



FOUNDATION in CHRIST Ministries

2013 Annual Report

"For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ."—1 Corinthians 3:11



"God ... 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

It is a privilege to bring you this year's report of the many opportunities to share the Good News through Foundation in Christ Ministries, Ltd. Thank you for your continued prayerful support to this work.

School Retreats

We continued with our thought provoking and engaging school retreats with high school students. These retreats are a powerful way to connect, in a very direct way, with the teenagers in the city. Having built up a great relationship with local high schools, we are able to offer students a day away from the pressured, exam-focused environment. The day spent here in An Tobar Nua, gives them some quality time to reflect deeply on the real purpose for their lives and to consider the invitation from God to have a living daily relationship with Him. Our desire is that they would know that they are loved by God and that He can be a source of tremendous comfort and guidance to them in their journey through life. These retreats are also extremely rewarding for our workers who share the Good News through various media such as personal testimony, quiet prayer times, reflections on Scripture, talks, music, games, power-point and the internet. Like many young people in our western culture, the students are exposed to various negative influences that can have a damaging effect on their lives. We seek to guide them in a gentle way to the One who can help them navigate through their challenging teenage years. Feedback from the students is usually very positive. Here are some comments from some who attended.

- *"I like the stories and games. I also think today helped me a lot to trust in God and talk and pray to him. I liked the videos."*
- *"Hearing the testimonies helped to give me hope."*
- *"I think you guys are really an inspiration and doing a great job at helping young people who have trouble but are afraid to do anything about it."*
- *"I found the whole day very good. I loved the opportunity to talk about things in life that you are unsure about. This day helped me to better decide my future. Hard decisions don't seem as hard as they were before."*

Since last September we have directed 27 school retreats with 416 students attending. We have 20 retreats already booked for this school year, so it looks like a promising year to come.

R.E. (Religious Education) Classes

As well as our school retreats, we have the amazing privilege of going into the local high schools, to engage in a meaningful way with the students both before and after they come on retreat, through various programs that we offer. The atmosphere in the class room is very different to that of the retreats. Students are not as reflective but often very engaging, with lively debates and diverse opinions shared. A major benefit of going into the schools is that we get to meet the students on multiple occasions as the programs we offer are generally 11 sessions each. The usual format is to watch a 10 minute DVD on some aspect of the Christian faith and then to have an honest, open discussion on the topic. It is wonderful to hear students voice their opinions and raise questions in an atmosphere where they won't be ridiculed, but respected. It is also beneficial for those who facilitate the classes, as these encounters challenge them to grow in understanding their own faith. The teachers who sit in on the classes have often expressed their gratitude to us for taking the time to come in. Here are a few comments from students about these classes.

- *"I have found the discussions to be very good. I found it helpful to listen to your stories. You explain complicated religious concepts and explain God and all about that in a very practical and helpful way."*
- *"It was good when you talked about yourselves. You listened to everyone's opinions."*
- *"I now pray to God each night."*
- *"I found it helpful. It helped me find God and know who he is."*
- *"I think the lessons were helpful. I think it gives people a better idea of who God is and what he did for us. It also tells us God is always there for us when we need him. It encourages us to pray."*

Since last September, we have facilitated 12 different groups of 28 students, for 11 sessions each.

Street Evangelism

Many people won't go to church, come to an event, or read a Christian book so we go to them! Our Street Evangelism team meets every two weeks to pray and go out on the streets of Galway to share the Good News.

One of our newest interns was saddened at the lack of faith she encountered while speaking to four young adults who were hanging around in the main square in Galway. She was however, encouraged by their openness, willingness to ask deep questions and share their point of view. One young woman in the group shared that she had not grown up in a Christian home but had gone to church at Christmas with her friends out of curiosity and was moved to tears. At the end of the conversation the whole group was open to asking God (if He existed) to bless them and direct them in their lives. Two of the group of four also took a copy of Luke's Gospel as they were curious about the Christian message. The same day two of our team had a conversation with a young man with an interest in Buddhism. He had many questions and objections to the Christian faith. At the end of a forty minute conversation he had to catch a bus but accepted a Good News pamphlet and said that he was partially open to the message he heard.

"I planted the seed in your hearts, and Apollos watered it, but it was God who made it grow. It's not important who does the planting, or who does the watering. What's important is that God makes the seed grow."

- 1 Corinthians 3:6-7:

Relationship Evangelism

The café continues to be a place of good food, relaxed atmosphere, friendly service and refuge for the locals and tourists who come in. As I was writing this I was told of a teenager who called in to chat and get our perspective on some difficult decisions he had made. This was the third time he had called in after meeting one of our workers on the street who talked to him about Christ. He had been living life apart from God, making decisions that had caused him and his family a lot of pain. His desire now, is to stay close to God and make good life-enhancing choices. It is a joy for us to encourage, support and pray for him and many like him on their journey towards relationship with Jesus.

Bookstore

Our bookstore has been an invaluable source of Bibles, Christian books, music and cards for the community over the last 15 years. These resources have helped people steadily grow in their relationship with God and experience more of the happiness they are searching for. A lady shared recently how she has been able to bless family members, friends and acquaintances with the books and gifts from the bookstore. She prays for each person and asks the Lord to guide her in choosing the gifts and feels the Lord is using her to bring Jesus into the lives and homes of people. Recently she started a Bible study group and is using our *Great Bible Adventure* series as a teaching resource. She is also involved with the children's group at her parish and is using a children's version of the same, for the program. She shared that she has been greatly blessed through the ministry and in being a blessing to others.



Emmaus Scripture School

Our scripture classes continue to benefit adult students in deepening their understanding of scripture. This past year we offered Old Testament Survey, New Testament Survey, How to Read the Bible (Inductive Hermeneutics), Romans, Hebrews and the General Epistles, Luke-Acts, and Jesus and the Gospels. Especially rewarding for our teacher was to do an Old Testament Survey in a class of four students, working through the historical books in detail with special attention to Genesis, Exodus, Deuteronomy, and 1 Samuel - 2 Kings. All the students of this class commented on how their understanding of the New Testament and God's saving work throughout history was so deeply enriched because of the foundation laid by taking the Old Testament Survey course. Another example of what God is doing in the ESS was in the "How to Read the Bible" course offered in the spring. One of our students noted that "there is no place around like the ESS where the Bible comes to life." We also started doing a "Beginner's Introduction to the Bible" which is a smaller 5 week course designed to introduce the Bible to people who have never really been exposed to it. We offered this both semesters with great success. Last year, counting the beginner courses, we had 30 students. This fall should see continued growth as several returning students have already committed for the new semester.

Our primary source of revenue, the café and book shop, supply about 30% of our annual financial needs and we depend on God's provision through donations for the rest. Without the kind and ongoing support we receive, we would not be able to continue this work in Galway that is bringing a positive influence to young people, hope to persons in hard circumstances, growth in God's Word to eager students, and God's power to change lives.

Our commitment is to serve God in fulfilling His call to ministry in Ireland and to practice integrity and wise stewardship in the use of all funds and resources provided.

With best wishes for God's blessing,

Rev. Kelly E. Curry
Chairman and President



*All gifts are tax deductible as allowed by law
and may be sent to:
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*If you have any questions, please contact us at
1-800-987-3683 or visit www.FoundationInChrist.org.*

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