

ANNUAL REPORT July 1, 2022-June 30,2023



This year's annual report comes to you at a special time: our 25th anniversary! Hard to believe that this ministry has been in operation for a quarter of a century. God has grown it so much since its early beginnings! We are excited to reflect with you upon what this last year has brought to An Tobar Nua.



SCHOOL RETREATS 21,355

That's how many Irish secondary school students were reached this school year through our four retreat teams across the country! This is a new record for us, beating last year's previous record of 14,946 students reached. Our teams led 480 retreats in total - almost twice as many as last year. This is what some of the students wrote to us as feedback after being on a retreat this year:

"I enjoyed An Tobar Nua's retreat as it created a safe and comfortable environment to speak about religious topics while incorporating fun."

"It wasn't what I expected it to be and I was happily surprised, I still had a great time even though I wouldn't consider myself religious, I am definitely more open now"

"It opened my eyes to my true purpose. I feel that my connection to God has been strengthened and that He is there for me."

SAOL

32,625

33% of Irish schools

This year, we launched our first video series, SAOL (pronounced "seel", the Irish word for life.) The response was overwhelmingly positive! We reached 867 schools across the country, representing at least 32,625 students - that's 33% of all the schools in Ireland! SAOL comprises of:

- Six short, thought provoking videos
- Teacher's guides
- Engaging student activities
- Designed to line up with national curriculum guidelines

SAOL 2

Following the success of our first video series, we have received requests (including from the national director of religious education) to create another series specifically aimed at graduating seniors. We are excited to announce the up-coming development of SAOL - part 2!

TEEN CAMP

This summer, our retreat team also got to bring back our Teen Camp, for the first time since summer 2019! 22 students signed up for this extended time of relationship building and digging deeper into faith matters. Some of them said it was the best summer camp they had ever been to! We look forward to keep walking alongside these young men and women on their faith journey.



CAFÉ & BOOKSHOP

Our Café and Bookshop sit next door to each other, and each has its own opportunities to build relationships with customers. This year, we were delighted to bring back to the Café some of the student activities that had been interruped by the Covid-19 Pandemic:

- We re-launched our ecumenical YOUTH GROUP, Faith Alive
- We led some BOARD-GAME TOURNAMENTS during lunch rush, afternoons, and as a summer club
- We celebrated Fall, Christmas, Easter and Summer with STUDENT PARTIES
- We re-started our WORK EXPERIENCE PROGRAM for secondary school students: we welcomed students to our team for one or more weeks as part of their school requirements. Through it, we have had many opportunities to spend extended time with them and have deep conversations.

SCHOOL OUTREACHES

This year, our 2 running student outreaches broke our records in terms of attendance!

- Youth Alpha: a several week course facilitated by one of our team members, to reflect on faith questions over the course of a few weeks. This year, over 900 students took part!
- Prayer in elementary schools: our only elementary school outreach, consisting of contemplative prayer with soft worship music. Over 150 students joined us monthly!





Our counselors are some of the only ones in the West of Ireland to offer not only Christian counseling but also Christian supervision (the practical part of training for counselors). One of our counselors has also been leading mental health talks in secondary schools, linked to his personal faith story.

3

counselors

12

supervisees

clients served



EMMAUS SCRIPTURE SCHOOL

ongoing Bible study group

4 classes

39 students Our hybrid class setup allows some of our students to join the class virtually while others are in the classroom, reaching people in the West of Ireland and beyond.

- This year, the Emmaus Scripture School and the Counseling team also had the privilege to collaborate alongside the National University of Ireland in Galway's Christian Student group to offer a 3-day workshop on Scripture and mental health. This is a new opened door to building more relationships with young adults in Galway.
- We also ran a unique workshop on exploring the Scripture through drama, in collaboration with one of the Scripture School students



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foundation in christ.org

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CONTACT US

admin@foundationinchrist.org

2338 Immokalee Road, Ste. 438 Naples, Florida 34110