

Just a little overwhelmed...

It may be a few decades since I was a Fresher, but I think this year I really can identify with the crop of nervous but excited first years flooding into our colleges and universities. Like them, I'm facing a new environment, new colleagues, new challenges and, although this is something I am looking forward to, like them, in my quiet moments, I am just a little overwhelmed.

Thank you all for your ongoing support of IFES, and I know that I, the CU Staff Workers, the student leaders, and all those Freshers will appreciate your prayers in the coming months. It is a time of change for us all but our God is in the business of change and we hope this year will be one of transformation, no matter where we are in our relationship with God.

For some it may be the year they experience the foundational change of conversion; for others it may be a real change in priorities and ambitions as they look ahead to life beyond college; for all, I hope it will be a year when we continue to be changed gradually into the likeness of Christ. As one recent graduate said to me this week: "Times of change are scary. They force me to reflect on areas of my life that need to change; but they are also beautiful, because they keep me dependent on God". Pray that we will all maintain that sense of dependence into the year ahead.

David Montgomery/Director
IFES Ireland: The Christian Unions



"I'd return in a heartbeat."

JORDANSTOWN CU Summer Outreach

HANNAH WRITES...

As part of my role as evangelism secretary on CU committee in Jordanstown this year, I had the privilege of taking a team of students on a Missions trip. This August after months of preparation and direction from God the journey began!

A group of 16 students from University of Ulster, Jordanstown set off to spend a week in South Dublin. The team arrived at Shankill Bible Church and were welcomed by Laurina (CEF), Len and Catrin who talked us through the plan for the week. They also shared their love for the people in their community and their desire to see souls won for Christ. This encouraged us to build up relationships with those we met, and to constantly remember their crucial need of Jesus and the fact we had the opportunity to tell them! Each morning we spent time in worship and looked through the book of Colossians. Our verses of the week will definitely not be forgotten- Colossians 2v4-6!

Following on from this, 3 teams carried out 5 kids clubs in different areas & a fourth team stayed in Shankill and went around the doors of the local houses and asked if they would like any small



Photo: Jordanstown CU Outreach Team

jobs done at no cost. Each night we spent time getting to know the youth in the area. On the Thursday night we had a local band play in Bray town with Bridget Taylor, Olympic gold medal winner Katie Taylor's mum, telling her story of how Jesus changed her life.

One of my highlights of the week was hearing the boys and girls singing the songs and saying the bible verses on their own. Pray that God reminds them of these words long after the kids clubs have ended! My expectations were nothing in comparison to what God had planned for the week – His ways are not our ways and I'm thankful for that. It was amazing to see the team use their talents and gifts for God, and even discover what their gifts were!

God answered so many prayers, and shattered all our expectations and I pray that He continues to work in South Dublin. Pray for us as we start another year of evangelism and discipleship on our own campus in Jordanstown as well.

DUBLIN International Outreach

PIP WRITES...

What a brilliant way to spend your summer! Dublin International Outreach took place during the hottest 2 weeks in July with a team of 19 seeking to reach international students with the good news of Jesus! Every morning we'd have teaching and training on sharing the gospel cross culturally. During the afternoons we'd meet students and prepare for the evening event. In the evening we'd open the doors of "Uncle Eddie's International Café": a chance for international students to practise their English, make friends, have fun and have the opportunity to read some of Mark's gospel. Each night 40-60 students came to the café and 15-30 stayed for the Bible discussions – praise God! There were many new friendships started, great conversations and lots of laughs! It

was exciting to see the team grow in their love for Jesus and enthusiasm to share Him as well as see the gospel being shared in word and deed! As one team member said: "I'd return in a heartbeat."

CU PROFILE: University of Ulster COLERAINE

TIM, CU PRESIDENT, WRITES...

"Keep company with him and learn a life of love. Observe how Christ loved us. His love was not cautious but extravagant. He didn't love in order to get something from us but to give everything of himself to us. Love like that." Ephesians 5v2

In Coleraine uni, we are excited. The new semester has begun, bringing with it a mix of people to the CU; those who have been there from last year, those returning from placement and those who have joined us for the first time, the freshers. At the crux of what we have planned for the year lies relationships (not just boy & girl). From our verse above, we want firstly to strengthen our relationship with our Father, God. If we get this right then other re-

[continued overleaf]

Photos: Dublin International Outreach



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IFES Ireland THE CHRISTIAN UNIONS prayerdiary OCT/DEC 2013

October

• **1st: Pray for the Hub** that starts again tonight - for students from all over Dublin to come to enjoy meeting and learning with students from other CUs as they think through issues of evangelism, apologetics, discipleship and knowing what we believe.

• **7-8th: Kilkenny Outreach Conference.** Our Munster CU Staff Worker, Peter Grier and our Director Monty will attend the conference. Please pray for a time of encouragement, rest and fellowship with other Christian workers in Ireland.

• **9th: Relay Training Day.** Our 3 Relay Workers, Hannah, Tracy and Dan meet together for a day of training and fellowship lead by our CU Staff Worker, Phil Alcorn. Continue to pray for the Relay Workers as they settle into life as a Relay Worker. To learn more about what the Relay Programme entails visit our website www.ifesireland.org.

• **10th+11th: IFES Ireland All Ireland Team Days, Dublin.** Please pray for safe travel as the team meet together for business sessions, CU and personal updates and prayer.

• **12th: Presidents Forum, Dublin.** CU Presidents from all over Ireland join together today for Bible teaching, sharing ideas and encouragements with each other. Pray that it is a productive and refreshing day.

• **18th-20th: Munster CU Big Weekend Away.** Students from CUs all over Munster will attend the first Munster CU conference. Pray for the organising committee as they oversee the weekend.

• **21st: Queens CU** are hosting an outreach event called Mark's drama. Pray for students on campus to come and watch and for the drama to resonate in a way that draws people to Jesus.

• **23rd: Pray for UCD CU** as they have a GO! Week, where they aim to go out onto the campus with the gospel in a more concerted, creative way.

November

• **1-3rd: Leinster CU Big Weekend Away,** Castle Daly. Pray for safe travel for all students who will attend and a great weekend of bible teaching and fellowship with other CU members.

• **6-7th: Staff Days.** Pray for our 5 CU Staff Workers and Interaction Team Leaders who meet to update each other, discuss and plan for future decisions for the CUs.

• **15th: CUAC planning meeting** - pray for the team as they prepare for CUAC & for new team members Dan (Relay) and Jonny (student rep).

• **16th: IFES Ireland Board Meeting.** Pray for wisdom and discernment as Board members meet today.

• **LIT CU** only know of one person who is a Christian on campus - please pray for her as she seeks to find the other Christians and to live and speak for Jesus faithfully this year.

• **CICE CU: 'CU-GO90'** is their slogan for this year, signalling their intent for CU to be a relevant, comfortable, fun place to be, for all 90 students in the college. Pray for the CU as they desire for all 90 students in the college to receive the opportunity to interact with the gospel this year. Please pray that the Holy Spirit would move mightily in the college and that God would do great things, bringing many to salvation.

December

• **1st -10th: Many CUs** all over Ireland will have Christmas Carol Services before colleges and universities break for Christmas holidays. Pray that students from CU will use this opportunity to invite a friend who does know Jesus and that the services will help students to understand the true meaning of Christmas.

• **13th-15th: Interaction Christmas Weekend Away.** Pray for the many international students who will come to the weekend. Pray for the Interaction Team as they oversee and organise the weekend.

• **16th+17th: All Ireland Team Days,** Greystones. Give thanks to God for giving them strength and wisdom during a busy semester. Pray for good rest and refreshment for our Director and staff over the Christmas period. For further prayer updates, please visit our 'Latest News' section on our website www.ifesireland.org.



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We have moved

Our Dublin Office has moved to a new premises:
You can now find us at:
**Ulysses House,
22-24 Foley Street
Dublin 1.**
Come in and say hello.

For more details, see our PRAYER POINTS

I want to personally thank Robert McFaul who has moved on from being an IFES worker in the NW. His guidance and advice during the summer has been so appreciated and I think it's a testament to him that he is still happy to listen and give some advice! We will miss Deborah Griffith and Phil Cairnduff too, who were Relay Workers. Everyone benefited from the new leaders training and are so thankful for the work they did. Can I encourage you to be praying for a new IFES CU Staff Worker, they really do make such a difference to CU!



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10 years on:

AN INTERVIEW WITH **RICHARD DUFFY**,
TCD CU PRESIDENT (2004-2005)

How did you get involved in IFES?
The summer before coming to college, I had become a Christian. I always say that I had become a Christian through the CU in my school but that's a pretty big over-simplification. I started to think about faith because of some good friends I had in school. I started to come to things because of the people I met through my friends (and not just because of pretty girls!). I started to feel part of something long before I had a strong faith in Jesus. In college I got involved in the CU in first year.

What advice would you give a fresher starting uni?
Your friendships, both inside and outside CU, are much more important than CU itself. Enjoy your time in university, get involved, make friends outside CU, don't neglect them. See the CU as a mission team on campus not as a church or hiding place and keep the big picture in mind.

Looking back on your time in CU, what would you have done differently?
In college I spent two years involved in a small group, two years on committee and two years leading a small group. I led prayer meetings, planned weekends away, spoke at conferences and stayed linked in with my church. I spent time shaping and building a great CU but I neglected some amazing friendships both inside and outside CU. In my time in college it was the people I shared myself with regularly who were changed by Jesus more than the people I invited to CU. More nights hanging out with my friends might have brought more of the kingdom of God to the campus than organising another meeting.

Richard Duffy and Cathrín Carolan

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