

Will you ...or won't you?

WELL... ? GO ON... ASK! 100s of students all over Ireland are grappling with this question. No it is not a Valentine's question, but rather more serious. It's about asking their friends if they will accept and read a copy of UNCOVER thereby potentially uncovering the real Jesus in an eternally life-changing way! Let's get behind the students; pray for courage and real opportunities right now. Please also consider responding to our Annual Financial Appeal; our financial needs are real, as is the challenge to bring the gospel to this generation of students. Will you or won't you? We are asking.

Many thanks.

Adam Jones/Director
IFES Ireland: The Christian Unions



Dublin life

STEF, RELAY WORKER IN DUBLIN,
WRITES...

Trinity and UCD CUs kicked off the year with two performances of the Mark Drama during freshers week. Both dramas proved to be an amazing opportunity to meet and share the gospel with new students. Those who were involved in the performance had the privilege of digging deep into the Gospel of Mark and encountering Jesus in a new way through their roles. But things haven't stopped there; following the launch of the

Uncover Bible study material, students are sinking their teeth into the gospel of Luke. In UCD, the small group Bible studies have just finished the Uncover series, with the hope of using the material to do Bible studies with friends who may never have read the Bible themselves before, and are willing to test the evidence, and see for themselves who this Jesus is. One student is already reading Uncover with a friend from her course. Having prayed for God to show her someone to share her faith with, her friend started chatting about faith-based issues a few days later and they started reading the Bible together using Uncover! Praise God for this opportunity, and pray that more students would have the boldness to invite friends to read and engage with Uncover.

On 7th March, Rico Tice, co-author of Christianity Explored and renowned evangelist will speak at a Student Outreach event in Dublin. Please join us in praying for students to come who have never heard the gospel and be challenged to see the need for Jesus in their lives.

This year has been blessed, despite the struggle of having a CU Staff Worker vacancy due to funding. The Hub is new to Dublin this year, and it aims to be a centralised place where students from different campuses across Dublin gather together for training and fellowship. There is a choice of two teaching streams; Bible handling or evangelism and apologetics. Following this teaching time, we either have a time of prayer, or a short seminar on thinking biblically about a topic. The fruits of the Hub can be seen already: UCD students putting what they have learnt into practise during times of outreach on campus, and

seeing other students write and lead Bible studies. Please pray that more students would come to and benefit from the Hub. Pray for the CU Staff and Relay team, for funding to fill the vacancy and for energy and encouragement as we invest in gospel opportunities.

QUB CU Training Mission Week

DANIEL LANNON, QUB CU EVANGELISM COORDINATOR, WRITES...

Our vision and mission statement for Queen's CU this year is "Glorifying Christ on Campus". The week of March 4th to 8th 2013 will be one of our greatest opportunities to live out that vision. We are planning to run a Missions Week of concentrated evangelism on campus. For this we have invited Michael O'Leary from Bournemouth to be our speaker for the week. Michael is a full time evangelist who spends most of his time presenting the gospel to university students throughout the UK and Europe. He has been involved in many Mission Weeks and evangelism events and we are very excited to partner with him and benefit from having him with us in March. (See <http://www.matsy.org/> for more about Michael).

So what will the week look like? Our theme for the week is "Uncover Jesus" with events every evening, Monday to Thursday, centred on a presentation of the gospel. We will try to create an atmosphere as we can with music, food, games and more. The titles for our four evening events are:

[continued overleaf]

Save the Date

Please join us at your nearest Supporter's Event or Open Evening, for news, prayer, coffee and snacks. Come and meet our Staff Workers, Relay Workers and students and find out what God is doing on university campuses around Ireland. We would love to see you there! Please see enclosed flyer for further info. **Note for Munster supporters:** our Staff Worker, Peter Grier, will contact you nearer the time with further details of the Cork+Limerick Supporter's Event.

| | |
|-------------------|-------------------------------|
| Dublin | Tuesday 5th Feb, 7 p.m. |
| Cork | Thursday 7th Feb, 8p.m. |
| Limerick | Friday 8th Feb, 8 p.m. |
| Belfast | Wednesday 20th Feb, 7:30 p.m. |
| North West | Thursday 21st Feb, 7: 30 p.m. |



Check out our new website!

We launched our new website at the beginning of this academic year. www.ifesireland.org Check it out and keep up to date with the latest news and CU information. Our Staff Worker Phil has been working hard on it, and although we are still developing the website we would love to get some feedback, so let us know what you think and send any comments to hannah@ifesireland.org. You can also connect with us through our Facebook and twitter page.

I would like to support the work of IFES Ireland: The Christian Unions

Please send me information on...

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...leaving a gift to IFES Ireland in my will

I enclose a one time gift of £/€

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Please complete the form below to maximise the benefit of your gift through **Gift Aid**.

Please return to:

From ROI: IFES Ireland, 94 Upper Georges Street
Dún Laoghaire, Co Dublin

From UK: Freepost RRJZ-TYZE-KCLL, IFES Ireland
21 Ormeau Avenue, Belfast BT2 8HD

Gift Aid Declaration

I want IFES Ireland[NI] Trust to treat all donations I have made for the four years prior to this year, and all donations I make from the date of this declaration until I notify you otherwise, as Gift Aid donations. I confirm that I am a UK taxpayer, resident in the UK for tax purposes. I understand that I must pay enough income tax or capital gains tax in each year to cover the amount of tax recovered.

SIGNED _____ DATE _____

Please note that you are entitled to cancel this declaration at any time. Unless and until you do, we will continue to reclaim tax on all your giving.



IFES Ireland
THE CHRISTIAN UNIONS
prayerdiary
JAN/MAR 2013

January

- Pray for focus and wisdom as many students sit exams and face assignment deadlines during January.
- Pray for University Of Ulster Belfast CU as they work with a local church to start evangelistic lunch bars on campus.
- Give thanks for Magee University CU. Their CU is growing in number and many non-Christian students are coming to events.
- Pray for wisdom and godly leadership for NUI Galway CU's new committee.

10th+11th JAN: Pray for our CU Staff Workers as they meet together for training over these two days.

12th JAN: Pray for our CU Staff Worker Rachel Logan who marries Nicholas Greer today.

11th-14th JAN: Our 9 Relay Workers attend their 2nd conference in England. Pray for safe travel and a challenging and encouraging week as they look at God's mission in the world and the nature of the gospel.

23rd JAN: Pray for UCD CU as they welcome back and invite students to their CU during 'Refreshers' events.

February

Please continue to pray for opportunities for students to use the Uncover Gospel Project.

11th-15th FEB: Jordanstown CU have organised a 'Grill a Christian' lunch time event. Pray for the logistics of the event and for clarity and wisdom for the members on the question panel.

11th-15th FEB: Trinity CU Mission Week. Pray for a fruitful week of outreach on campus.

14th FEB: Pray for UCD CU Valentine's Day outreach event.

15th-17th FEB: Pray for QUB CU weekend away as they prepare for their Training Mission Week during this weekend.

8th-16th FEB: Engaging with Islam events are being held in Dublin this week, AFES Staff Worker Sam Green is the main speaker and debater. Pray for spiritual protection over Sam and the CUs as they engage with the Islamic societies.

20th FEB: Dublin Wide New Leaders Training evening. Pray for committees as they start thinking about handing over leadership of the CUs.

23rd FEB: IFES Ireland Board meeting. Please pray for unity and wisdom for decisions that need to be made for the fellowship.

March

DCU are planning to set up a Gospel Vocal Group. Pray that they would be able to reach out to students with the gospel through their music.

4th-8th MAR: QUB CU Training Mission week and Jordanstown CU Mission Week. Pray for a great week of fruitful outreach as the gospel is shared on campus. Pray for wisdom and strength for their speakers and the CU members.

7th MAR: 'One Life' Student Outreach Evening in Dublin with Rico Tice. Pray that many non-Christian students from all over Dublin would come along to this event and be challenged by God's word.

22nd-24th MAR: CU Annual Conference 2013 'Body Building- Why the Church Matters'. Please pray for a great attendance at the conference and for a deepening of understanding on the purpose of the church.

28th MAR: Pray for our CU Staff Worker Catrin Petherbridge who gets married to Len Carolan today.

Pray for strength for the CUs at the Limerick and Dublin Art colleges as they continue to meet together amidst the busyness of the end of semester.



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Please pray for us as a CU like Paul prayed for the Thesalonians. That God, according to his grace, will fulfil every resolve for good and every work of faith by his power, so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in Queen's University. Pray especially that the members of our CU will be inspired and excited by the gospel and have a heart for the lost, that we would be a praying CU, reliant on God and that the Holy Spirit would work mightily through our Missions Week.

gospel with a friend using the Uncover Bible studies, which go through the gospel of Luke. This can provide great preparation for and follow-up to the Mission Week.

As well as these evening events we hope to run 5 apologetics lunchbars that deal with common objections to Christianity. Free lunch will be provided and offer the talk there will be opportunity for questions, further discussion and follow-up. CU members will be challenged to invite their non-Christian friends to the events to provoke important conversations. They will also have opportunity to share their faith on the streets as they use questionnaires and invite people to come to the events. We know that the gospel is often best presented through personal relationships and by the visible effects of God's grace in a friend's life. CU members are being encouraged and trained to share the



Pray that ...OUR CU WILL BE INSPIRED AND EXCITED BY THE GOSPEL AND **have a heart for the lost,** THAT WE WOULD BE A PRAYING CU, **reliant on God**

[continued from overleaf]

- **Uncover identity** - what am I worth?
- **Uncover life** - what am I living for?
- **Uncover forgiveness** - is a fresh start possible?
- **Uncover hope** - is there life after life?

Islam week

CATH, DUBLIN CU STAFF WORKER, WRITES...

"Are you saying God went to the toilet?"; "God is transcendent, he cannot be part of his creation"; "The Bible is corrupted".

Last Year a group of 12 Muslim men turned up invited to a Christian Union in Dublin with statements like these. How would you respond? It was quite a shock to the 7 students present, but they sought to engage and answer as best they could.

Recently Islamic Societies on Irish University campuses have become more assertive. Each year Christian Unions are invited to debate them publicly. If the CU cannot provide a strong Christian debater the Islamic Society go ahead regardless, importing clever Islamic debaters and holding one-sided public events which denigrate Christianity.

Whilst questioning the value of Christian/Muslim debates, I consulted a former colleague Sam Green, an AFES (Australian Fellowship of Evangelical Students) Staff Worker who regularly debates Muslim academics. Sam is well respected among Islamic societies in Australia and has produced a lot of literature including "Engaging with

Islam" an interactive training course designed to help ordinary Christians understand and engage Muslims. IFES Ireland: The Christian Unions and Irish Church Missions are proposing to bring Sam Green to Dublin (8th-16th February 2013) to help Christians in Ireland understand and engage with the Muslim worldview. His time here will involve a training weekend open to all, a series of Christian/Muslim debates on Dublin University campuses throughout the week, and specific training for Irish debaters.

- We see this as a great opportunity to help Christians in Ireland sensitively engage with Muslims and lovingly share the good news of Jesus Christ, and we'd love you to be involved.
- **Please pray** for CU committees as they organise debates with the Islam Societies.
- **Please pray** for Sam as he seeks to make Christ known amongst Muslims and help ordinary Christians share the truth with Muslim friends.
- **Please pray** that Christians in Ireland would have a desire to understand the Muslim worldview and have courage to share Christ lovingly.



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