

WE WERE ABLE TO GIVE PRACTICALLY TO
THE COMMUNITY BUT GOD GAVE US SO
MUCH MORE BY SIMPLY ALLOWING US
TO BE THERE AND LEARN...

LISA FROM QUB ON PERU

PRAYER NEWS

OCT/NOV
2008



A word from our director

Welcome to another Prayer News. The end of the summer brings many stories of students and staff seeing God at work in workplaces or on camps and teams in Ireland and abroad. Indeed my own trip to Australia with AFES was very encouraging as I saw Australian staff and students committed to living for and speaking clearly for Jesus. This year we face many challenges: (1) to see students transformed by encountering Jesus, a clear goal to see students converted and radically changed; (2) to prepare for FREE in 2009/10 - an evangelistic project to give copies of Mark's gospel to students across Ireland; and (3) to financially resource the ministry in tough budgetary times. To achieve our vision and meet these challenges we need new financial supporters; perhaps you will be one? Thank you for partnering with us in prayer.

Adam Jones



Peru 2008 - Giving and Receiving

LISA FROM QUB CU WRITES...

From 8th July to 9th August I was part of the Latin Link/IFESI Step Team to Peru. At first the whole experience was a little daunting to say the least; living for a month with eleven strangers on the other side of the world in a city that is bigger than your own country! Thankfully, those feelings quickly subsided and were replaced with the most incredible comfort and love from God for the people and situations in which we had been placed. The team quickly became my family and Peru became a home away from home.

During our time there we worked alongside AGEUP (the Peruvian IFES movement) in San Martin, a small shanty town on the outskirts of Lima. It was there that I felt most challenged. A lot of us had expectations of coming face to face with poverty and being completely overcome with emotion but thankfully God had other plans. Although it was impossible to ignore the terrible physical conditions, we were not overcome. It's difficult to put into words the love we felt for the people of that community who showed such great love and hospitality to us despite having very little themselves. We were able to give practically to the community in a number of ways, but God gave us so much more by simply allowing us to be

there and to learn from the people what it is to be content with what we have and how to love.

Another lesson I learnt during my time in Peru was 'Don't box God in'. So many times during our trip He showed us that His ways are not our ways, but His ways are the best. God was, and is, and always will be much greater than we could possibly imagine, and He will show us that truth whenever we let Him.

Power in Weakness

SARAH FROM UCC CU WRITES...

Sarah took part in Encounter '08 in June.

"My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."
2 Cor 12:9

I certainly got a glimpse of this verse in action during Encounter. It was my first time putting my name down for something like this. I had no idea what to expect and was feeling very, very weak. What a platform for God's grace and power! The experience of Encounter totally blew me away. God was





ABOVE & LEFT:
The Latin
Link/IFESI Step
Team in Peru.

powerfully at work. The Sonship Training course held in Greystones was difficult at times, challenging throughout and ultimately liberating. My eyes were opened a little to what it means to be a daughter of the Almighty God. I had never before understood or experienced the gospel or grace in such a personal way.

Next on the agenda were outreach teams and I was part of the first o-team to Living Hope Church in Trim. Our main task was to paint the parish hall in order to build relationships between the community and the church. We saw God work in amazing ways both in us as a team and in the people we came in contact with. I learned a lot about mission, what it means to serve people and to love them in a practical way. What struck me most about our two weeks in Trim was that every circumstance can be used by God for his purposes. Nothing or nobody is insignificant in the work of building God's Kingdom.

The sense of community we experienced and the bond we shared by the end of Encounter was really special. It was wonderful to be a part of that community and I praise God for the opportunity.

Trusting God

ELMA, RELAY WORKER IN MUNSTER, WRITES...

"Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine." Isaiah 43:1

I ended up studying in CIT - a place I always told friends I would never go! God had different plans for me (Jeremiah 29:11) whether I liked it or not. I soon realised the main reason God had me in CIT was not so I would get a good job and earn money, but that I would get deeply involved in the movement he had under his wing there - the CIT CU. The CU was something I knew very little about then but know a lot more about now having been involved throughout my time in college. God has worked in amazing ways in my life during my time at CIT.

I always dreamed of a big CU with loads of Christian friends, but that was not CIT. It was hard to be different but God kept reminding us that we are His, have faith in Him and stop worrying. One thing I really learnt was that God loved our small CU as much as he loved the big ones. He has an amazing plan for CIT CU. It has grown so much since I started college three years ago. There are so many times I doubt Gods control but he has reminded me over and over again that he has great plans.

It has been an amazing experience and that's why I can't leave there... I am taking a year to work with IFES Ireland, and alongside CIT CU. I hope to

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SARAH, ENCOUNTER '08



ABOVE: Relay
Worker Elma
Quin.



BELOW:
Encounter '08.

encourage students and to grow closer and closer to God this year, having complete faith in Him, for I am His. I will trust in Him faithfully never fearing His plans.

CU Profile – Stranmillis

HELEN FROM STRAN CU WRITES...

Stranmillis University College has approximately 850 students, of which 60-100 attend CU weekly. The CU is organised by a committee of 10 people, led by president Martin Thompson.

On Tuesday evenings we study various themes, going deeper into God's word. Our meetings usually include worship with different bands, a prayer meeting beforehand, and speakers who inspire and motivate us to fulfil our vision 'To know God better, to grow more like Him and to go out with the gospel.' Other events during the week include small groups, detached youth work in Sandy Row (Shine), prayer meetings and more...

Last year was an exciting one, as we saw God work mightily throughout the campus, where students committed their lives to following Jesus and prayers were answered beyond our expectations. A first year student was asked, "What were your highlights of CU?" She explained, "The weekend away where I met new people and had fellowship, being a part of the prayer team and then going onto the streets of Sandy Row to love those people."

What is in store for the coming year? The words of the Bluetree song are my prayer for this year: "Greater things have yet to come and greater things have still to be done..."

We have an action packed calendar of events in Freshers week (22-26 Sept), great speakers who will challenge us on Tuesday nights, opportunities to reach out to our campus during Mission week and other events. Not to forget times of fun and fellowship, a CU ceilidh and weekend away (14-16 Nov) and a carol service.

Please pray for the committee, our staff worker Hollie and Relay worker Sarah as we seek to lead the CU from our knees. Pray that God will continue to do more than we could ask or imagine, and that people would be open and ready to receive all that God has to give them.



STAFF & RELAY: Adam Jones – Director / Catrin Petherbridge – Dublin InterAction Team Leader / Elma Quin – Relay, Munster / Hollie Steele – Staff Worker, Belfast / Judy Elliott – Relay, North-West / Karen Buttner – Communications Administrator / Kieron Lynch – Staff Worker, Dublin / Lorraine Wylie – Staff Worker, Dublin / Michael Henderson – Relay, Belfast / Peter Kenny – Staff Worker, Munster / Rachel Gilmore – Staff Worker, North-West / Sally Patty – Finance & Personnel Administrator / Sam Moore – Project Manager / Sandra Zaragoza – Dublin InterAction Team / Sarah Finney – Relay, Belfast / 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); National University of Ireland, Galway (NUIG); National University of Ireland, Maynooth (NUIIM); 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(UJU); University of Ulster, Magee(UUM); Waterford Institute of Technology(WIT).

OCTOBER 1-10

- 5th – Pray for Rachel as she speaks at Kilfennan Presbyterian on ‘Making a difference in the student world’ and as she runs worship leaders training in UUC (6th–10th).
- Pray that the debate panel night that UCD CU hope to run in October would help provide answers to people’s questions.
- 6th-9th – European young General Secretaries mentoring group meets in Marburg, Germany. Martin Haizmann, Mirek Pieszka and Cassells Morrell are hosting this, and Adam will be attending. Pray that IFES Ireland would benefit from these rich links with the wider IFES movement.
- 7th-8th – Pray that new committee members Isabelle, Tina and Clare and others who will be helping out at DCU CU’s stand during Freshers days would not be nervous as they try to answer questions.
- 10th – Pray for the All-Ireland team as they meet together in Dublin.
- 10th-12th – UUC CU Freshers weekend. Pray that freshers coming along to CU for the first time would feel welcome and part of the CU community.
- UL CU are studying Romans 1-8 over the semester and look forward to seeing what God will teach them. Pray for the committee as they make plans, especially for those taking on new roles and responsibilities.

OCTOBER 11-20

- 12th – Adam is preaching at Grosvenor Road Baptist Church in Dublin. Pray that he would clearly communicate our vision to see ‘students transformed by encountering Jesus’ as he preaches from Mark 8.
- 14th – Pray for Sarah Lamb as she leads the first CU meeting of the year in DCU. She will be speaking about what CU is and the CU’s passion for the campus.
- This semester Sam begins his dissertation - the final part of his MDiv. Pray that he will plan his time well as he researches and begins to write.

- As freshers weeks start, pray that Catrin and Sandra would meet many Christian and non-Christian international students. Pray that the international students they met last year who are coming back would be willing and open to studying the Bible and that God would be at work in their hearts.
- UCC CU will be organizing an outreach event every month - the first will be a singer songwriter evening. Pray that many students would come and be impacted by the lyrics.
- The Art College CU will be studying Nehemiah this semester. They are attempting to build the CU from a very small number again and feel that starting with bible study is a good beginning.

OCTOBER 21-31

- UCD CU’s small groups restart in October. Pray they would be a safe place to ask questions and go deeper with God.
- Pray that Elma will quickly get to know the students involved in the various CUs around Munster. Pray that she will use her time wisely and have many opportunities to use the gifts God has given her for his glory.
- 30th – RCSI CU have invited Dr John Blanchard from the UK to give an address on “Where is God when things go wrong”. Pray that preparations would be divinely orchestrated and that the talk would cause many to seek Christ.
- Pray for Kieron, Esther and Finn as they settle into life in Dublin, find a church, make friends and try to find suitable long term accommodation.
- 31st-2nd – David Montgomery speaks at Joint Colleges weekend. Pray that students would meet with God in a transforming way.
- Please pray for QUB CU as they start the new university year. They are going to be studying the book of Philippians this semester, with the aim of equipping the CU members ‘to make disciples of Jesus Christ on campus as we learn, love and live to God’s glory’.



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NOVEMBER 1-10

- CIT CU are exploring the possibility of setting up a women's bible study group for the girls in the CU to meet every couple of weeks for encouragement and accountability. Pray this would become a reality.
- 4th – DCU CU are holding a testimony and pizza night. Pray that people would be authentic and real as they share their stories.
- Pray for the continual and urgent need to raise up new prayer and financial supporters. Pray that current supporters would continue to give and would increase their giving. Pray too for recent graduates, that they would become financial partners with us, to ensure future student generations will hear the transforming message of the gospel of Christ.
- Pray for Sam Devine, Matthew Brennan, Peter Childs, Mike Walsh and Dominic Montgomery who will be speaking at UL CU this term.
- Pray for Nathan as he takes on the role of leading the CU in NUIG. Many of the former members have now graduated and so it will be a hard year of once again building up the CU.
- Praise God that the InterAction team continues in Dublin this year. Pray that Catrin and Sandra would be faithful and not be overwhelmed by all that could be done but trust God. Pray that the Irish CUs would get involved in international ministry and be excited about taking part!

NOVEMBER 11-20

- Pray for Louise and Peter in Athlone IT as they try to build on their freshers day and make connections with their fellow students.
- 11th – The staff team meet in Belfast to continue planning for the upcoming Missions Conference (Feb) and for e:con (Apr).
- Pray for wisdom for the members of UCC CU as they speak to the people around them and share the good news.
- Pray that the Relay workers will trust God to supply all their needs. Pray especially that their

financial needs will be met. Pray for Rachel, Steve, Hollie and Peter as they supervise and support the Relay workers this year.

- 18th – Keith Adams will be speaking about gifts, talents, abilities and strengths at DCU CU. Pray that the CU members would see opportunities to get involved in other societies and to be salt and light as they use their gifts and talents in these situations.
- Pray for Kieron as he continues to adjust to his new role. Pray that he would establish good relationships with students and others he comes into contact with.

NOVEMBER 21-30

- 22nd – The IFES Ireland board meets today. Pray for wisdom and a deep trust in God, as they assess the real financial challenges facing the movement.
- Pray that CIT CU would have opportunities to hand out bibles to other students on campus this term and organize events which make it easy to invite non-Christian friends.
- 24th-26th – Cassells travels to Luxembourg with Edith Vilamajo to help with fledging work there. They hope to meet a potential staff worker and some key leaders along with David Brown the Gen Sec of GBU France who have been helping to pioneer over the last couple of years.
- Adam gives thanks for a wonderful trip to Australia and for good relationships with our sister movement AFES (Australian Fellowship of Evangelical Students). Pray for their director Richard Chin and the national conference 'Cross Culture' (29th). They will be joined by IFES movements from Fiji, Vanuatu, New Zealand, and Papua New Guinea. Daniel Bourdanné, Lindsay Browne and Philip Jensen are among the speakers.
- Pray for the Art College CU as they set up breakfast prayer times on Thursdays. Pray that people would be inspired to come and intercede for the college.