

Director's view

As I conclude my first year in the position of Director, I look back with thanksgiving at the support I have received from students, CU Staff Workers, Board members, Church leaders and praying friends. I have seen students' lives transformed, I have heard their testimonies and witnessed them grow to new levels of Christian maturity. If the current batch of Christian student leaders is representative, then the Irish church has a bright future.

Here you will see our financial statement and review of the year. It is important to note that whatever we raise, whether it goes to staff, resources or conferences is for student ministry. Without students using these resources and asking for more of the same, we would have no reason to exist.



Why IFES?

As people have asked me about what IFES Ireland does and why it is worthy of support, I have had to reflect on why we are unique, and what challenges we face. Here is what I came up with.

5 things worth doing

i. We equip and resource students to reach students for Christ.

We have encouraged presentations of the gospel that are creative and clear on over a dozen campuses each year. Tomorrow's leaders given the opportunity to hear the claims of Christ on campus, through peers who love the Master and live the message.

ii. We Develop student leaders.
Young adults are encouraged to think through their faith and its implications, to have their hearts and minds formed

by the gospel while they have the time and facilities to do it at University, and before the pressures of work and family crowd in.

iii. We are present in every leading third level institution. On many Irish campuses we are the only show in town as far as formal Christian witness is concerned, and certainly in terms of transdenominational, student-led witness.

iv. We have been able to maintain Christian unity at a local level which is often unmatched elsewhere.

If we weren't on campus there would be increased fragmentation but, for many 18 year olds, this is their chance to get to know and socialize and witness with students from different cultures and denominations in a way that they may sadly not get the chance to do again.

v. We provide increased and diverse opportunities for service on a worldwide level. Through IFES Europe and IFES World our students can go on short-term teams or 1-2 year internships, they can represent us at conferences and leadership summits, they can be involved in international outreaches. We are part of a worldwide family ministry and have a blossoming ministry to the tens of thousands of international students who visit Ireland each year through welcome cafes and evangelistic initiatives. Currently we partner, in various ways, the student ministry in Spain, Italy, Slovakia and Thailand. What then, are the challenges facing us?

vi. Our students are living in a university culture increasingly hostile to Christian groups. Partly out of reaction to the majority church, partly out of fear of radical Islam, partly because of an aggressive political agenda, the University and its Societies are becoming a cold house for Christians. We are having to give theological and pastoral advice on how to deal with these challenges.

vii. We have observed a Christian student culture increasingly biblically illiterate and unconvinced about the importance of doctrine.

We can no longer presume a knowledge of, or even hunger for the basic Christian message among students enrolling in our universities. Our CU Staff Workers have to labour hard to awaken the need and feed the souls of these students. There is also the need to restore the place of rigorous gracious theological debate and apologetics on campus and encourage students to see this as a worthwhile pursuit.

viii. We are strategically placed to assist in the preservation of evangelical orthodoxy. This is a highly relevant, if not particularly popular pursuit in the current intellectual climate. In our Doctrinal Basis we have a document that is tried and tested, has been grappled with over a generation, and is shared by many organisations worldwide. It is an inclusive document, primarily: a necessary maximum and a necessary minimum. It is as narrow as the gospel demands and as broad as it permits.

ix. We discern a vital need to manage the transitions.

We are aware of the need to inform and motivate 6th formers for when they go to college, and final year students for their transition to the world of work. 18 and 22 can be times of faith crisis for young adults. We want to be there for them.

x. We have inadequate resources to meet the rising challenges. I have come to value our CU Staff Workers immensely as they have the ears of the students and can be to them the guides and mentors they need. But there are areas of our island we cannot resource with workers, there are more conferences and literature and on-line resources we would love to provide. This is why we are thankful to you for what you have already done to support us, and why we need your ongoing prayerful and financial support.

I took this role because I believe a healthy church tomorrow depends in part on a healthy student movement today. I took it because I saw the effect of good student ministry in the pastors and leaders and cross-cultural workers who ministered alongside me in churches and elsewhere. I took it because I wanted to see young lives impacted by the grace of God.

Farewell Jonathan & Kah Foon



Introducing Jeremy Haworth

Jeremy hails from the town of Bray and is married to the beautiful Claire from Co. Laois. He has just recently returned from an extended period of travel, which took him through New Zealand, Australia, South East Asia and India. Highlights include driving through the wild places of New Zealand in an old 4x4 converted into a (very miniature) home on wheels and working in Varanasi, India at the River Ashram, a Christian community who reach out to hippies, nomads and spiritual seekers. Now home again, he is anticipating the start of his role with IFES Ireland. Jeremy's interest in all things theological led him to study the subject in Trinity College Dublin where he became hooked. In Trinity he experienced the impact of the CU as he connected with Christian students who were thinking seriously about faith and discipleship. He has since completed an M.Th degree at Union College in Belfast. Before embarking on his travels, Jeremy was the resident student pastor at Immanuel church Dublin. While there, he developed a passion for teaching and communicating the transformative message of the Bible. He looks forward to continuing to learn and grow as he encourages students all over Dublin and beyond to grow in their grasp of, and love for, the gospel of Jesus Christ.



Welcome back Peter Kenny

Having moved a mere 450km from London to Dublin and from one English-speaking capital to another, we're not sure we quite expected the cultural differences we encountered as we threw our lot in with IFES Ireland: The Christian Unions 5 years ago. It started from before we arrived, when CUSWs we'd never met wrote to warmly welcome us, and in the first week, when people dropped by (without a prior appointment!) just to see how we were. There were the meetings we kept turning up too early for and those that frustrated us by taking ages to get down to business... and that was just the tip of the iceberg! What a lot we had to learn to understand what was going on, and what immense grace people around us showed.

We were invited to Dublin to support IFES Ireland in their desire to reach the thousands of international students who come here - students who often don't have the opportunity to hear the gospel or the space to investigate its claims back home; students who potentially will return to their countries as ambassadors for Christ in positions of influence. God is bringing the nations to Ireland, and He's been connecting the spiritually hungry with Christians here, sometimes through the most bizarre of "coincidences" - illustrations of Acts 17:27, that God determines the exact times and places where people should live so that we would seek Him, reach out for Him and find Him.

The ministry model is simple and something all Christians can get involved in - welcome and befriend international students and offer them a chance to investigate our faith. As Jeff, a Chinese post-grad at Trinity explained, "I came to the CU and International Cafe because I know Christians are friendly, and I'm going to these (seeker) Bible studies to find out if it is because of what they believe."

Over the time we've been in Dublin, we've been privileged to see several new initiatives pioneered - 3 new church-based International Cafes and a campus-based one to join Immanuel Church's English Corner and TCD's Globe Cafe, plus, a Japanese Christian Fellowship that meets once a month. Partnership events have really taken off too, as IFES Ireland and local churches work together to run an annual evangelistic Christmas Weekend Away, and this year, a discipleship Weekend Away in May as well. This summer will also be the 5th year Dublin International Outreach is running - a 2 week mission to the hundreds of language students that flood Dublin each summer, eager for their time abroad to be significant.

The Lord has been good to us in Ireland, and we've learnt so much from our experiences and from the people here that we will take with us. And we're confident in the Lord that whatever good work He has begun here will continue and thrive, especially as all of you join in praying for international student ministry in Ireland and seek to come alongside just one international student every year.

My name is Peter and I come from a small town in Co. Tipperary. I've been joyfully married to my beautiful wife Méabh for nearly 5 years. I'm currently coming to the end of theological study in Jackson, Mississippi while Méabh is researching the effects of infant hearing loss on new parents. Both of our lives have been intertwined with the ministry of IFES Ireland for nearly 10 years in one way or another: as students, Relay, Staff, and supporters. It has left a lasting legacy in our faith and we are über excited about the prospect of me becoming one of the new Dublin Staff Workers.

There are so many things that I'm really excited about in the coming year. Most of all, I'm looking forward to opening the Bible with students and allowing God's word to change our hearts as we encounter Jesus on every page through the power of His Spirit. Every new generation of believers needs to put down deep roots into the Scriptures. When we do, we realise that Jesus will not only enable us to stand firm in our faith but that He will work through us. I'm looking forward to seeing students grow in the gospel and share their hope in Christ. Thank you so much for partnering with us.

Financial summary 2013

The figures summarised here are based on the audited accounts for the year ended 31st August 2013 of IFES Ireland (NI) Trust and IFES Ireland (ROI) Trust.

The financial and academic year 2012 – 2013 saw continued fluctuations in our core income from Individuals and Churches. We are feeling the pains of the economic climate as our support base is being squeezed. Therefore, despite returning a small surplus of £4,260, the Board decided to continue to carry a staff vacancy on the basis that whilst finances are stabilizing there is not enough guaranteed monthly income to sustain the staffing levels. To spread the staffing gap the vacancy was rotated and so we have been without a Staff Worker in the NorthWest in 2013/14.

We are delighted that we have been able to appoint one new Dublin staff worker to fill our vacancy there, and a second to anticipate an imminent retirement this coming year. However, until such times as the monthly financing of IFES Ireland reaches a more sustainable level we will continue to carry a vacancy in the NorthWest region (a fundraising initiative to enable this is underway).

We are grateful to all who continue to partner with us prayerfully and financially. Thank you. Please continue to pray for the Board and Staff of IFES Ireland as they work on fundraising initiatives to secure the work of IFES Ireland for future generations. All of which enables more students in Ireland to be inspired and equipped to follow Jesus.

INCOME

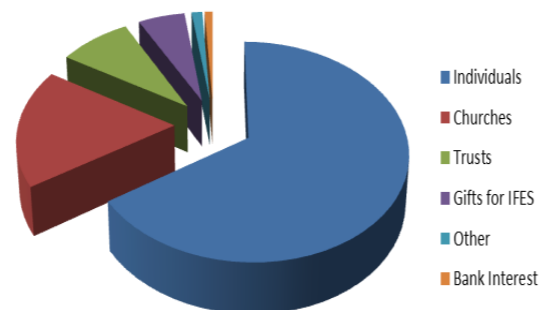
Gifts (individuals)	£157,307
Churches	£49,409
Trusts	£23,600
For IFES World	£15,342
Tax (Gift Aid)	£24,666
Other	£6,103
Total	£296,761

EXPENDITURE

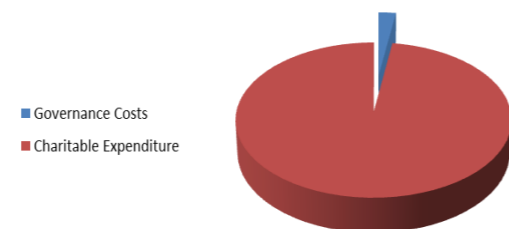
Salaries (7 f/t & 1 p/t staff)	£182,531
Travel	£20,350
Training	£3,230
Resources	£7,986
(inc CU Annual Conference)	
Communication	£16,998
Office	£12,042
Governance Costs	£6,456
To IFES World	£17,549
Miscellaneous	£5,025
Total	£292,501
Surplus	£4,260

Exchange rate of 0.84 as per average 2012/13

INCOME



EXPENDITURE



IFES IRELAND: The Christian Unions

ANNUAL REVIEW 2014



A word from our Board Chairman

The “Living Stones” vision of IFES World, based on 1 Peter 2:4-5 (“As you come to him, the Living Stone...”), is to see students built into communities of disciples, transformed by the gospel and impacting the university, the church and society for the glory of Christ. That is also the vision of IFES Ireland: The Christian Unions. But how can we best move forward with this vision?

The appointment of our new Director, Dr David Montgomery, offers an ideal occasion to take a fresh look at all our activities. So, as a Board, we’ve been working with David in planning how to grow and develop our ministry to students over the next few years. We’re excited about this new chapter in the history of the movement and, despite our current financial constraints, have already seen real cause for encouragement and thankfulness to God.

Part of the “Living Stones” vision is to equip boards of local IFES movements to govern wisely, so the Board recently devoted two weekends to an IFES-sponsored training programme. Please pray for us as we now seek how best to apply what we have learned. Our desire is to oversee the movement with wisdom that comes from biblical truth, with unity that is centred on Christ, and in prayerful dependence on God for help and direction.

This past year saw the departure of two Board members, Joan Singleton and Ian Hutchinson, who had reached their maximum term of office: we are deeply grateful for their many and varied contributions over the years. We are delighted that Martin Agnew has joined the Board, and very appreciative of his willingness to take over from Ian as our Treasurer. Finally, we welcomed Jonny English (QUB) and Jonathan Steinegger (UCD) as our new student representatives in place of Emma McAllister and Aoife Beville, whose input was much appreciated.

IFES IRELAND BOARD CHAIRMAN
Stephen Gardiner

Thank you for being part of this adventure with us. We hope you are encouraged as you read of what God is doing in our universities and colleges.
Yours in His service,

DIRECTOR
David Montgomery

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