

While the 2021-2022 school year began under the shadow of COVID-19, it has been a year of pioneering for our ministries. After praying for guidance and new creativity during the 2020 lockdown, God has led us beyond anything we could have imagined. Some of the projects that have been brewing since 2021 are now being finalized, and we've been able to work alongside many new local partners. We are so excited to look back with you at all the new things that God has done in this last school year.

CAFÉ

With the gradual lift on restrictions over the year, we were able to reopen at full capacity in February 2022! We resumed our Free-Ice-Cream-Fridays (for students) at the end of spring, with around 60 teenagers coming in each week. We organized our first student party in over two years, and packed the whole Café full with students, games and laughter.

A teacher from a local school also started bringing groups to hear about business and management. We were honored to be chosen among so many others as an example of a business that the teacher wanted his students to learn about.

Even though the Café can be loud when it's full of teenagers, we've also seen the return of people of all ages coming in to ask for prayer from our team members. During the lockdowns, we had advertised a "prayer hotline" over the phone and we are thrilled to see it transitioning back in-person.

We also partnered with some new local and international communities. We received volunteer teams from the Franciscan monastery in Galway as well as from the Ceili Community sisters. In turn, we also supported a church in Ukraine that helped refugees cross the border into Poland to safety, by donating some of our Café proceeds. More recently, the Café has been providing a meeting spot for English classes geared towards newly arrived Ukrainians and Somalians.



COUNSELING CENTER

The Counseling Center played a vital part in people's lives in a year full of transitions and changes. Our 3 counselors worked with 58 clients over the year, and were able to continue offering both in-person and remote counseling options, even after the restrictions had been lifted. This has made the program even more accessible to people who may need it. One of our counselors also obtained a supervisor certification and began providing supervision services, a requirement for licensed counselors.

This year, for the first time, one of our counselors has been invited into local secondary schools to speak on the topic of Mental Health and Faith. So far, it has been a huge success!

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'I THOUGHT THIS WAS GREAT. AS A CHRISTIAN IT WAS NICE TO SEE SOMEONE SHARING FAITH THROUGH RELATABLE SUBJECTS SUCH AS MENTAL HEALTH.'

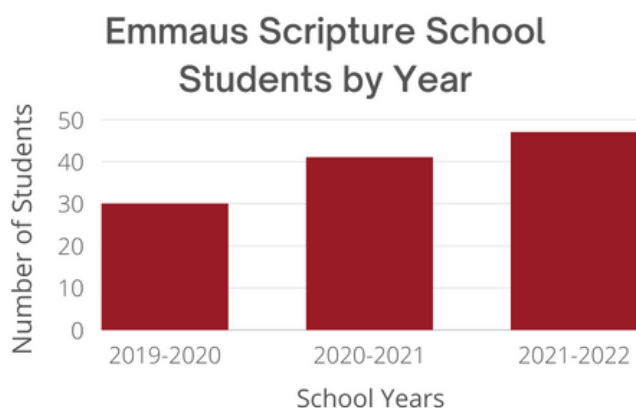
'I LIKED HOW IT WASN'T TOO PREACHY, YOU SHARED YOUR OWN STRUGGLE AS A TEENAGER, AND I FELT YOU WERE THEN MORE EMPATHETIC, UNDERSTANDING, AND RELATABLE.'

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SCRIPTURE SCHOOL

For the first time in Fall 2021, the Scripture School offered a hybrid class, open to both in-person and online students simultaneously. This made space in the classroom for locals to resume classes as before the pandemic, but also accommodated for the new students, from all across the world, gained along the way. This year, the Scripture School offered three sessions: The Gospel of Luke, Paul's Letter to the Corinthians and the Freedom of Forgiveness in addition to its weekly Bible study group, "When the Word gets Real", to a record number of 42 students from various parts of Ireland, as well as the United States, Germany and Croatia.

We are amazed at the way that God has grown our numbers, despite the in-person shutdowns during the pandemic. All of the books studied, and many more Bible study guides and commentaries are always available at our Bookshop right next door, and have helped our students go deeper in their studies.



'I FOUND MY FAITH IN YOUR GROUP! I MEAN THAT... WHEN I STARTED COMING TO YOUR GROUP I WAS NOT A BELIEVER, BUT I WAS GENUINELY SEARCHING AND IT WAS THE PERFECT PLACE, GOING THROUGH THE BASICS OF CHRISTIANITY AND TALKING ABOUT IT IN GOOD FAITH WITH OTHER CHRISTIANS..'

Student, August 2022



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COUNSELORS

58

CLIENTS



4

PROGRAMS

42

STUDENTS

4

COUNTRIES



RETREATS

14,946
STUDENTS

281
RETREATS

109
SCHOOLS
VISITED

30
NEW SCHOOLS

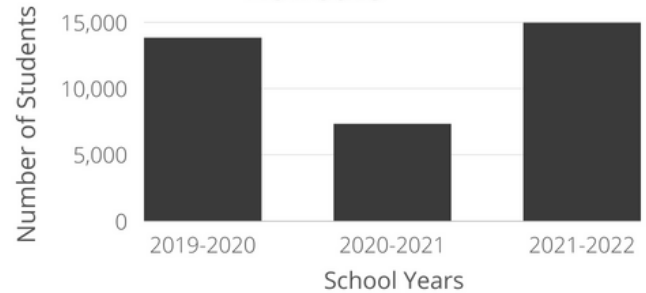
This school year marked the first full year of offering An Tobar Nua Retreats in Northern Ireland! We are so excited to see our program going beyond political boundaries to share the hope of Christ with a message of love and unity as Christians of different denominations working together, even in places where ecumenism has a complicated history.

As in the Cafe, we were so thankful when restrictions and school closures ended in February and we were thankful to be able to return to larger retreat groups and bring back some of our well-loved activities and games. Many schools that missed out on retreats due to restrictions have already booked retreats for the next year.

This year, we were also able to bring retreats back on our own premises, which hadn't been possible since February 2020! It means that students who attended these retreats in the Café know where to come locally to ask more questions and get to know our team members, or participate in our local student events.

Even when we couldn't visit as many schools, we still reached 694 subscribers through our YouTube Channel and 620 followers on our [@ATNSchoolRetreats](#) Instagram account. In addition, we managed to visit 30 new schools. Check out the graph to see how we were able to reach even more students in the last school year, despite restrictions for almost two-thirds of the year, than our previous record in the 2019-2020 school year!

Students Reached through Retreats



WHAT STUDENTS THOUGHT OF THE RETREATS:

I'M AN ATHEIST AND WAS HESITANT TO COME WITH IT BEING A RELIGIOUS RETREAT BUT I SERIOUSLY ENJOYED IT AND WOULD RECOMMEND :) THANK YOU.

I'M A CATHOLIC AND EVERY TIME IT'S SO GOOD TALKING ABOUT JESUS. YOU MADE THIS FUN. I WILL LOOK AT YOU AS AN EXAMPLE TO SHARE THE GOSPEL IN THE WORLD

THE STORIES ABOUT YOUR LIVES GAVE ME PASSION. I THINK I AM SPIRITUALLY CHANGED. I HAD LOTS OF FUN TOO.

I REALLY ENJOYED MYSELF SO MUCH. IT WAS SO GOOD, YOU GAVE ME A PURPOSE TO LIVE.

In parallel to our retreats, another student outreach we resumed this year in Galway schools is our Alpha course. This year, 230 students participated in this course led by one of our team members in weekly small group meetings at their school. It has been a great opportunity for creating a space for discussion and hard questions, while building discipleship.

PRIMARY SCHOOLS

This has also been a year of pioneering into primary (PK4–6th grade) schools for us. We have already been running a summer camp for older children for a few years, but this year, we have also led our first ever full day retreat in an elementary school for a group of 6th class (grade) students.

During Advent, one of our team members led a contemplative prayer session in one of the primary schools in Galway. After the Christmas break, he was asked to continue to come every week, and over 250 students participated through the end of the year across nine different sessions. Teachers reported how amazed they were to see a room of 50 children silently sinking into the presence of God through peaceful prayer and quiet worship music. Some of the students' parents even joined in the prayer times!

SAOL

SAOL (pronounced “seal”) is the Irish word for “life”. This video series was created by our retreat team in collaboration with a professional production team. In the upcoming school year, teachers in secondary schools all across Ireland will have access to this brand new, web-delivered resource to use during Religious Education classes to promote discussion about different topics relating to faith in Jesus. Each of the six topics includes a short, thought-provoking video, a teacher’s guide, and engaging student activities that are intentionally developed to line up with some of the national curriculum guidelines. This resource will be available in addition to booking an in-person all day retreat, and serves as a great standalone program, or as a follow-up or precursor to our retreats.

This year, we have been busy filming and promoting SAOL, and as the school year is just about to start, we have over 300 teachers registered to receive updates!



Our team on the ground in both Ireland and the US have only been part of the story. The other part of the equation is the financial and prayer help from you, our support team! We are thankful for your partnership. Please continue to pray that we will be faithful to God’s vision and purpose for this ministry. Pray we will faithfully represent Him and multiply His kingdom exponentially.

GOD IS NOT UNJUST; HE WILL NOT FORGET YOUR WORK AND THE LOVE YOU HAVE SHOWN HIM AS YOU HAVE HELPED HIS PEOPLE AND CONTINUE TO HELP THEM.

Hebrews 6:10 NIV

WAYS TO SUPPORT US

DONATE

Support a Volunteer, send us a check, or donate directly on our website at foundationinchrist.org

FOLLOW US

Follow our An Tobar Nua Cafe and Retreat pages on Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube

PRAY

Your spiritual support strengthens us daily