

Uncover:

the Luke Gospel Project 2012 -2013

4 KEY WORDS for today's students from Luke: Confidence, Evidence, Response and Eternity. As a fellowship of CUs, we are excited about the year ahead, helping students to uncover Jesus and the gospel for themselves, as carefully presented by Luke. We hope through Uncover, our CU Mission Teams on Campus will be richly blessed by God, as they invest in something that will matter 100+ years from now. We also look forward to helping students to explore "Body-building; Why church matters"; at our CU Annual Conference. Please pray and support your local CU students, as they courageously contend for the gospel, with great humility and grace.

Adam Jones/Director
IFES Ireland: The Christian Unions

Uncover Update

ROBERT MCFAUL, PROJECT MANAGER OF UNCOVER AND CU STAFF WORKER IN THE NORTH WEST, WRITES...

A much anticipated day for IFES Ireland: The Christian Unions finally came when 5000 copies of Uncover (Luke's gospel) arrived in Belfast. At last it felt like the Gospel Project was ready to begin.

The vision is: "Every Christian student in Ireland giving a copy of Luke's gospel to a friend, with the intention of reading and discussing it together". As this happens, our hope and prayer is that more students will believe in Jesus Christ.

CU Staff Workers and Relay Workers

have been preparing by getting to know the gospel of Luke. Jim Crookes helped us think about the structure and central message of the book at our Staff & Families conference this year. Students also have been getting ready, particularly in Belfast where Luke was the theme of Adam's talks at the Pre-term weekend. As term begins, CUs will be getting their copies of Uncover, and individual students will be sharing the gospel with friends. To help, the staff are offering training in evangelism and preparing & leading a Bible study. Together we have an opportunity to reach many students.

Please join us in prayer for Uncover. The vision of new students believing the gospel is God's work. Only He can do it!

First year survival tips

HANNAH GAMBLE, COMMUNICATION & ADMIN. ASSISTANT WRITES...

As I think back to my time at university it feels like a blur of late night cups of tea, lots of new interesting people, new responsibilities and long awaited independence. Perhaps you have already started university/college or about to begin your first week of classes, then you may feel that you are stepping into the unknown. But fear not! Here are some top tips for starting university/ college...

- **Get plugged into a church-** being away from home is a great time to attend a new church where you can get involved with some aspect of church that you may not have been involved in previously.
- **Get involved with your CU-** most universities/ colleges have CU meetings that meet regularly. CU

is slightly different to church. They are Mission Teams on Campus and members of CUs are trained up and sent out to share the gospel with those they meet in universities/colleges.

• **Make friends...**with everyone! University/college is an opportunity to meet many new and different people. It's really important to build friendships within church and CU but also getting to know students in clubs, societies and your classes is a great opportunity to get to know people better who do not know Jesus.

• **Be ready.** University/college life can throw some difficult challenges your way. Be ready for them and resolve now to follow Jesus, no matter what.

Hannah graduated in 2011. She has just finished her Relay year with IFES Ireland and has taken over from Sarah Keene as communication and administration assistant.

"a right bunch of sinners" + God

PETER GRIER, CU STAFF WORKER IN MUNSTER, WRITES...

Pulling up to my new house in a car kindly given to me by a supporter in the IFES Ireland family, chatting with new housemates and enjoying the "Indian summer" sun beaming through the window, I thank God for His providence in so many ways as I've settled into the way of life here (though I still have much to learn!).

As I look ahead to the joys and challenges that await us, I long that further down the line, every student in Munster would be able to have a chance to hear and respond to the gospel of Jesus Christ, engagingly spoken to them

SO NOW AS YOU LEAVE HOME COOKING AND BEGIN TO FEND FOR YOURSELF HERE IS A **quick and easy pasta dish recipe:**

1 CHOPPED RED PEPPER,
1 ONION, TIN OF TUNA,
200G PASTA AND
HALF JAR OF PESTO.

COOK AND MIX
INGREDIENTS TOGETHER
AND SERVE WARM WITH
GRATED CHEESE ON TOP!

Bon appetit!

and lived out by their fellow students. Though last night I was reminded by one of the lads I've just met at the hockey club "I'm sure they're a right bunch of sinners in the CUs". What a privilege that He can continue to powerfully use us weak sinners, to do His bidding, and be the tools by which He opens the very eyes of those who point the finger at us, to their slavery to sin and to the one who can free them!

Please pray for me as I begin my time here in Munster, for grace, wisdom and a continual sense of excitement and anticipation.



Hannah Gamble

A world of choices

RACHEL LOGAN, BELFAST CU STAFF WORKER, WRITES...

On the 2nd September the Belfast CU leaders waited patiently as first year students were about to invade Castlewellan Castle. University can be a time of massive change for students as they leave home for the first time

Right: Pre-termers at Castlewellan



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21 Ormeau Avenue, Belfast BT2 8HD

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IFES Ireland
THE CHRISTIAN UNIONS
prayerdiary
OCT/DEC 2012

Please pray for IFES Ireland Team days on 11th - 12th October, November 8th-9th and Christmas Team days on 17th-18th December. These days are full of fellowship, envisioning and prayer. Pray that the team would have productive, encouraging and strategic sessions.

The IFES Ireland Board meets on 10th November Pray for wisdom and unity in decision making.

As CUs get up and running again for the new semester, pray for them as Mission Teams on Campus. Some key events coming up are:

October

1st OCT - RCSI have organised a fresher's stall. Pray for the CU to meet Christian students who want to get plugged into the CU and pray for students who are not Christians but want to investigate Christianity.

2nd OCT - Pray for good attendance by students and wisdom for staff as they lead sessions at the 'Hub' in Dublin, which starts today. The Hub is a weekly training night for CU leaders and CU members in the Dublin region.

8th OCT - Michael Ots is coming to speak at QUB. Pray for God's wisdom and understanding as Michael brings God's word to equip the students for mission.

15th-16th OCT - IFES Europe are about to start a new General Secretary mentoring group. Martin Haizmann, Igor Rautmanis, Mirek Pieszka and Cassells Morrell meet in Marburg, Germany to prepare for this new network on 15th-16th October.

Tallaght IT - Risikat is the only remaining student in the CU. Please pray that she will be able to make good contacts with new students this year, and that God will bring more Christians to the CU.

Stranmillis CU - They are planning to have events to entice students who are not Christians. Pray for creativity as they plan these events and

pray that through these events friendships will deepen and the gospel will be shared.

November

22nd NOV - Maynooth CU are holding a Thanksgiving dinner. Pray that this will be a great opportunity to share the Gospel with their friends and fellow students .

LSAD - 2 of the girls in CU are in final year and 1 is completing her H-dip, pray that they will make time for fellowship and be a support to one another throughout the busy year.

22nd NOV - UUU are holding a 24 hour prayer event. Pray that God will give the CU a passion for prayer, not just for this event but for the whole year.

26th- 30th NOV - IFES Europe regional team meets in Oxford. During the week there will be a goodbye meal for Edith Vilamajó, Helen Rennie and Charlie Hadjiev who moved to lecture in Belfast Bible College last autumn.

December

5th DEC - UCD are having a Carol service. Pray that this will truly remind students of the coming Saviour and pray that students will not lose sight of what is most important as the exam session begins.

12th- 16th DEC - UUM are having an 'Evangelistic Week'. Pray that through all their nights of outreach God will be the centre and use the CU to impact lives with His love.

14th- 16th DEC - The International student weekend away is happening in Greystones. Pray for students to understand and be struck by the real Christmas story and to go to follow-up Bible studies and events. Pray for Jonathan and Kah Foon Gillespie (IFES Interaction Workers) as they head this up.

Please continue to pray for students as many of them sit exams before or after Christmas. Pray that they will look to God for wisdom and understanding as it can be a stressful time for many.



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Further engagements

We would like to take this opportunity to say congratulations to two members of the team who got engaged over the summer. Catrin Petherbridge got engaged to Len Carolan and will be married next year. Rachel Logan got engaged to Nicholas Greer and will be married on the 12th January in Belfast.

We wish them every blessing as they prepare for this exciting day and ask you to join us in prayer for both couples as they look ahead to their lives together.

Photos [top left]: Len Carolan and Catrin Petherbridge. [below left]: Nicholas Greer and Rachel Logan.

“So, what is Relay?”

MATTHEW CURRY, BELFAST RELAY WORKER, WRITES...

La Quinta was the destination, we had arrived at what was to be the commencement of our year of Relay. There was an atmosphere of nervous anticipation as Relay Workers from all over Ireland and the UK arrived in dribs and drabs, stepping into the unknown. Sure, we all signed up for the programme with an idea of what it entails, but there's always an element of unfamiliarity starting something new. As the week progressed, and we received biblical teaching and learned about the practical aspects of Relay, the nervous anticipation turned to eager excitement. We now felt more prepared to answer that familiar question: 'So what is Relay?'

Prayer Diary: please cut out, fold and use it as a book mark in your Bible.

choose a particular topic of personal interest. As well as the study, we are also held accountable to the CU Staff Workers, who will supervise the us and hold us accountable in study, time and finance. There are also three training conferences through the course of the year, the first of which we have already attended. This gives the opportunity to hear amazing biblical truth and seeing how it applies directly to our Relay year. In the first Relay conference a talk by Mike Reeves on justification and the cross stood out, as he reminded us of our standing before God because of the cross in a refreshing way. Throughout the year, we are also engaged in discipling students as we are being disciplined. This often takes the form of one-to-one discipleship. We meet up with individual students, studying the Bible and praying with them whilst developing a meaningful relationship. This is probably the area of Relay that terrifies many, perhaps due to potential awkwardness at the start of the relationship. There are 9 Relay Workers in Ireland this year and we do thank you for partnering with us in your prayers. Our prayer is that as we grow, develop and mature in Christ, God can use us to develop students as they reach others with the gospel.

[continued from overleaf]

and enter into a world of choices. It can be really exciting but also unnerving. One way CUs in Belfast aim to help with this transition is to hold a four day retreat. The purpose is to welcome freshers, provide support and envision them with the core purpose of the CUs. It is encouraging to see students get excited as they learn how they can serve God at Uni. This year's speaker was Adam Jones. He spoke on Luke which helped students think through their mission on campus. It also helped students to become familiar with Luke as we start the Uncover Gospel Project. Local chaplains, ministers and CU Staff Workers taught on topics such as "How to study the Bible with your friends", "Glorifying God in your studies" and "Persevering to the end". The weekend had many highlights and it was the biggest Pre-term I've seen so far. Pray that as students come onto campus they would make wise decisions, cling to Christ and understand that He is the true giver of freedom. Pray that they will build good friendships with class mates and proclaim Christ.