



FOUNDATION in CHRIST Ministries

2014 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

It has been a wonderful year for our engaging retreats with high school students! The Lord has opened new doors for more teens to hear the Good News in a faith filled environment. It has been a rich blessing for our staff to share their testimonies of how God has given them love, peace and a sure hope for the future on the journey of life. Students also hear and experience the Good News presented through various media such as story, music, video clips and guided scriptural reflection, interspersed with fun quizzes, fitness challenges and entertaining games where they can win one of our delicious home-made chocolate chip cookies. This year we did a total of 59 retreats with 1173 students, up 32 retreats from last year. So far, we have 68 booked for the next school year and we are excited to see what the Lord will do in the lives of the students and staff. Please agree with us that the Lord will continue to bless this magnificent outreach.

Here are some comments from those who participated this year. These are typical of the kinds of evaluations we receive from the students following the days events:

- *"I thought today was really good and I really enjoyed it. My favourite part was hearing about everyone's different stories and experiences. I have been to many retreats and this has been my favourite so far because I feel like I have learned about God and about myself. The people here are all so friendly and kind and I have a lot of respect for them sharing their stories with us. I don't think I could ever be that brave."*
- *"I thought it was a very good day as it helped me forget the stress of school and I could listen to people's stories of how God helped them and I found out that God is waiting for me to open up my heart."*
- *"We were treated like equals. The atmosphere was nice, even for a non-religious person like me. Everyone was super friendly and adorable."*
- *"I have never been to a place like this. It's a completely new experience and I love it. To see and hear people who are so dedicated is amazing and it pushes me to believe and be a part of it because I want the sense of belonging they all seem to have. Thank you."*

You can see from the above comments why we are so excited about this program and the opportunity it gives us to share the Good News message.

Relationship Evangelism

During the Autumn, while out doing street evangelism, an An Tobar Nua intern felt the Lord prompting her to speak with a teenage girl. Naturally, she was a bit apprehensive as she looked at the teen with dyed black and purple hair and a face piercing. The young girl was among a group of friends and our intern tactfully approached the group of young people and delved into conversation. To her surprise, the very girl with whom she felt she was supposed to speak with was very engaged and interested. As the conversation ended and everyone went their separate ways, this particular girl stayed in the forefront of the intern's mind. Daily, our intern was praying that she would encounter the young lady again and asking God for more opportunities to speak about Christ with the teen. About a week later, a school arrived at the café for their retreat and in walks the very young lady that we had all been praying for! She not only came to retreat that day, but has come into the café nearly every Friday since. With the growth of our student retreats, a new generation of students, whom we previously had no contact with, began to visit the café regularly. We focus on providing a loving environment where students can come and experience acceptance, love and a listening ear.

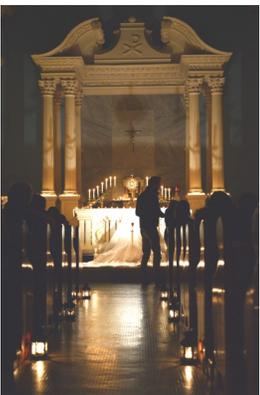
One of the highlights of the year was An Tobar Nua being awarded the Youth Friendly Business award by the Galway Youth Council. We received the award as a result of a city wide vote in the Secondary Schools. Please continue to pray as we forge and build relationships with the students and adults who come to An Tobar Nua.



Street Evangelism

In addition to our Saturday afternoon outreaches, our street evangelism team in collaboration with other Christians from the community embarked on an exciting initiative this year called Night Fever. The idea behind Night Fever is simple: open a city centre Church at night, fill it with candle-light and prayerful live music, and invite passers-by inside. Once inside guests are invited to light a candle, write out a prayer, take a scripture verse to reflect on and sit in silence before the Lord.

It was amazing to see so many people, who were on their way out for the night, come in and connect with God. People came in to pray for themselves, their marriages, their children, their parents, friends, for work, for health and many other things. Interestingly, many of those who came in had little or no faith. Some described themselves as atheists or agnostics but were curious. We encouraged them to ask God to let them know if He was real. Some people just popped in for a minute, others



stayed for 30 minutes or more. One of our team shared how a man cried on his shoulder as he spoke about his brother who died by suicide 3 years ago. As people left we offered them a copy of Luke's Gospel and a leaflet showing what's on in the city for those interested in pursuing a relationship with God. We ran four such events since November. At the last one in May, over 200 people came in over a 3 hour period.

Counseling

We have expanded our counseling service, with the addition of another full time counsellor. We now offer presentations on 'How to Take Care of your Mental Health' to local communities. Our aim is to play a part in helping local communities deal with the distressing rise in suicide rates here in the west of Ireland, by offering them practical ways to care for their own mental health. As a result of this outreach we have seen an increase in new clients, which has us working to almost full capacity. It is a particular privilege to get to journey with people as they seek healing in broken areas of their lives, to see them hopeful where they once felt hopeless!

Bookstore

Our bookstore continues to be a great source of Bibles, Christian books and music for the people of Galway. It is frequently a place where people call in just to chat, share their struggles or ask for prayer. One of our employees shares his experience of working in the bookstore this year.

"A woman came into the shop wanting to get to know God better. After referring her to some of our modern Bible's that include good study notes, she realised she no longer had to struggle to try interpret the passages on her own and was far more willing to continue reading her Bible now that she had a good translation with notes. She came back a few days later smiling saying that she was now enjoying reading it. "

Emmaus Scripture School

The focus of the school is to help students draw close to God by prayerfully reflecting on His word. This year, we have seen three students complete all of the courses currently offered. Two of them are already incorporating what they have learned as they teach at their churches. One of the three noted, "I can't imagine the last three years in Galway without these courses. My life has been changed and I feel like I know so much more about God and His word." When the students combine the "How to Read the Bible" course with the content courses like "Romans" or "Hebrews and the General Epistles"; they are able to put that hermeneutic into practice. It has been very rewarding to see them embrace these skills. With that experience they can approach any part of Scripture. We had 12 students this semester. The upcoming fall term is very exciting. We are delighted to be working with several local parishes that will be actively encouraging parishioners to attend shorter Saturday courses which reflect on the weekly Scripture readings. We hope that more long term students will join from this new wider circle of contacts. We are also expecting several American ministry experience students in the spring. These students work part time in our café and attend Emmaus Scripture School classes for course credit at their home university.



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
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