

"EVANGELISM IS ALL ABOUT PERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS, ... ONLY BY SHARING TIME, FOOD, RESOURCES, WORRIES, AND MOST IMPORTANTLY, OURSELVES, CAN WE SHARE THE GOSPEL."

BERNARD MACKEY/TCD

PRAYER NEWS

JUL/SEP
2011



ATTENTION SOON-TO-BE STUDENTS, PARENTS, PASTORS, GRANNIES & ASSORTED RELATIVES!

Are you about to start university? Do you know someone who is going to be a Fresher soon? IFES Ireland: The Christian Unions has a Student Link Up scheme – get connected with your CU before you even start! www.ifesireland.org Also look out for your CU's stand at Fresher's Week – get involved!

KEY PRAYER POINT: Join us in praying for God's provision as IFES Ireland: The Christian Unions continues to face a financial deficit. Your support is of tremendous encouragement –

THANK YOU!

E:CON – THE RECONSTRUCTOR

BERNARD MACKEY, TCD, WRITES...

Being a Junior Freshman ongoing committee member, I'd never heard of 'E:Con' until I was advised to attend. I hadn't the slightest inkling about what the weekend entailed. I could barely even spell 'Evangelism', let alone expect the conference to radically reconstruct not only my faith and relationship with God, but how I share it with everybody.

The speaker was Rebecca Manley Pippert, of "Out of the Saltshaker" fame - or Becky as we came to know her. Her focus, and the central theme of the weekend, was not just theoretical evangelism, but the practical, essential, and realistic applications of how we share our faith among ourselves, and with the wider college community. As CUs we are 'Student-led Mission Teams on Campus'. Each campus is unique, each campus is accessible, each campus needs Christ. With a focus on practicalities and application, Becky questioned our faith, and why we don't share it. She didn't stop there, but went further to explain not only why we should share it, but how to share it. She provided frequent examples and gave constructive advice from her own life - she spent an entire session on how to lead a 'Seeker Bible Study' for example.

The talks were interspersed and interlinked with discussion sessions during the afternoons where committees from the different CUs came together to discuss plans for the coming year, bounce potential ideas, and listen to what had, and hadn't, worked before - and why.

Another huge focus of the weekend was community. Becky highlighted Jesus' love of sharing, fellowship, and touch. He used his hands constantly. Only by actively engaging with other individuals can we really share Christ's message. Evangelism is all about personal relationships and only by sharing time, food, resources, worries, and most importantly, ourselves, can we share the Gospel.

For me, E:Con was a major stepping stone in my growth in Christ - as I can only imagine it was for all attendees. My prayer for the coming year is, that we will plan the coming year wisely, with God in the centre of all our endeavours, by means of the encouragement, practical advice, and strengthening which we received at E:Con. When the new academic year begins, we can put into action all that we've learnt and be Student-led Mission Teams, each connected by our shared driving force of the Gospel and our desire to share it as abundantly as possible on our individual campuses. I'm excited!



ABOVE:
Craigavon
Support Group

PASSING THE BATON

CRAIGAVON IFES SUPPORTERS' GROUP WRITES...

Are we the longest running IFES supporters' group in Ireland? Maybe you know different?

The inaugural meeting to form the group was held on 5 November 1958 in the home of Brenda & Harold Thompson in Portadown with 10 present (mostly in their 20s or 30s) including Arthur Chapman, John Bateman & Garfield England. Dr Douglas Johnston, the General Secretary of IVF, advised the group not to focus exclusively on Bible study as this was catered for in other settings but rather to widen their focus to help members serve Christ better in their professional lives. The first meeting proper was held on Friday, 5th December 1958 with 9 members present for Bible Study and to plan future programmes.

Annual subscription was 5 shillings!

Minutes from March 1966 show that 33 attended a meal and evangelistic meeting with a third being visitors. Today the group has about 20 active members drawn from various denominations with the usual attendance being about half that.

We still meet on the first Friday of each month in homes in the wider Craigavon/Armagh area. We continue to focus on prayer for student work in Ireland as well as Bible study, talks & discussion on a broad range of topical issues – anything from theology & politics to practical Christian living in a secular society. We also support the work of IFES financially. We also have a strong missionary focus as some members have served or are currently serving God overseas, for example Helen Moorehead setting up a school for the deaf in rural Kenya. A highlight of each evening is fellowship over supper!

What is the future for the group? We are mature in years! Some of us have been involved in praying for student work for 20 or 30 years – our challenge now is to pass on the baton to the next generation of prayer warriors! Is God calling you?

BELOW: Derek and Jane French

WORKERS: FEW

DEREK FRENCH, GBU SPAIN, WRITES...

Jesus said "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field." (Mat. 9:37-38).

Jesus' words in Matthew 9 are very relevant to the situation here in Spain – the harvest is truly plentiful but the workers are few. Presently, we have about 16 CU Staff Workers covering the whole of Spain (the population of Spain is about 44 million). Our prayer is that God will send more workers so that we can effectively reach students with the gospel. Jane and I work in the North of Spain covering 4 cities at present.

We have 7 small groups (in 4 different cities) who meet on a weekly basis during term time. Over the last year we had two Mini Camps for GBU Norte. One in April, with about 30 students attending, including several non-Christians and one in November, with about 20 students. The themes of the camp were "Fellowship and the Gospel" and "Evangelism"

A major change in how we do the work here in Spain is a shift to team ministry, and in June 2010 a girl called Lina officially joined GBU to work alongside us. We are thankful to God for the support that she receives from Ireland (half her salary is paid by a family from Ireland). In September Jenna (a graduate of NUIG) and Aimee (a student at Cambridge) joined the team and are here for the full academic year as "Doulos" Workers with GBU.

We would love to have a have a team of 6 in the North of Spain and we pray that God will send more workers. We believe this is necessary because there are many places here that have no witness on campus. Alongside this



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we want to raise up new CU Staff Workers for the whole of Spain and church leaders for the future. We are very thankful that GBU sees this as a priority and has given us the go ahead to develop team ministry. Please stand alongside us in prayer as we seek to reach Spanish students with the gospel!

RELAY: CARED FOR, STRETCHED AND DISCIPLED

TIM MONTGOMERY, RELAY WORKER, WRITES...

RELAY – ‘Discipleship Training in a Student Context’. “Catchy tag line, but what’s so great about it?” I hear you say.

For me, Relay genuinely does do what it says on the tin. It all happens by working alongside CUs and students, under the guidance and direction of a CU Staff Worker. But there is so much more to the year than that!

This year I was able to go to three conferences specifically geared towards Relay Workers. Relay 1, 2 & 3 take place throughout the year, in partnership with UCCF, and were some of my biggest highlights. Having the opportunity to learn from amazing Bible teachers, being part of a fellowship group and getting the chance to share and swap stories and ideas with other Relay Workers and CU Staff Workers has been an incredible encouragement.

But wait, there’s more! Every Relay Worker engages with a study programme over the year. Learning more about God’s Word, with a CU Staff Worker there to help and guide, is a real privilege; and for me, it proved to be a great challenge and benefit at the same time.

“So that’s the training and discipleship bit, but what about the student context?” you say. Well, here’s the scary part; putting all you’ve learned and know into practice. I say it’s scary, it’s really a blast! Having the chance to work with students and CUs alongside my CU Staff Worker has been my favourite part of this year. Engaging in 1-to-1 Bible studies, helping out with CU events and getting alongside students has been a real pleasure and encouragement.

So what can I say? Doing Relay this year has been amazing! Having the opportunity to be part of a team, where you are cared for, stretched, disciplined, and trained is an opportunity not to be missed.

If you are interested in finding out more about being a Relay Worker, contact Sarah Keene in the Dun Laoghaire Student Resource Centre.

We would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Robert McFaul on his engagement to Jillian Lyttle. 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 / Catrin 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); 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(UUM); Waterford Institute of Technology(WIT).



JULY 1-10

- Stranmillis CU is sending a team to Kerry to help with a Kids Club in Listowel. Pray for God's power and passion as they minister to the young people and children of the church in which they are working.
- QUB CU asks you to join them in praising God for all he has done in the past year. They are so grateful for that his blessings have been numerous and his grace sufficient in all they have undertaken.
- Please pray that new workers will be added to Derek and Jane French's team in Bilbao, Spain so that God may be glorified on campuses across this huge region of the North of Spain.
- Please pray for the staff team as they work on a variety of summer projects, such as writing new resources, planning future events and archiving previous materials.

JULY 11-20

- Phil Howe will be at the Keswick convention in Portstewart in the student track. There are opportunities for students to have a q and a sessions with some of the speakers. Please pray that students engage with this and find it helpful.
- Kieron and Esther Lynch are expecting their second child. Please pray for safety and good health for Esther and this new life at this halfway point in the pregnancy. Also for Finn, as he prepares to become a big brother.
- 10th – 24th: The Dublin International Outreach takes place now. Please pray for the team as they have training in the morning, run activities in the afternoons and a café and Bible study in the evenings.
- 16th – 22nd July: New Horizon takes place in UUC. Pray for Robert McFaul and the students who will be promoting & recruiting for IFES Ireland: The Christian Unions with a stand and sign-up table.

JULY 21-31

- CU committees will be meeting throughout the summer to plan ahead. Please pray that God will guide them and give them boldness and unity as they seek his will for their campuses.

- 18th – 31st: Catrin Petherbridge leads a team to work alongside Derek and Jane French with GBU Spain. Pray for them as they help lead an evangelistic camp, that language would not be a barrier to teaching God's word.
- 24th: Tom Campbell and Grace Dorney have both served on the UCC committee and are getting married today! Please pray that they would have a wonderful day and a happy married life together, which glorifies God.
- 26th – 31st: The IFES World Assembly takes place in Poland. Stephen Gardiner, Adam Jones, Peter Kenny and Jonathan Gillespie will attend. Please pray that the vision of reaching students with the gospel worldwide would be strengthened and that international IFES partnerships would be enriched by God.

AUGUST 1-10

- 5th: Cosmin Pascu and Rachel Maxwell get married today! Please pray that God would bless them richly as they start their life together.
- Please pray that DIT CU will have the way paved for them as they look for a suitable meeting place when the new term starts.
- Praise God with us for the Craigavon Supporter's Group and their faithful prayer down the years. Pray that God will raise up further groups like this, and that younger people will feel inspired to join also.
- Donal Walsh has just completed his Relay Year and has been accepted to do a Masters in Trinity. He has asked for prayer as he moves to a new city and starts this new venture.

AUGUST 11-20

- 16th: the planning team for next year's inaugural CU Annual Conference meets today. Please pray for fruitful and productive discussions and decisions.
- On a recent outreach, Queens met a man called Eamon. Pray that God will fill the huge void in his life.
- As the new Relay Year approaches, give thanks for the new Relay Team and pray for them as they arrange housing, finances and other practicalities in the next few weeks.
- Pray especially for Sam Troyer as she prepares to



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

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travel from America to join the Relay Team. Pray for grace and comfort as she says goodbye to family and friends, as well as safe travel and an easy transition through customs.

AUGUST 21-31

- 25th-28th: The IFES Ireland Staff and Families Conference takes place in Athlone. Pray for us as we kickstart our year with our speaker Michael Green and his wife Rosemary, and are joined by Relay, InterAction, Associate Staff Workers and family members for a time of fellowship and team building.
- 29th: Aoife Beville from UCC starts to work alongside GBU today in Padova, Italy. She will be studying here and starting a CU. Pray for courage, friends and ease in using Italian as she starts her time here.
- Planning for Fresher's Week events takes place all around the country. Please pray that CUs would find the best way to meet as many Freshers as possible and make a big first impression on them as they start their studies.
- UCC CU has not yet finalized its committee for the coming year. Please pray for wisdom and clarity for those involved, as they finalise their roles for the year ahead.

SEPTEMBER 1-10

- 30th August – 5th September: Relay 1 is here! Pray for Christina, Fiona, Hannah, Sam and Sinèad as they travel and meet Relay Workers from the UK. Also for Catrin as she heads over with them.
- 4th – 7th Sept: the Joint Belfast CUs pre term conference takes place. This is an important time as CUs get in gear to be mission teams on campus. Pray that students feel inspired as they head into the new academic year, and also for Adam, as he is the speaker for this event.
- As new students are preparing to head to university, please pray that this would be the time during which they encounter God and are challenged to respond to the gospel. Pray that Christian students would be bold and link in with their CUs.
- Plans are underway for IFES Student Sundays to take place all across Ireland. As plans progress,

please begin to pray that they are exciting events, through which people are inspired to engage with CUs as mission teams on campus, and through which God is glorified.

SEPTEMBER 11-20

- 14th: Re-Envisioning Day – Dublin CUs meet together today with IFES Ireland CU Staff Workers to sharpen their focus as they head into the new academic year. Pray that this would be an encouraging time, and especially that they would finalise plans for Fresher's Week.
- 17th: The board of IFES Ireland: The Christian Unions meets today. Please pray for a productive and useful day, as well as for safe travel as board members travel from all over Ireland.
- Please pray for Emma McAllister and Pete Gardiner as they take up their roles as the students reps on the IFES Ireland Board.
- Adam will meet with all staff members individually this week in the first Support and Supervision time of this new academic year. Pray that these are encouraging and helpful times.

SEPTEMBER 21-30

- IFES Ireland: The Christian Unions still has a considerable financial deficit. Please pray that God will provide for the work and that staff and the board would continue to trust in him.
- 23rd – 25th Adam travels to Prague to speak at a student conference with UKH (IFES Czech Republic). Pray that students would respond to his teaching and for safe travel.
- Fresher's week takes place in TCD and UCD and elsewhere over these days. Pray that those manning CU stands would have many conversations with students of all beliefs and establish themselves as an important presence on campus.
- As CUs get underway for the new term, please pray for all members of new committees, that they would feel confident in their roles. Pray too for new small group leaders, that God would use them powerfully as students gather around the Bible.