

## Summertime...

While summer may be the time when formal studies are put to one side, IFES students still have the chance to do a lot of learning. Some are taking part in training conferences, others in missions at home and abroad. In this Prayer News you will find details of the international student outreaches in Dublin and Cork. Please pray for these strategic events as they have the potential to change lives around the globe. Pray too for those students who are leaving us that, as they graduate, God will continue to use them in their chosen vocations and in a local church. That will be a true legacy of their IFES experience.

David Montgomery/Director  
IFES Ireland: The Christian Unions



## Asking Life's Big Questions

OUTREACH BY 'POSTERING' IN THE UCD ARTS BLOCK. CLARE, UCD CU, WRITES...

'Postering' was a form of outreach that happened every Tuesday afternoon in the UCD Arts block. It involved gathering a group of CU members and creating a 'question poster'. The group then approached students on campus and asked them the question.

The aim of Postering was to encourage

students to think about and discuss what they believe about the big issues of life (e.g love, truth, morality), and how, if at all, they relate to God. After a few sessions, questions became more specific about God, e.g. beginning with 'Where do you find your identity?' and finishing the semester with 'Jesus: Mad, Bad or God?' and 'Why did Jesus have to die?'

Friendships were built up with those answering every week, and conversations with these groups became progressively deeper and more comfortable, with students openly asking about our personal relationships with God, how we came to know Him and even why we go to CU. Some commented on the effectiveness of 'Postering', in challenging them to think about things that aren't talked about in everyday conversation, with others even coming along to CU meetings to talk more about 'the deep stuff'.

Those who did the outreach experienced the great faithfulness of God. There were feelings of fear each time we went out but in answer to our prayers, God opened up new exciting conversations each time, and gave us more patience and listening ears.



RIGHT:  
Postering at UCD



**"...challenging them to think about things that aren't talked about in everyday conversation."**

This outreach gave the CU a regular presence on campus, and offers an opportunity to build relation

ships with students, with the possibility of extending invitations to CU meetings or discussion groups. It also pushes us out of our comfort zone and into the real world, with only God to rely on.

## CUAC 2014 The Living Word

MARK, UUB CU, WRITES...

This year's CU Annual Conference was held in the historic King's Hospital School in Dublin. The theme of the weekend was 'The Living Word: The God who speaks'. Australian Bible teacher, David Cooke, was joined by his wife Maxine and led the main sessions; teaching over 100 students from universities and colleges all over Ireland.

With this being my first time on the CU planning committee I got my first glimpse behind the scenes of the amount of prayerful and careful planning that goes into each CU Annual Conference. I considered it a privilege to take on the role of Student Representative on the planning committee, acting as the voice for the CU student population across Ireland.

David Cooke's passion for God's word was clearly seen throughout his commentary and teaching over his four main sessions. The take home message that has stuck with me is that as faithful servants of Christ we must strive to be "regular, careful and prayerful readers of God's word". With the pressures of meeting university deadlines, juggling part time work and social commitments it's all too easy to be

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## Relay Worker Relay Worker What do you do?

TRACY WRITES....

We say farewell to our three wonderful Relay workers; **Dan Duffy, Tracy Chambers** and **Hannah Stewart**. Please continue to pray for them as they move on from Relay.

Dan will be starting an apprenticeship with Grosvenor Road Baptist Church in Dublin. Hannah will be heading to Slovakia to join the InterAction Team there and Tracy will be looking for work before starting a masters.

### "So you're on Relay – what do you do?"

A year getting to know God? – I'll take two!

Life on Relay can get pretty exciting, Cork and Limerick, outreach, 1-2-1, study, prep, CU meetings... Throw in CUAC, committee weekends away, mission weeks, Relay conferences! – Each day is full!  
Time for prayer and God's word, church, friends and family too?  
Each day I trust to our God who is sovereign over time – and He is faithful!

"What's next, what's next?" – The constant refrain!

Taking each day to live life for His glory – I have to admit, I don't know the full story!  
But of one thing I'm sure,  
Our God is like no other.  
Three united in Love,  
Father, Spirit, Son together.  
My loving Father by grace,  
He chooses to love rebellious me,  
Welcoming me as a daughter in Christ Jesus.

One prayer point? Let's see, I could easily think of three!  
Pray for God's provision and guidance as I start the next chapter of my story.

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**IFES Ireland**  
THE CHRISTIAN UNIONS  
**prayerdiary**  
JUL/SEP 2014

**July**

**6th-20th: Dublin International Outreach (DIO).** Pray the team will have great gospel conversations with people from all over the world, particularly those from closed countries.

**17th:** Pray for the **CU Annual Conference Planning** team as they collate student feedback and start shaping the 2015 conference.

**12th -19th: Ardmore Beach Team,** Co. Waterford. Pray for strength and energy for the team.

**19th-26th: Tramore Beach Team.** Thank God for the team members being virtually all from the south of Ireland. Please pray the students would learn effective means of reaching out that would help them when September comes.

**Pray for Christy and Jonny** (Dublin) and **Duncan** (Belfast) as they prepare for their year on Relay, particularly as they start to raise financial and prayer support.

**Bible & Culture** is a month long residential teaching & training opportunity for students, staff and graduates from all over Europe. Pray for our CU Staff Worker Catrin and her husband Len as they go for the first 2 weeks of July. Pray that what they learn will shape their ministry for the coming year and for great relationships built with other attendees.

**August**

**2nd-8th: Pray for Monty** as he speaks at the New Horizon conference in Coleraine. Say hello to our Staff Worker, Phil, who will be at our IFES Ireland stall.

**4th-18th: International Student Outreach (Cork) [ISOC].** Pray for the team of local church people and students from around the island gathering together to pioneer work and reach out to hundreds of visiting students, that will help develop an international cafe longterm in the city.

**15th- 29th: Pray for Hannah,** IFES office worker, and **Esther,** Munster student, who are

going to Thailand to work with Johnny and Ann McClean. Pray for safe travel and protection as they serve the CUs in a different country.

**21st -23rd: Staff and Families** Weekend Away. Pray for the new CU Staff Workers, Jeremy Harworth and Peter Kenny, as they join the team for the first official gathering. Pray for team unity and for smooth transitions into new environments.

**25th- 29th:** Pop along to the **IFES Ireland** stand at the Bangor convention. Pray that the stand will help to further communicate the work of IFES Ireland.

**31st Aug- 3rd Sept: Pre-term.** Pray for the 1st year students who attend, that they will be able to integrate well into the CU this year and form new friendships.

**RSCI: Pray for Christian students** who have been studying in Ireland from overseas and must now return home having been changed as they matured in their studies, by their experiences in a different culture, and by their exposure to the a different part of the global church.

**Pray for** the Christians on campus in **Galway** that they would know how to be an effective gospel presence on campus whether officially as a society or unofficially in their friendship groups.

**September**

**1st-5th: Pray for UCD** orientation week as the CU help move people into their accommodation and offer alternative social events to Freshers.

**3rd: Pray for Cath Read** as she returns to Dublin today. Pray for a safe flight and that she'll settle back into Dublin life quickly.

**8th: Belfast region** Re: envisioning night. Pray for enthusiasm for the CU leaders as they recapture the vision and mission of their CU.

**9th: Belfast Small Group Leaders Training.** Praise God for the Small Group Leaders and pray that they learn more about God this year as they lead their small groups.

**15th-19th : TCD / DCU / UCD Freshers** weeks. Pray that each campus would proclaim the gospel faithfully and creatively this week.

**20th: IFES Ireland Board Meeting.** Pray for wisdom and guidance for the Board as they make important decisions for the movement.



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**Say hello to Debora Roehl.**

Debora has just finished her degree in DCU and will be moving to Mexico this September. She served on the DCU CU committee for 2 years. Debora says "I will be volunteering as IFES World Assembly Logistics Assistant in Mexico helping to organize the World Assembly 2015 for one year starting in September. I will be supporting the host movement with working on visa and travel arrangements and communications with delegates from 150 countries etc. I will also be involved with the local student movement. Please, pray for God's continued provision, guidance and a Christ-like attitude to serve well".



**Not forgetting Aoife Beville**

who will be starting her second year in Bologna, Northern Italy as the InterAction Team Member. Praise God for the work that God is doing through her and the other Christians on the Italian campuses. Continue to pray for Aoife as she works with the Italian students and lives in Italy for another year. Pray that God will provide for all her financial needs. If you would like to find out more about Aoife, email [aoifebeville@gmail.com](mailto:aoifebeville@gmail.com) for updates.

KEY TO ABBREVIATIONS: Church of Ireland College of Education(CCE); 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(NULG); National University of Ireland, Maynooth (NULM); Queen's University Belfast(QUB); Royal College of Surgeons Ireland(RCSI); Trinity College Dublin(TCD); University College Cork (UCC); University of Ulster, Coleraine(UUC); University of Ulster, Jordanstown(UJU); University of Ulster, Magee(UUM); Waterford Institute of Technology(WIT).

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irregular and hasty readers of God's word. When we prioritise unhurried daily communion with God we become more in tune with Him.

We encourage you to give thanks in prayer for the new venue, having encountered no major hiccups and smooth running. Praise God for the fellowship we enjoyed together and for friendships new and old. Let us give thanks for the word that had been taught and shared so faithfully, through the main sessions and seminars.

We continue to pray that God would work in the heart of students who are still pondering on what was learnt, and as seminars from the conference go online. We finally ask you to pray for God's guiding hand in the planning for the CU Annual Conference 2015 'Trinity 3 in 1'.

**Musings from University Life**

JONNY, QUB CU, WRITES...

**I have been involved** in the CU at Queen's since I came to the university. The idea of the CU being a Mission Team on Campus hit me straight away. From the first day I was so excited to get involved and bring the good news of Christ to my class. I helped out with various aspects of evangelism on campus and led a Bible study group for a year, as well as attempting to build personal relationships with those in class and the university area, with the aim of showing them Christ's love and pointing them towards Him for salvation.

During my last year of university, I held the role of CU President - believe me it's not as grand as it sounds! This was definitely my busiest year but also the most rewarding. It pushed me even further out of my comfort zone and required me to see the CU from a completely different perspective. Perhaps the biggest encouragement for me was the regularity of evangelism on campus over the year - we had monthly lunch bars, a tea & coffee table outside, the Mark Drama and a week-long mission. All of this helped us to have a presence on campus and gave people many opportunities to meet us and hear what Christ had done for them.

I have also learned a lot about IFES Ireland over the last few years and through the Board, the new director and our staff worker, we have felt both supported and equipped. The work of IFES is vital in student ministry - I know for certain that this year would have been much more difficult without their support.

To finish up, I couldn't imagine having gone through university without being involved with the CU. For me, it added perspective and gave my time there a purpose. It really is a great privilege to share the gospel and to do so in a challenging environment is so rewarding! My time at university has transformed my thinking, both about the Bible and evangelism. I hope what I have learned will continue to shape how I live my life in the future. I share that hope and prayer for all students who are challenged by the work of the Christian Union.