

“OFTEN THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY HAS SENT THE MESSAGE THAT WE LOVE PEOPLE AND BUILD FRIENDSHIPS IN ORDER TO CONVERT PEOPLE TO THE CHRISTIAN FAITH. WE HAVE AN AGENDA. **BUT WHEN WE HAVE AN AGENDA IT'S NOT REALLY LOVE, IS IT?**”

ALISON ADAMS/TCD CU/PAGE 3

# PRAYER NEWS

OCT/NOV  
2007



Welcome to the new look Prayer News.

We hope to give you a flavour of how God is at work among students in Ireland, whether that's in their workplaces, universities or on summer teams. Highlights of the summer have included: CU teams to Cuba (from QUB) and Peru (UUJ); the IFES World Assembly held in Canada (more about that in the next edition); and students from Coleraine CU who were part of a UUC Habitat for Humanity team to Ghana seeing some of their team members come to faith. Your partnership and prayers are vital as we work to see more students' lives transformed by encountering Jesus, and we look forward to sharing more of those stories in the coming months.

## Holistic Mission in Peru

PAUL FROM UCD CU WRITES...

It's hard to put the experiences, thoughts and feelings of nearly five weeks into a limited number of words but someone had to do it!!

There were eight of us from Ireland, north and south, who went with Latin





“THE WHOLE COMMUNITY WAS ASKING HOW COME THESE ‘GRINGOS’ WERE **SO WILLING** TO GET THEIR HANDS DIRTY AND SERVE?”



ABOVE:  
The Latin Link/IFESI team partnered with AGEUP, the Peruvian IFES movement, to build a community centre in Lima.

Link/IFESI to Peru to work with AGEUP, the Peruvian IFES movement. After getting somewhat used to a surprisingly cold Peruvian winter, the finer points of the Spanish language and perfecting the art of not electrocuting yourself in the shower, there was lots to do!

As we worked alongside the people involved with AGEUP and those they support, we could really see their passion for holistic mission - showing and sharing their Christian faith in a wide variety of ways. We were involved in a number of these: building a community centre in a very poor shanty town in Peru's huge capital Lima, meeting students and their bible study groups, teaching English and handing out evangelistic magazines. It was both inspiring and challenging to see Peruvian Christians acting out their faith in so many places, lives and situations; providing for peoples' needs – physical, spiritual and relational; and simply letting people know that Jesus loves them. It really made me think about how we should do the same in our own lives, especially when we have so much compared to so many others around the world. I know that I am blessed with so much yet still find time and reason to complain, be discontent and worry when there are so many more worthwhile things to do.

I could finish this with a request “to pray for the people of Peru” but I don't think that would be a fitting summary of our time there. Perhaps pray that we would all see more and more of God's power and love, and show and share it in ways that please Him.

**UJ CU** also had a team in Peru with AGEUP. This team spent time working in and with CU groups in Lima and also helped build a room for those CU groups to meet in. They (and the all-Ireland team) made a significant impact whilst working in Caraballyo – a shanty town on the edge of Lima, with AGEUP staff commenting how “the whole community was asking how come these ‘gringos’ were so willing to get their hands dirty and serve”.



ABOVE:  
Hard at work on the community centre in Caraballyo.



## Encountering Truth

JOANNA FROM TCD CU WRITES...

*Encounter 2007* was, for me, one of the most significant times in my Christian walk. Several weeks before it was to begin, and not having given it much consideration myself, I felt God pushing me to be involved.

The first two weeks were spent going through the Sonship programme.



"AFTER THE TWO WEEKS OF OUTREACH WE FELT THAT WE HAD MADE A VERY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON A WIDE CROSS SECTION OF THE LOCAL COMMUNITY WITH THE GOOD NEWS OF THE GOSPEL."

— JO DONNELLY, COMMUNITY WORKER  
IN RINGSEND, DUBLIN

This aimed to give us a greater understanding of our adoption as sons and daughters of Christ. It also challenged the way we relate to and treat others. I felt like I was hearing the Gospel for the first time during those two weeks. I gained greater insight into the extent of my sinfulness and with that a deeper understanding of the power of the cross - my undeservedness and God's graciousness.

I spent the following two weeks on the Art outreach team in Dun Laoghaire (one of the four 'O-teams' that travelled out around Ireland to work with local Christians) where I had the opportunity to live out all that I had been learning. During this time I became aware of my passion for working with children and realised that I could serve my own church by becoming involved with their children's ministry. God also used those two weeks and the girls on my team to encourage me in the gifts he has given me. I felt challenged to use my gifts to give something back to God.

For me Encounter was a time of massive spiritual growth. As well as that it was great fun! I will never forget the sense of family and community, which was unlike anything I have ever experienced.



## Real Love

ALISON FROM TCD CU WRITES...

Often the Christian community has sent the message that we love people and build friendships in order to convert people to the Christian faith. We have an agenda. But when we have an agenda it's not really love, is it?

Over the last two summers while working in Trinity Hall I have learnt many lessons. For me, starting work there was terrifying as I had always lived in a cosy little Christian bubble where my only interaction with the real world was in lectures at college. This was working and living with people 24/7, and being the only Christian. At the start when people heard I was a Christian some of them avoided me assuming we wouldn't get on. I thought this was great ...the people who seemed to have a problem with Christianity were avoiding me. Phew!! But then we were put working in the same group (surprise surprise!) so we had to talk, and after a bit of slagging we became really good friends. As Christians we need to begin by meeting people where they are. We need to be real and share our problems, so people understand that

ABOVE:  
Encounter 2007  
was a significant  
time for many.

they mean something to us. We need to love people through serving them. I just did small things like making breakfast for everyone, and afterwards someone commented "Where do you get all your energy from?" One guy answered "She gets it from the Lord!!"

I met some amazing people there and, at the end of the summer, one of the guys asked me to do a Bible study with him. I was so nervous and scared I was praying he would forget about it. He didn't!! After doing it I can say it was one of the most amazing and liberating experiences of my life. People relate to brokenness and our constant struggles, and they yearn for the joy and the hope we have.

## All Change in the Staff Team

This summer has seen a number of changes in the staff team with the departure of Damien Burke, Cath Butler and Colin Cochrane. Adam Jones has taken up post as Director, with Peter Kenny transitioning from Relay to become Campus Staff Worker for Munster. With Sam's change of role to Project/Support Development, Steve Skinner and Hollie Steele are the new Belfast Staff. Hollie, a Spanish and English graduate will be working in Stranmillis, UUB and UUU. Having spent the last 2 years working for a well known chocolate company, Steve will be joining Hollie at UUU and also working with QUB. Sally returns part-time after maternity leave, rejoining Karen in the office.

We are delighted to have an IFES InterAction team setting up in Dublin to work with international students. At our August team days we welcomed Jessica McCall - the InterAction team leader - to the staff team. She is responsible for a team of three girls. Jessica joins us with 3 years experience of campus ministry in the US. The addition of five new Relay workers makes this the largest team we have ever had! Jürgen Karwig and James Fleury will be based in Munster, Mark Gorman in Dublin, Judith Orr in Belfast and Paul Gibson in Coleraine. As you can tell it has been a time of significant change. We now look forward to a period of relative stability within the staff team, whilst being excited at how God has blessed us numerically and the impact that this will have among students.



ABOVE:  
New Staff  
Worker in QUB  
and UUU, Steve  
Skinner.



ABOVE:  
Hollie Steele will  
be working in  
Stranmillis, UUB  
and UUU.

ABOVE LEFT:  
Peter Kenny our  
new Campus  
Staff Worker for  
Munster.

**STAFF & RELAY:** Adam Jones - Director/Hollie Steele – Staff Worker, Belfast/James Fleury – Relay, Munster/Jessica McCall – Dublin InterAction Team Leader/Judith Orr – Relay, Belfast/ Jürgen Karwig – Relay, Munster/Karen Buttimer – Communications Administrator/Lorraine Wylie – Staff Worker, Dublin/Mark Gorman – Relay, Dublin/Patrick Boland – Staff Worker, Dublin/Paul Gibson – Relay, North-West/ Peter Kenny – Staff Worker, Munster/ Rachel Gilmore – Staff Worker, North-West/Sally Patten – Finance & Personnel Administrator/Sam Moore – Project Development/Steve Skinner – Staff Worker, Belfast

**KEY TO ABBREVIATIONS:** Church of Ireland College of Education(CICE); Cork Institute of Technology(CIT); Dublin City University (DCU); Dublin Institute of Technology(DIT); International Friendship Association(IFA); National College of Art and Design(NCAD); Queen's University Belfast (QUB); Royal College of Surgeons Ireland(RCSI); Trinity College Dublin(TCD); University College Cork(UCC); University College Dublin(UCD); University of Limerick(UL); University of Ulster, Belfast (Art College) (UUB); University of Ulster, Coleraine(UUC); University of Ulster, Jordanstown(UUU); University of Ulster, Magee(UUM); Waterford Institute of Technology(WIT).

## OCTOBER 1-10

- Give thanks for the opportunity to send a team from UUC CU to Peru in June to work alongside Peruvian Christian students. Thank God for the inspiring faith of the Peruvians and pray that the team may be able to integrate what they have learnt into their own lives.
- 4th – Adam is speaking at UUC CU on the topic “A Reason to Live”. Pray for biblical clarity and courageous communication.
- The InterAction team will be meeting international students in CUs during the first two weeks of October. Pray that they build good relationships with these students to enable them to reach other international students.
- 4th, 11th, and 18th – Pray that three talks organised by RCSI CU on topics such as “Christian Perspectives on Prayer” and “Inconsistencies of Atheistic Belief” would interest fellow students, challenge their indifference and apathy to spiritual matters and further their understanding of God.
- Lorraine is moving to Maynooth this month. Pray for her as she builds relationships in the community and the church there.
- 10th – The All-Ireland team meets today. Pray that we would continue to grow together in effective ministry and mutual encouragement.

## OCTOBER 11-20

- CICE CU begin the year with an ice-cream party and games night. Pray that it would be a time where they can build up relationships with other students. For the past few years over 50% of students in the college have attended this night!
- 12th-14th – Rachel is speaking at UUC Freshers Weekend in Ballycastle. Pray for this weekend and other Freshers events run by CUs all over Ireland.
- 13th – IFA trip to Crawfordsburn Country Park. Pray that local students would develop good friendships with international students through this and other IFA events.
- Patrick is starting up a men’s discipleship group for students from across the CUs in Dublin. Pray

that this group would be a place of authenticity where CU leaders can study the Bible, chat and pray together and get to know their Heavenly Father more and more.

- Thank God for the provision once again of a Relay worker for Dublin, where there are so many CU groups and relatively few staff.
- Pray for Warren (QUB CU Freshers Co-ordinator) and his team as they encourage first year students in QUB to really take hold of their faith and live it out.
- Pray that the committee and members of CIT CU would know how best to engage with students in the unique environment of an IT.

## OCTOBER 21-31

- Pray that DCU CU would be officially recognised as a society by the SU and that they would get funding. It is much more difficult to run a society without these things in place.
- Some Christian students from UUC took a team of their friends to Ghana with Habitat for Humanity. As a result of the relationships, conversations and experiences with local Christians, one student has come to faith, with another coming back to faith. Several of the other students are meeting to read the Bible together and discover more about who Jesus is.
- NCAD is a young CU with only four committed members. Pray for them as they seek to communicate and grow in their faith through creative means.
- Pray for Steve Karayiannis (QUB CU Small Groups Co-ordinator) as he works with Steve to prepare Bible studies for the student small groups. Pray that the small groups in QUB CU will also get involved in action weeks that are planned.
- Pray that Jessica and the other InterAction team members would quickly settle into Dublin and find church homes.
- 25th – UL CU will be running a large-scale evangelism event. Pray that God would bring many students along to hear the Good News of Jesus

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Christ. They hope to have 250 people attend.

### NOVEMBER 1-10

- Hollie writes "As a QUB mission team, our time in Cuba allowed us to live out the truth of Psalm 133. Thank God with us for his abundant blessing, presence and care! Gloria a Dios!"
- 2nd-4th – Joint Colleges weekend takes place in Avoca, Co. Wicklow. Pray for the students as they join together for teaching, fellowship and to find out and pray for what's happening in other CUs.
- 8th – Sam is speaking in UUC on Integral mission. Pray for time to prepare during a busy term.
- David Cupples has stepped down as Chair of the IFES Ireland Board. Give thanks for the many years of faithful service he has given to IFES Ireland in this role.
- Pray that the five new Relay workers would experience God's provision as they raise prayer and financial support for the year ahead.
- As the minority in the college, pray that God would help Christian students in RCSI to speak his Word to their class mates with confidence and boldness.
- Pray that the members of UUU CU will be transformed and challenged to reach out and spread the Good News. Pray that the outreach training this term would be helpful in doing that.

### NOVEMBER 11-20

- This year DCU CU plan to hold evening meetings with guest speakers, and start lunchtime prayer meetings. Pray that they would be expectant and waiting for God to change hearts on their campus.
- CIT CU hope to hold a carol service towards the end of this term. Pray for them as they start to plan - that this promising idea would become a reality.
- 13th – IFA run 'A Bit of Banter' Quiz night. Pray for Julie Henderson (QUB CU International Secretary) and fellow students at QUB as they organise events for international students.
- Pray for Steve, Hollie and Peter as they settle

into their new jobs and receive further training this month.

- 17th – The Board meets today in Dublin. Pray for the new chairman, Brian Callan, and for this group consisting of graduates, church leaders, academics and current students as they meet to discuss the opportunities and challenges of our ministry.
- Please pray that God would continue to mould Hollie's vision for the year, and that the joy of God's presence wouldn't be lost in the busyness of the new job and the new term - Psalm 16:11.
- 20th – Please pray for an outreach event in QUB, in partnership with Youth for Christ, engaging with the issue of pornography.

### NOVEMBER 21-31

- Sally is now working three days a week. Please pray for wisdom for her as she prioritises her work.
- Pray that Peter, Jürgen and James would grow in their love and knowledge of God and that they would have servant hearts as they invest in students in Munster.
- There are a lot of new people working with UUB CU this year, all with different ideas and view points. Pray that they would all work together for God's glory.
- Agape (formerly Campus Crusade) has started working in TCD this term. Pray for a real sense of unity between all campus ministries in and around Trinity this year.
- UL CU's vision is to "reach 1,000 students and staff with the gospel by the end of the academic year". Pray that they would have faith that with God all things are truly possible, and that God would raise up workers for the great harvest field in UL - Matthew 9:37-38.
- Pray for Adam, our new director, as he continues to build good relationships with staff and as he starts to meet student and church leaders around Ireland. Pray for his wife, Debbie and children, Aaron and Éilís.