray for our Annual Appeal, as letters have been sent out.
- Pray for more churches to partners with us and adopt IFES Ireland as one of their missions, to support and give to our ministry.
- Thank God that students have a vision to give and support IFES Ireland: The Christian Unions. Pray for fund-raising initiatives and for students to give regularly now and on into the future.
- Pray that God would enable us all to give faithfully and generously, especially as people review their current commitments. Pray for new supporters to come on board to give.
- Praise God for a wonderful Thanksgiving Dinner held by NUIM CU together with the International Society last week. Over 100 students attended and heard a talk – pray that God would be at work in the hearts of those who don't yet know him.

## DECEMBER 11-20

- Pray that Robert and Ashleigh may be united and encouraged as they work with CUs in LkIT, UUC and UUM.
- 14th and 15th - Staff Team Days. Pray for these to be encouraging, helpful and unifying.
- 16th – Catrin travels to Australia today for Christmas. Please pray for safe travel.
- WIT CU has been encouraged by the continued attendance of a student who is a keen seeker at the moment. Please pray that he may come to understand the truth of the gospel.
- UJJ CU give thanks for the work God has done amongst them through their study of Genesis this term.
- The UL CU committee has been encouraged by the increase in attendance this term. Praise God for his faithfulness in answering their prayers!

## December 21-31

- Pray for rest and recuperation for Kieron and Adam and their families over the Christmas days.
- Please remember international students in your prayers; many of whom will be missing home as they see Irish students celebrate with their families. Pray that they may come to see the truth of the Christmas message, rather than consumerism and excess.
- The UUC CU holds a prayer meeting from 1-2 every Monday. Please pray that these would be times of encouragement, growth and praise.
- 2 Chinese students who have been studying in Athlone became Christians last month and are now heading back home to China. Please ask God to protect and strengthen them.
- Pray for wisdom and direction as UCD CU try and plan for a 'Christianity week' on campus and a follow-up Bible study group

## January 1-10

- 4th-8th: UCCF staff conference in Kidderminster, England. Irish CU Staff workers will be joining their UCCF colleagues. Please pray for safety in travel and a good time of fellowship and Bible teaching.
- Two members of the UL CU committee have had to step down at Christmas and the third will probably be off on a work placement in June. Please pray that God would supply the right people to lead the CU wholeheartedly.
- The president of Belfast Art College CU, Robyn, is getting married this month. Pray that she and her husband may have a wonderful day and be blessed as they begin married life.
- The CU in CICE will recommence their early morning prayer meeting when term begins. Praise God for students' commitment to prayer and join them in asking him to work through them.
- Pray for UCD as they use a weekly stall on Wednesdays to create interest and generate conversations with the wider student body.

## January 11-20

- NUIM CU is setting up a debate, to take place later this semester. Pray for guidance as they



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

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prepare for this.

- 17th-22nd – Relay 2; please pray for safe travel for the Relay Team as they head over to England for their second conference. Pray that they will be equipped and inspired.
- 19th – Catherine Read arrives from Australia. Please pray for safe travel and a straightforward transfer through immigration at Dublin airport.
- 19th – ‘Choosing New Leaders’ is being held for CU committees in the Dublin area as they look ahead to next year’s committees. Please pray for a helpful session and that God would use the staff as they deliver the talks.
- Pray for UJJ CU as they start a series on Revelation this semester.

### **January 21-31**

- Please pray that Catrin and Tim may be refreshed and invigorated as the new terms get underway in AIT, NUIG, UCD and CICE.
- 25, 26 January: Supporter’s Events in Coleraine and Belfast respectively. Pray for successful and encouraging evenings.
- Please pray for David Montgomery, who begins 3 weeks of talks at TCD on January 27th.
- 29th January: Pray for Adam as he speaks at the ‘Your Move’ iMap mission event in Cork.
- 31st January: IFES Ireland Open Evening in Cork. Pray that people who are not currently IFES Ireland supporters would come along and be inspired to pray and give.
- Praise God for the iCafe in which UUC CU is involved. Pray that God would reach many international students through this.

### **February 1-10**

- Please pray that Rachel, Phil and Phil will enjoy working together as they partner with QUB, Stran, BMet, BAC, UJJ and Greenmount.
- 7th and 8th – the All Ireland Team meets with a primary focus on bringing together all the plans for e:con. Please pray for good communication and clarity of thought.
- Feb 8th-9th: Cassells Morrell is speaking in Denmark at a KFS event (IFES in Denmark). Please

pray that God will guide and inspire him.

- Many of the Belfast CUs are joining forces for a production of the Mark drama over Easter. Pray for harmony, good cooperation and for all the practicalities of venue, cast and production.
- Please pray for guidance for Iain, Gillian, Jilly, Niamh and Beth at NCAD CU as they plan their topics and evangelism events for the next season.

### **February 11-20**

- Pray for renewed vigour and excitement for Vadim and Cosmin and the CUs in Maynooth, DIT, DCU and ITT.
- Please pray for Catherine Read as she continues to transition into a new culture and team. Also pray for her family back in Australia: John and Roberta, her parents and Andrew, Michelle, Emily and Stephen.
- 16 February: IFES Ireland Open Evening in Dublin. Pray this event will be well attended and that it will strengthen our support base.
- On February 15th, UJJ CU begins 4 weeks of outreach events. Please pray that people would be challenged as they hear the truth of the gospel.
- Please pray that students within WIT CU start to take on leadership roles as this small CU takes shape.

### **February 21-28**

- Pray for Sally and Sarah in the offices in Belfast and Dublin respectively. Pray for efficiency and good communication in all they do.
- 26th – Board Meeting today in Dun Laoghaire – please pray for a productive meeting and safe travel for all board members.
- Give thanks for the CU in NCAD which has had significant interaction with other societies on campus. Pray these relationships will introduce more students to Jesus.
- Stranmillis CU holds a prayer meeting every Wednesday lunchtime. Please pray for strong and consistent attendance.