

Link Up

Reaching Children : Serving Churches



Winter 2013/2014

BCM ENGLAND

Encouraging Memories from Camp 2013

- Staff being so supportive and helpful as our number diminished due to illness.
- A child sticking a cut-out of her hand on a 'burning bush' and thinking about God being with her in all he asks her to do.
- An eleven year old boy apologising for his behaviour last year and telling me he was going to be better behaved this time.
- Another eleven year old boy praying out loud for the first time.
- Nearly all the children saying what they thought was great about God in a Parachute Praise activity.
- A group of young children making the link between the Passover and Jesus dying for us.
- An eleven year old girl looking after a younger child who was homesick at night.
- An eight year old girl, with a big smile on her face, saying: "Angeline! Look what I bought!" as she showed me her new Bible.

Angeline White, BCM England

Camp photo on page 3



I have the privilege of leading a Bible Club in a local school for children aged 5 to 8. We meet every Tuesday after school for an hour. We play games, complete worksheets, enjoy sharing our news with each other whilst having juice and biscuits, and listen to Bible stories. Last year we had around 6 or 7 children who regularly attended. We have started this term with 13 children which has been very encouraging. I am particularly pleased because we are seeing the younger brothers and sisters of children already in the club. It is great to see that families are hearing about the love of God, some for the first time.



Jan Ford

A volunteer running a club in a Weston-super-Mare primary school

From Kate MacNab ...

This summer we had a family holiday club with about 50 children attending throughout the week. I led a group with 12 little pre-school children and some of the Mums. Through the stories from the gospels we enjoyed learning that Jesus can do anything. One little boy's Mum used to be one of my pre-school girls many years ago. They both came to the family service and hope to come back to Mums & Tots when she has her new baby. It has been an exciting time for me to see the way God is bringing back to church the children who are now adults, or their children to clubs. The older children thought about Jesus being an Awesome God and had the joy of sharing what they had learnt at our family service. A great turn out and a Worthy Praise to Our Awesome God.

BCM IRELAND

We have had a very busy year at Castledaly with most weekends booked. We had very good camps this summer with almost 150 campers over the three weeks, we may have to consider increasing the number of camps next year. It has been so encouraging to see so many of the younger generation organizing and running the camps, while others are showing such an interest in different aspects of BCM ministries.

We had a fellowship work week (a combination of teaching, fellowship and practical work) for those too old for camp but not yet ready to be leaders, this was run by the Youth Forum and proved very successful and encouraging. The future is looking bright, it appears God is not finished with us yet!

Newbridge Bible Fellowship Church is working on team building and outreach! We were blessed to meet new neighbours when we hosted the **BIG RED BUS** in June. Seventy kids and lots of parents enjoyed a day of games, crafts, puppet shows, and Bible stories on the double decker bus. This was a great opener to Summerland, our five day club in August.

Again seventy kids lifted the roof with their singing and cheering as our Super Heroes led the way to Bible Heroes! We enjoyed the cultural diversity with Nigeria, South Africa, Ethiopia, Ukraine, China, and Ireland. Before we launched into outreach, we took time to grow and pray as a church during a weekend at Castledaly. It was the first time many of the church family had been there and they loved it! Next outreach is our Family Fun Night on 31 October. Our new puppet team will make their debut, and we're excited to see how the Lord will provide.



Like a hesitant swimmer teetering at the edge of the pool, I find myself being lovingly nudged into various ministries by the Lord. I've led a ladies' Bible study for years. The Lord has given us a love for each other (various ages, denominations, and even from different countries) as we study and grow in Christ together. But I hesitated when asked to be more active in the music of our church. Through the years my skill(?) on the piano has shrivelled from lack of use. Another push and I was in and am now enjoying this side of ministry. I even took part in the singing on our church's St Patrick's Day parade float. It was less than two years ago that the Lord pushed me out of my comfy teen Sunday school to start the Sunday school

for 4-6 year olds. Now I'm enjoying organizing teachers and helpers and taking my turn with this fun and challenging age group. Starting last year, **I found myself staring into another pool**—teacher training! We have such a desperate need in this country for Sunday school teachers to be taught, encouraged and equipped. I'm impressed with BCM's programme, In Step with the Master Teacher, and believe that I have a part to play. **I've jumped in** and am learning a lot from Brenda, Sally and the others. I'm still only **in the paddling pool**, but I'm **praying about going out to the deep end!**

As a committee we were told in the autumn of 2012 of Faithe Heuser's coming to Ireland in January 2013. **This time I jumped off the edge** when I felt the Lord's touch and said we'd have her for half of her three months. Faithe has fitted into our home, our church life, and ministry. Now we're praying that this BCM missionary appointee will be able to raise support to come back to Ireland for a short term ministry of two years. It looks like the Lord has matched her ministry gifts to some of the ministry needs here in BCM Ireland. " . . . The Lord who created you says: 'Do not be afraid . . . you are mine. When you go through deep waters . . . I will be with you,'" Isaiah 43:1-2.

Debbie Dancey

(Some pictures on next page)



St. Patrick's Day Parade



Viera and Ewelina



Faithe at Newgrange



England - Camp



NORTHERN IRELAND

We welcome Jason Hill as a short term worker with BCM N. Ireland. Jason lives in Annalong and is an active member of local Presbyterian church, He is a graphic designer and very interested in arts and crafts. When he attended a puppet workshop held by David and Esther Zimmerman at Mullartown house many years ago he could never envisage himself working there some day. More recently he has been involved in helping Gemma with the senior teens weekends and the planning of brochures for various camp activities.

When Gemma and he were planning to get married he felt called to give more time to the work of BCM. Jason and Gemma married in September and are based at Mullartown House where Gemma has been working for the past three years. Jason wants to support Gemma in her work and help in whatever way he can. He is already busy planning new brochures to help make the work of BCM better known both in N. Ireland and the UK. As he has said himself, "I will be helping at Mullartown House but am open to help where I am needed."

We ask you to pray for Jason and Gemma as they work together for the Lord.



SCOTLAND'S SUMMER SCORCHERS

BCM Scotland - www.helpingchurches.co.uk - bcmScotland@gmail.com

Summer 2013 saw a new member of staff join BCM Scotland as Chris Kenny was accepted for a gap year with us.

Chris was a Bible clubber at the Garthamlock club and was a big part of our summer work. He will be working with us to gain experience and serve God through till next summer.



Junior Camp was just so happy as we "Lived the Dream" with Joseph ... Fiona Blyth taught the Bible lessons and the children responded to the lessons by applying them right then and there!



At **Teen Camp** the theme was 'Sky's the Limit'. Stanley and Irene Paget with Ashleigh Brown, who was our team leader, and great staff encouraged the teens to enter in to the fun of travelling round the world to learn that with God there is no limit!



Filipe and Paula brought a Brazilian flavour to camp this Summer.

A highlight of camp was on the day we were praying for the Indian sub continent an Indian lady who runs a Christian school in Pakistan heard our singing from the garden of the house she was staying in and came joined us at our Camp fire on the beach. Just a co-incidence - I think not!



Three **five day clubs** in the one week meant Steve and Liz Marr were kept really busy. It would not have worked but for the teams of volunteers at each venue entering in and giving 100% support (sometimes 110% as well).

"It was just like being at camp, but you slept in your own bed!" Liz said. Around 150 children were reached between the three groups.

Teen Club/Merge's visit to Mugdock Park was special not for the sealed challenges the teens had to achieve, including building the highest human tower, but for the downpour of rain half way through. It did not dampen spirits though, we just challenged the teen to see which team could wring out the most water from their wet jackets!



BCM is a faith mission. The work is financed through free will offerings from faithful people whose hearts are touched by God.

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