

"MY TIME AT UNI HAD A **MASSIVE IMPACT** ON MY CHRISTIAN LIFE ... FOUNDATIONAL FOR SHARING **MY FAITH** IN MANY DIFFERENT CIRCUMSTANCES..."

CATHERINE READ/DUBLIN

PRAYER NEWS

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It can sometimes be a cliché to describe the days we live in as monumental or momentous. Well, for the fellowship of IFES CUs, this is our reality. For Relay Worker Dónal Walsh, his life changed forever the day he walked away from the Cork plane crash, alive. The gospel continues to shape and transform the lives of many students. Our ministry faces the toughest financial challenges in our history. We never know what any day holds for us, but God's gracious care and purposes prevail. Psalm 91 urges us to make the Most High our dwelling- even the Lord, who is our refuge.

Thank you for all your support and response to our financial appeal. Please continue to partner with us.

Adam Jones/Director

A pivotal time

CATHERINE WRITES...

At a time when plane loads of Irish are heading to sunny Australia, what brings an Aussie to Ireland? Well it's not the weather, though my first two weeks in Dublin have been very pleasant.

Since high school I have desired to serve God wherever He places me and have been open to serving overseas. When I finished my degree in Geology I realised I couldn't expect to preach the gospel overseas unless I was doing it where I was presently. I decided to work as a Geologist for 5 years and throughout my time in gold mining God graciously gave me opportunities, boldness and courage to share my life and faith with work colleagues.

In 2002 I studied a Post Graduate Diploma at Sydney Missionary and Bible College (SMBC) with the intention of working with IFES overseas. I was keen to go back to Scotland where I had done some of my undergraduate degree in Edinburgh. However, God convicted me of the needs in my hometown Orange and so I returned to work with the Australian Fellowship of Evangelical Students on a small university campus there, as well as to serve with my local church as a women's worker. Over the next four years my desire to

serve overseas continued and I moved to Sydney in 2007 to work full-time for AFES and complete a BTh at SMBC.

This Aussie has come by invitation of the IFES Ireland board to serve alongside the staff team in Ireland, based initially in Dublin. I have been sent and am supported through the Church Missionary Society Australia. I'm passionate about university ministry because it provides amazing opportunities for young people, at a pivotal time in life, to hear the gospel, grow in their love and knowledge of God through regular Bible teaching and discipleship, and to be trained to serve Christ wherever they go. My time at uni had a massive impact on my christian life and the training I received there has been foundational for sharing my faith in many different circumstances and as I've worked in ministry.

I'm excited to be working alongside IFES Ireland: The Christian Unions to encourage Irish students and spur them on to reach their friends with the gospel and help them mature so they may persevere and follow Jesus for the rest of their lives. I also think student ministry plays a major role in the building of God's church and I'm excited to be a part of God's work in raising up the next generation of Irish church leaders and gospel workers.

e:con – preparing to serve

RUTH KINGSTON, FROM UCC, WRITES...

It's my fourth year attending e:con and without a doubt it has to be my favorite event in the Ifes Ireland calendar. In my first year the speaker, Jason Lane, described the range of





Catherine Read

apprehension and emotion of new CU leaders. One CU leader could be excited and enthused about the possibilities of the year ahead, another may be absolutely overwhelmed with the responsibility and challenges before them. I was definitely the latter of the two! We looked at godly leadership through Nehemiah's example; rooted in the knowledge of who God is and faith in His power alone.

That conference was a massive stepping stone in preparing me for my year of leadership and lifetime of being God focused. E:con's focal point is not only about practically training leaders for their year of serving but also preparing students for a missional life.

This year's speaker is Rebecca Manley Pippert, the author of 'Out of the Salt Shaker into the World'. Her sessions will be accompanied by small groups, workshops and seminars geared towards the practical parts of a leadership team. The conference is packed full of worship, prayer and getting to know other CU leaders from all over the island.

Please see the Prayer Diary for ways in which to support the conference in prayer.

THAT CONFERENCE WAS A MASSIVE **STEPPING STONE** IN PREPARING ME FOR MY YEAR OF LEADERSHIP AND **LIFETIME OF BEING GOD FOCUSED**.

Relay 2010/11

PHIL WRITES...

When I was asked to write a short article on my Relay year thus far, my first thought was "How on earth will I fit everything in?". My year on Relay has, without a doubt, been one of the most challenging, enjoyable, and formative years of my life so far! It has taught me so much about God, about service, about practical hands-on ministry, and indeed about myself.

The study program has been incredibly beneficial, really delving into the core doctrines of the christian faith and examining their roots in scripture. Besides encouraging my own faith and understanding, this study has also shown its value in my work with the students on campus, both in encouraging them to wrestle with the scriptures and in preparing Bible studies for the student smallgroups. It has also been so incredibly encouraging to study the grace of God, and to be able to share this with students, smallgroup leaders and members of the CU committee as a reminder of all God has done for us through Christ, and a motivation to the task to which we have been called.

The lessons and principles learned in this study have also shown their value in my meeting with students to study the scriptures, and to talk and pray with them about the joys and struggles of student life.

One area in which I have found myself really challenged this year has been time management. I have never been known as a particularly organised person, but this year has really challenged me and shown me the benefits of an organised diary! Having time scheduled in for admin and study is so important,

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as I have found that these can often be pushed aside in a busy schedule. Being more disciplined in this area, although it has been a challenge, has definitely helped me in planning my time more effectively and helps me show integrity in my work and commitments.

All in all, it has been a fantastic, enjoyable, and challenging year so far, and a program I would HIGHLY recommend to any student approaching graduation who wants to learn more about and get involved in student ministry on campus!

NB: the deadline for applying for next year's Relay Programme is March 24th. Please contact Sarah in the Dun Laoghaire Resource Centre if you would like an application pack, or more information.

Live the Gospel

AINE CHALKE, FROM TRINITY, WRITES...

Trinity College CU ran a Christianity Explored Course for five weeks in the first academic college term. Our vision for the year, is to 'Live the Gospel'. This vision places a big focus on evangelism becoming a daily part of our lives. Our prayer was that we would 'be' evangelists, instead of trying to 'do' evangelism. The aim of running Christianity Explored was for CU members to invite their friends along; friends they had been praying for, with whom they have had Gospel conversations and whom they knew had questions about Jesus. Specific emphasis was put on inviting our friends with whom we are too afraid to share the gospel, perhaps those who challenge our faith as intellectual suicide. As the Evangelism Officer, organizer and participant in the course, I saw first hand the encouragements, discouragements and prayer needs, which followed from the course. It was encouraging to see christians inviting their friends and investing in them lovingly as people.

The course attendance was small, but each week, non-christian students were thoroughly challenged, raising critical arguments which in turn pleasantly challenged the christian participants. It was really exciting to see this first hand. The biggest discouragement, and prayer point in general for the Trinity CU and Campus, is our tendency to intellectualize, and conceptualize God. This has been a big lesson for me, as Christians we must never forget the personable, loving nature of God, and who He is! Someone we know intimately, and are known by. Evangelism always comes back to love, and God's love needs to be verbalized to non Christians.

We would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Cosmin Pascu on his engagement to Rachel Maxwell. They will be married on August 5th in Belfast. We wish them every blessing as they prepare for this exciting day and ask you to join us in prayer for them as they look ahead to their life together.

STAFF & RELAY: Adam Jones – Director / Ashleigh Harrison – Relay, North-West / Bryan Davidson – Dublin InterAction Team / Cathrin Petherbridge – CU Staff Worker, Dublin / Cosmin Pascu – CU Staff Worker, Dublin / Dónal Walsh – Relay, Munster / Elizabeth Sergeant – Dublin InterAction Team / Emma Stevenson – Dublin InterAction Team / Jonathan & Kah Foon Gillespie – Dublin InterAction Team Leaders / Kieron Lynch – CU Staff Worker, Dublin / Peter Kenny – CU Staff Worker, Munster / Phil Alcorn – Relay, Belfast / Phil Howe – CU Staff Worker, Belfast / Rachel Logan – CU Staff Worker, Belfast / Robert McFaul – CU Staff Worker, North-West / Sally Patty – Finance & Personnel Administrator / Sarah Keene – Student Resource Centre / Tim Montgomery – Relay, Athlone / Vadim Malakhovski – Relay, Dublin

KEY TO ABBREVIATIONS: Church of Ireland College of Education(CICE); 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(NUIG); National University of Ireland, Maynooth (NUIM); 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(UJM); Waterford Institute of Technology(WIT).

MAR 1-10

- Following on from the aeroplane crash last month, please pray for Dónal Walsh as he continues to recover from this traumatic experience. Please pray for the families of the 6 people who lost their lives, and for the IFES Ireland fellowship as we process the ramifications of this event.
- Give thanks for Catherine Read's safe and hassle free transfer into Ireland. Please pray for her as she continues to settle and find her place in the team.
- 1 March: Phil Howe is speaking at Stranmillis CU this evening, on Alcohol, Drugs and Clubbing. Please pray for wisdom and clarity for him.
- First week of March: This week is Rag Week in UIG. The CU is planning a host of alternative events to run alongside this week of excessive drinking and has asked for specific prayer for the student outreach on the last day, Friday March 4th.
- UUC and UUM held their mission weeks last month. Please pray for them as they follow up with new Christians and offer them discipleship opportunities.
- UL CU has a new committee, which is an answer to prayer. Thank God for this and pray for Athie, Abby, Gayle, Fran and Joshua.
- Trinity has a reading week in the first week of March. Please pray that this would be a productive time for study and reflection on how to further gospel opportunities within the different disciplines.

MAR 11-20

- 14 March: Adam travels to Switzerland with Debbie today for 3 days of fellowship and strategic thinking with other IFES Europe leaders. Please pray for safe travel and an encouraging and motivating time away.
- CUs across Belfast are coming together to rehearse and prepare for the Mark Drama to be presented in April. Please pray for Claire Haworth, who is the overall director.
- Pray for UCD as they run an 'Investigating Christianity' course for 4 weeks from the end of February until the end of March every Friday lunchtime.

- Pray for Athlone as the CU host an evening on 'Christianity is a Straightjacket?' that people would come along and see the true freedom that the gospel brings.
- Across all campuses, new leaders are being chosen and appointed throughout this term. Please pray for smooth and encouraging handovers. Pray that the big CUs make wise choices as they elect new committee members, and that the smaller CUs will be bold, willing to serve and reliant on God.
- UCC is hosting Monday Outreaches this term. Please pray for fruitful conversations and for students to be changed by these gospel encounters.
- The e:con planning team continue to meet and work hard towards the conference next month. Please pray that they would enjoy their planning times and work well together as a team, as the more detailed phase of organization draws closer.

MAR 21-31

- 24 March: this is the closing day of applications for the Relay Programme for 2011/2012. Please pray for wisdom as the application forms are considered and the interview process gets underway.
- Pray that the care packs that the CICE CU give out to everyone in the college before teaching practice begins will bear fruit and people will ask questions leading to gospel conversations.
- A Korean girl had the opportunity to read the Bible for the first time at the Trinity International Café and came to believe in Jesus. She has now returned to Korea, where none of her family are believers. Rejoice that she had this opportunity and pray for her as she witnesses to her family and friends back home.
- Stranmillis: as students are on teaching practice, it can be more difficult to attend CU, and generally, to focus on their relationship with God as they face other pressures. Please pray for them as they juggle these demands, that they would remain faithful and be encouraged.
- CIT CU is committed to spending time in prayer for their campus. Please support them in this and ask God to give them opportunities to meet to



**NB. New address
for Dublin Office:**

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pray together and to be encouraged in this.

- Dundalk IT CU is led by Amie, and it is her final year. Please pray for her future plans and for the next leader of this small CU.

APR 1-10

- 4-8 April: QUB CU is holding its mission week. Pray for Cathy, the evangelism secretary as she mobilizes the CU. Pray for a week where many seeds are sown.
- This month UCC CU is hosting the Munster Secondary School's Christian Unions in order to build links with them. Pray that this would be an encouraging and exciting time for all involved.
- UUJ CU continues to look at Revelation. Please pray that this would be uplifting and encouraging.
- Phil Howe continues his marathon training, to take part in the Belfast marathon on May 2, in order to raise awareness and money for IFES Ireland: The Christian Unions. Please pray for good health and stamina for Phil.
- Inter CU student leader prayer meetings continue to take place in Belfast. Please pray that these would continue to be times of unity and encouragement for those involved, and that more students would join these meetings.
- NUIM CU is holding their annual debate. Professor Stephen Williams is speaking on behalf of the CU and the topic is 'The Resurrection'. Pray that this would be an exciting and powerful event.

APR 11-20

- 11-14 April: Various CUs in Belfast are together putting on the Mark Drama. Praise God for this joint venture and do pray that it will present the gospel clearly.
- Pray for the Acoustic night hosted by RCSI CU on the 12th of April. Pray for guidance as they prepare for this and for the speaker as he brings an Easter message.
- 15-18 April: E:con
- Please pray for the IFES Ireland team as we make the conference run smoothly in all practical ways, while remaining united and focused on

God's mission.

- Pray that Rebecca Manley Pippert is inspired as she delivers the talks and that her words may be used to guide and encourage students.
- Please pray that all the smaller, focused streams will be useful and instructive for students taking on new roles in their CUs.
- Pray for a real sense of unity, fellowship and excitement among students from all across Ireland and they join together to shape CUs and mission teams on campus.
- Please pray for all the practicalities of transport, logistics, catering etc, as well as energy and stamina for the staff.
- Above all, pray that God will be glorified in all that we say, do, sing and achieve in this conference.

APR 21-30

- Belfast Met CU is grateful for the answer to prayer that has resulted in a room provided for a regular Wednesday meeting. Please pray that these new meetings will have the same sense of fellowship as the Friday meetings.
- Please ask God to guide Jilly, Gillian, Beth, Niamh and Ian as they lead the CU in NCAD. This is Ian's final year – pray for his future plans.
- A team from UUC will be in Poland from 19th until 26th April, and is involved in leading a camp for orphaned and disadvantaged children. Pray for safety, energy and for God to use them powerfully in working with these children.
- Praise God for the pioneering CU in LSAD and pray that the students involved here would make the time to pray for and encourage one another.
- Stranmillis CU is studying the Psalms and how they reveal different aspects of God's character. Please ask God to make this a profound series for all taking part.
- DCU CU have been running a new series on 'God's values', exploring Proverbs and Ecclesiastes. As this draws to a close, please pray that the CU members will be able to live out the truths they have been studying together.