

"YOU DON'T NEED TO KNOW IT ALL TO CATCH SOMETHING, IT SEEMS YOU CAN'T KNOW IT ALL ANYWAY. HAVING ALL THE GEAR AND KNOWLEDGE IS NOT ENOUGH..."

KIERON LYNCH/CU STAFF WORKER, DUBLIN/PAGE2

PRAYER NEWS

OCT/DEC
2011

New Beginnings ...On Your Marks ...and we are off!

It is a new term and a new academic year and I am writing to ask you to pray for our 28 or so CU groups around Ireland, as they meet and welcome new freshers to join their CU Mission Teams on Campus. Having met so many freshers at the Belfast CU Pre-Term, I can say, with enthusiasm, that there is a terrific bunch of students heading to the CUs this year. Please pray for the fellowship of CUs that is IFES Ireland and encourage students you know to be involved and part of God's outreach work to this generation of students!



Adam Jones/Director IFES Ireland: The Christian Unions

FISHING FOR BEGINNERS

KIERON WRITES...


I've started fishing. I've got a basic beginner's rod, a chunky book and a lot of enthusiasm. Fishing can be done with limited knowledge and with expertise. You don't need to know it all to catch something, it seems you can't know it all anyway. Having all the gear and knowledge is not enough. You need that rod in the water and you need fish that bite. The parallels with the gospel of Jesus Christ and evangelism are both obvious and reassuring.

I have delighted in the simple pleasure of casting out to sea, reeling in my line and waiting for that unmistakable tug. It's such a thrill when you get a bite and I'm happy to report that I have had my fair measure of success. The gospels abound with references to fish and fishermen. Luke documents Jesus' words to the fledgling disciples "Follow me and I will make you fishers of men" 5:4. Follow and fish, a plain and scintillating prospect. The disciples did just that with a splendid mixture of clumsiness and fortitude.

Christian Unions are fishing crews on campus, followers of Jesus and fishers of people in a teeming sea of opportunity. Theirs is one of the most strategically placed spots in Ireland from which to fish. At our recent Staff and Families Conference we heard from the vastly experienced Michael Green, a highly respected academic and seasoned campus evangelist. Here was a man still fishing at 81 years of age, who said simply "We lay down our nets, expecting to catch fish!" He joyfully relayed how his experiences of campus based evangelism had achieved just that, time and time again. With your continued support, we at IFES Ireland: The Christian Unions are thrilled to be inspiring and equipping students to lay down their nets in expectation that the beauty of the proclaimed gospel of Jesus will catch many students for Him.

Ours is an Ireland, North and South, that is literally at sea. The navigation points of religion and more recently prosperity have crumbled and offer little succour. This is a time of immense potential for the gospel. Follow and fish, it's just as compelling in its appeal and powerful in its efficacy now as it was with those first disciples.

Pray with us for emboldened followers, enthusiastic fishers and bursting nets.



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SPANISH FOR BEGINNERS

JENNA HOLMES WRITES...

Before the Irish team of students came to Bilbao, I was excited about the partnership between GBU and IFES Ireland: The Christian Unions and what God would teach me

through the experience. When the team arrived my year as a 'doulos' (Relay Worker) in Bilbao was coming to a close.

The team arrived 5 days before our camp for some cultural and spiritual training and to meet Spanish students. During the training sessions we investigated what Acts teaches about sharing testimonies and bearing witness. We learned how to present our personal testimonies in an effective Christ-centred manner that would promote the gospel while emphasising how God has worked and continues to work in us.

After this training, we headed to Malaga for National Camp. The theme for the camp was 'eyes toward heaven and feet firmly on the ground'. During the week the speaker, Jaime Ardiaca, delved into Proverbs. Jaime highlighted that it is vital for us to fear God to gain true wisdom, using Proverbs 1:7 as a launching pad to explore what it really means to fear God. This reverent fear arises as a response of our faith and love for God; our awe grows as we know Him better. Many of the workshops were centred on evangelism and we put this teaching into practice as we shared testimonies and experiences with other campers and partook in an evangelistic event in a nearby town.

Although Spain is often perceived as being spiritually dry, I was incredibly encouraged by the passion that Spanish students had to live their faith. Their enthusiasm for making Christ known and sharing with one another despite the difficulties they face, such as small numbers and lack of resources, is an active example of living the gospel. Sharing ideas, recounting struggles, spurring each other on and praying for one another were an encouragement to us all. Despite differences in culture, Christian students everywhere face the same trials but they also have the same sovereign God in whom they can trust. I left Spain feeling closer to God, humbled and blessed, having been radically challenged and encouraged by Him.

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2011 IFES WORLD ASSEMBLY

KRAKÓW, POLAND

ADAM WRITES...

Five delegates from Ireland joined over 600 delegates from 130 countries, including 120 students, at the quadrennial IFES World Assembly. This was a unique and diverse gathering of believers, uniting to celebrate and declare the conference theme: **Jesus Christ: Lord of the Universe: Lord of the University**. It would have been bigger, but for severe visa restrictions preventing many from French-speaking Africa from attending.



Teaching, fellowship, discussion and reflection were the essence of our time together. The testimonies given were most encouraging as we heard of students coming to faith and being active for the gospel in so many different ways. Other stories were shocking reminders of the reality of the words of Jesus; Matthew 5:10 Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness. We heard of the “Blind-fold” conference: students blindfolded for security, due to threats on the lives of CU Staff Workers and how there are currently 25 IFES student leaders in prison in Eritrea, with staff living in fear for their lives.

There were many excellent inputs to the conference, all seeking to serve the message of the scripture focus for each morning, including exuberant music, quality video and drama. A good friend of mine was curator of a powerful art exhibition. Much of the focus was on the IFES World Living Stones Vision Document, articulating the range of strategic challenges facing IFES movements. Plenary sessions on Scripture Engagement, Evangelism, New Media and Social Networks, Student Initiative, Engaging the University and Global Economic Justice provoked much discussion into the evenings.

Student Day was an encouraging innovation to the Assembly, reflecting how students are at the heart of our ministry. My highlight was to hear IFES World Associate General Secretary, Femi Adeleye issue the clarion call for us to remember that the core message of IFES around the world is to be nothing less than the death & resurrection of Jesus - no compromise on the centrality of the Cross & the saving grace of the Lord Jesus Christ!

Strategic discussions at many levels were held throughout the 7 days, including a consultation on campus evangelism, where we shared insights and common challenges. The prime focus of our European regional time was to share arrangements for next Easter’s IFES Europe Student Evangelism Conference in Hungary. We plan to bring a group of students from Ireland.

We were very grateful for the opportunity to attend, on your behalf. Thank you!

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CU PRAYER FOCUS QUEENS UNIVERSITY BELFAST

KATE RUSSELL, PRAYER SECRETARY, WRITES...

● We have put a lot of planning into our ministry amongst freshers this year. Robbie Jemphrey is our International Co-ordinator and Sam Wells is the Freshers Co-ordinator. This semester is their busiest time as they seek to intergrate new students into uni life and help them grasp what CU is all about. Pray that we will have plenty of volunteers, eager to serve God. Please also pray that new Christian students, Freshers and International Students alike, will make serving God a priority as they settle into uni life. Pray for those unsaved - we long to see God move and to see His salvation in their lives.

● At the start of October, all of our ministries at Queens will be starting up. The three

ABOVE:
IFES World
Assembly,
Kracov

main ones are: “salt”-ministry amongst the homeless in Belfast. “latelove” and “talkshop”- these are both street evangelism, which we do on a Thursday night. Please pray for safety and protection for our volunteers and that as a body of Christ, we will be filled with humility and grace. But mostly, please pray that God will be pleased to pour out His Spirit on our city.

- 17-23 October is this semester’s Mission Week. Josh Duddy is our Missions Co-ordinator and has planned what looks to be an incredible week. Please pray that by God’s grace and power we will see His salvation in action on our campus.

- Please pray for Becki Beattie this year as she organises “one-to-one discipleship”. The aim is to pair off 2 people- 1 “disciple-ee” and 1 “disciple-er”, who then work together to learn more about Jesus as they pray and read the Bible. Please pray for her as she devises a program, pray for wisdom for the mentors and pray for open hearts for those who are being mentored.

- One of our biggest evangelistic events is our Carol service, held on December 12th. Pray that God will be glorified as we celebrate the truth of Christmas and share this with our campus.

Over all, we simply pray that all done through Queens CU will be pleasing to God, and ultimately we long for salvation and revival in our campus and in our city. Thank you for praying.

IFES World

Pray for Johnny and Ann McClean and their 3 children. This term they are settling into a new home in Bangkok, working with IFES Thailand. Pray that God will guide them as they start to work with international students there. (To follow their progress: www.mccleanfamilynews.wordpress.com)



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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(UUU); University of Ulster, Magee(UUM); Waterford Institute of Technology(WIT).

Pray for IFES Ireland staff as they meet for **Team Days** on October 13th and 14th, November 17th and 18th and 13th and 14th December. These are generally full days! Pray that the team would have productive, encouraging and strategic sessions.

The **IFES Ireland Board** meets on 19 November. Please pray for wisdom and unity in decision making.

Pray for CUs as **Mission Teams on Campus**. Here are some key events in the next 3 months:

OCTOBER

4 OCTOBER – pray for NUIM CU as they host an evening looking at what the biggest objections to the Christian faith are. Pray for engaging discussion and a really lively evening as people come to listen.

15 OCTOBER – President's Forum takes place today! All CU presidents from across Ireland come together with Adam Jones and a number of CU Staff Workers. Pray for a powerful time of planning, prayer and fellowship.

18 OCTOBER – Stranmillis CU is hosting a training session on how to evangelise. Pray that this will be well attended and that students will be inspired and equipped to go out and reach their campus for Christ.

21 – 23 OCTOBER – Joint Colleges in Ovoca Manor. We are excited to welcome Jonathan Lamb as our speaker. Pray that this would be a joyful and uplifting time for students from many of the pioneering CUs. Our hope is that they leave the conference challenged and motivated to bring the gospel to their campus.

30 OCTOBER – 2 NOVEMBER – UCD CU would love prayer for their weekend away. They are holding this just after Freshers Week and are keen that new first years come along. Pray that the weekend will be full of people worshipping God, hearing from His word and encouraging one another.

NOVEMBER

4-6 NOVEMBER – UUC CU is holding its weekend

away. Students will study the Fruits of the Spirit and have asked for prayer for encouraging fellowship and a strengthening of the CU community.

NUIG CU is starting a Bible Study format based on the Alpha course, with the aim of making it easy for people to bring friends: pray that CU members would have the courage to do so, and that the truth of the gospel would be delivered with grace and boldness throughout these studies.

15 NOVEMBER – UUC CU is hosting an Evangelism Night. Please pray for a vibrant Question and Answer session, which offers genuine challenge and truth to those coming along as seekers.

24 NOVEMBER – Trinity CU is hosting a Movie Night. They aim to boost their profile on campus and would like you to pray for good attendance and useful conversations.

DUNDALK IT – Currently, there are 2 leaders in the CU. However, Ruth will be on placement next term. Please pray for new leaders to emerge and be willing to give their time and energies to this CU.

DECEMBER

6 DECEMBER – Pray for the UCC CU Carol Service. In the week leading up to this, students plan to increase the amount of campus activity to promote the Carol Service and to share Christ with their campus.

16 – 18 DECEMBER – Weekend Away for international students, hosted at Castledaly Manor by the InterAction Team. Pray for the gospel to be presented clearly, for great conversations, and for the Holy Spirit to open blind eyes.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS – Pray for the many who are in Ireland and far from home over the Christmas holidays. Pray that they will be able to experience Christian hospitality and Christmas services and outreach programmes, so that they will discover that Christmas celebrates Jesus and his gospel, not Santa Claus.