

UK and Ireland

LinkUP BCM

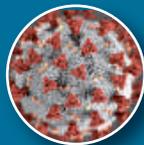


Reaching children, serving churches



The Bee-Attitudes team
at BCM Clyde Valley

The challenge of lockdown



What do missionaries do when Covid-19 strikes?

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Northern Ireland

AS we discussed the need for BCM NI to “engage the unengaged” in the Bible, Emily, one of our interns, was burdened about the town of Lurgan and began to plan a Hello Life outreach team there for July.

Covid-19 and social distancing meant this ended up being a non-residential team but, undeterred, ten young people gathered together for three days and engaged in door-to-door ministry in one of Lurgan’s largest housing estates.

They distributed packs for children and adults containing literature, John’s gospels, sweets and treats. The team were encouraged by the warm welcome which they received at many of the doors, and the opportunities to share the Good News of Jesus. The in-



clement weather didn’t dampen their spirits and they enjoyed good fellowship as they served together.

Their teamwork was further tested during an afternoon clearing the “wilderness” be-

hind the BCM Centre in Lisburn! In addition the team recorded testimony videos which were posted on the BCM NI Facebook page and have attracted a phenomenal number of views.

No lockdown in the world can stop the ministry of prayer

Says **DEBBIE DANCEY, BCM Ireland**

LOCKDOWN WhatsApp memes from the ladies in our Bible study – who would have thought it?

We love each other dearly, but not all of them are believers. With all of us being tech-challenged, Zoom was not an option. How would I make sure they were all getting sound Biblical teaching? Memes began to appear that ranged from wishy-washy to downright heretical. Prayerfully, I corrected the worst of the heresies. I have passed on good sound teaching, but it is still a challenge to “speak the truth in love” (Ephesians 4:15).

Two other ladies and I share the teaching of our Sunday school class. We’re all generously over 60 and love our class. We have no problem with the weekly lesson, memory verse, games,

Northern Ireland



It is hoped that there will be opportunities to build upon the work begun in this needy town, and to liaise more closely with churches in the area.

Three more Hello Life teams are planned for August, once

again all non-residential teams which require the volunteers to travel from home each day. These are taking place in Belfast, primarily the west of the city, Lisburn and Carryduff.

More door-to-door work is planned, distributing packs to adults and children and seeking to engage in “gospel conversations”. Some socially distanced Bible Clubs will be attempted outdoors, and other



community work.

Please pray that volunteers will meet people who are seeking peace and hope in these uncertain times and that the name of Jesus will be glorified in these areas of Northern Ireland.

**Judith Rogers
CEO BCM
Northern Ireland**

Ireland

crafts, etc., but we discovered our gross shortcomings in technology when lockdown came to Ireland in mid-March.

We tried making WhatsApp videos. When my turn came, I recorded a whole Bible lesson without including my head. I worried that the talking torso would distract from the Bible truth, so deleted that one to start again. (I gave myself credit for knowing how to delete it!)

After a few frustrating videos we changed tack. We’ve settled for making a monthly Sunday school pack which each teacher delivers to a number of children. These packs include a Bible lesson with blanks to fill in, a memory verse activity, a handcraft, and another activity

sheet. We check up on each child after a fortnight. It’s a challenge as we’re writing our own materials, but the children love it and we love seeing our Sunday school kids again.

It might be a while before our Sunday school can meet, but we can carry this on for as long as we need to. Meanwhile, it’s back to origami jumping frogs and spotted gingerbread men for the ten plagues of Egypt.

Thankfully, no lockdown in the world can stop the ministry of prayer. I am privileged to share BCM Ireland’s weekly email prayer requests with nearly 100 people who have promised to spend five minutes a week praying for our ministry. If you’d like to be one of these prayer warriors, please contact [Faithe Dancey](mailto:Faithe.Dancey@bcmadmin@bcmireland.ie) at: bcmadmin@bcmireland.ie.

Contain the virus but spread the gospel!



CHEMICAL BROTHERS: Ben and Joel Paget turn to science during the online daily challenge

WHAT do missionaries do with their time when Covid-19 strikes?

A good question you may well ask ... well so did we (*writes IRENE PAGET*).

All of the BCM UK missionary workforce have been busy developing new skills as we faced the challenge of how to effectively continue reaching those young people who were now facing major disruption to their known routine, with no clubs to attend, no sports to enjoy, no friends to meet up with, no school and no camps. What on earth was happening to their known world?

The missionaries prayed, worked hard and began developing Bible Club online.

Northern Ireland produced a Sunday morning slot that the children there could engage with and continued with three online weekly discipleship groups.

Others tried their hand at running live Bible Club on Zoom and over the summer they have successfully run a

full camp programme for six weeks...all online!

In Scotland we produced a 10 day series on The Beatitudes which we ran in April. Then learning from that we pressed ahead with a five day series called Peter the Brave which we ran late June.

Currently we are working on a series based on our BCM's Footsteps of Faith material for Gospels 1 that we are aiming to use as a weekly club over the winter.

England have produced an online camp.

All this has taken much time and energy on behalf of the missionaries and vol-



GOOD MOVE: Our chess challenge

unteers. There has been hours of recording and re-recording. Practice after practice. Admin to ensure we had the correct permissions to put stuff online, places to film, outfits to wear, Zoom meeting after Zoom meeting, suitable backdrops etc.

Yes, your missionaries have been busy and truly thank God for His protection, guidance and help. The way ahead... we do not know but we trust the One who holds the future.

You can access some of our programmes on YouTube: Peter the Brave with BCM and Bee Adventures with BCM.



To pray about...Wisdom in how to contact the children who would normally attend the clubs when we do not hold contact details. This may involve approaching head teachers of the schools we volunteer in.

That the children will readily engage with all future programmes over the winter period.

For wisdom in future planning and effective learning for us as well as those whom God has called us to reach.

FOR God's people, meeting as church has probably been one of the most difficult challenges of lockdown.

Now as restrictions ease, what is the future of the gathered church?

Chryston United Free Church adapted to using online platforms. It was difficult for a very small, largely elderly congregation with less than half having online access.

Additional ways of feeding the

As services resume at Chryston UF Church near Glasgow, Pastor Steve Marr asks if God is telling us it's time to think smaller

people from God's word and pastoral care had to be found

The phone became the lifeline and the postal service provided written (and in some cases recorded) sermons.

And then the opportunity to meet again was at hand! But with that came restrictions. The one that hurt the most - no singing! Would it be possible to meet the demands?

Would it be possible to gather as church?

For a small congregation, this is where lack of size counts! Flexible seating made distancing no problem and two aisles made a one-way system work. All of the boxes were ticked. And so, for the first time in more than four months, 20 people gathered to worship at Chryston UF. While large churches cannot meet the demands placed upon the church, small churches and cell groups can.

Perhaps God has taken drastic measures to show that big is perhaps not always better! There is great value in a small congregation. Maybe there is a lesson to be learned about striving after numbers and outward success. It

may be that growth shouldn't be measured in terms of numbers attending a single service.

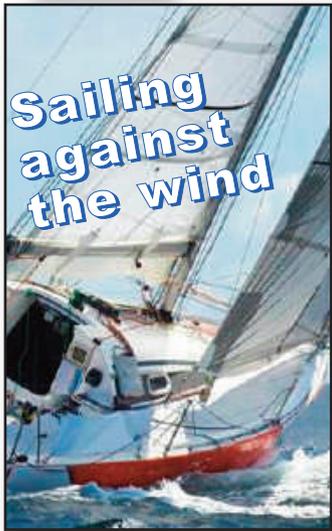
God may be calling us to be flexible and plant smaller gatherings that can adapt far easier to changing circumstances. And while that is true of the worshipping church, it may also be applicable to the wider ministry of BCM too.

Oh, and one last thing - pastoral care. It has restarted in person. Sometimes on the doorstep, sometimes in the street or in the garden.

The key, again, is flexibility. So, don't discount the small. It might just be the way forward in ministry!



Online conference



A VIRUS originating in China has stopped normal life in the UK. Lockdown made a 'face to face' UK and Ireland conference impossible - so we decided to go online with the theme of Sailing Against The Wind.

Whatever the medium, we have a message of love and forgiveness that all need to hear and by the time you read this you will hopefully know of the great group of participants lined up to help us face up to an ever-changing world.

They included Chris Johnston (OM), Prof T McKay (University of Strathclyde), Esther Zimmermann (Lancaster Bible College) and Marty Windle (BCM International President).

As Link Up went to press the BCM staff were also looking forward to sharing a daytime seminar with Keith McCrory, dealing with the problems of conflict.

An evening session was planned for all staff, workers and supporters of BCM. We have long discussed the needs of today's society, and sharing how to answer our critics effectively in love.

I would like to help BCM reach more children with God's word and support its missionaries in their valuable work. Please find enclosed a cheque for:

£.....
payable to BCM UK.

I am a UK taxpayer and wish BCM to reclaim tax on this and my future gifts. I confirm that I pay at least as much income tax or capital gains tax as will be reclaimed by all charities on my donations in each tax year, including community amateur sports clubs. (Please note that other taxes such as council tax and VAT do not qualify).

Please send me a standing order form to set up regular giving from my bank or building society.

I have arranged to leave BCM UK a legacy.

Please send me details of how I can leave BCM UK a legacy.

Name.....

Address.....
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Telephone.....

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Please return to BCM UK, PO Box 668, Weston-super-Mare, North Somerset BS23 9PP

Scotland



Our ladies at 40

By FIONA BLYTH

THIS year saw the 40th anniversary of the ladies weekends with BCM Scotland. The Salutation Hotel in Perth, the oldest running hotel in the country, has been our home for the last few years.

Over the two weekend gatherings we had Esther Zimmerman speaking on the theme of Simplicity.

It was a very fitting title for a ministry that started with a few women getting together to have some rest, relaxation and time with the Lord 40 years earlier.

It was also lovely that her Mum (Sandy Barber) was one of the BCM missionaries who started what was to become our Ladies Weekends along with Margaret Gilvear.

Rebekah, Esther's daughter, came with Mum and Gran, so we had the three generations.

Some of our ladies attend year after year and, like Sandy and Esther, bring their next generation along with them.

The Ladies Weekend is memorable for the lovely way God spoke to each of us, the celebrations on the Saturday evenings, and the previous guest speakers and faithful friends



Roslyn Melville. Esther, her mum Sandy, daughter Rebekah and Irene Paget

of the weekends who were given a cameo role. And, as always, there was free time to explore the Fair City, discover its stores and coffee shops, or simply wander along the banks of the Tay.

Esther spoke of simple rest, grace, trust, gratitude and priorities over the five teaching slots.

The times of discussion, where we could unpack these topics in small groups and pray for one another, also drew us together in a valuable way.

Here's to the next 40!



Esther spoke of rest, grace, trust, gratitude and priorities

Encouragement from Ethiopia



PEACE be upon you. I want to offer a message about what is happening on the earth during this unusual time and what can we learn from our example Jesus Christ. Also to look at what the word of God speaks to us about how to present ourselves as believers.

A believer should know that the Lord is a gentleman and will not do anything without permission or knowledge of the believer.

Hebrews 4:13 and Psalms 139:1-3 remind us that all things are revealed before God, and that God knows everything about our lives. So no matter what situation you are facing, it is not hidden from the Lord. You need to understand that God knows all about your life and He is with you and will be faithful to you. Our place is to stand firm, because that way no one can snatch you out of His hands.

● A believer should know that we should not worry because God is Lord over all.

When Jesus speaks in Matthew 10:29-31 He tells us not to worry. Even a sparrow cannot fall without His knowledge, how much more does God care about you. It is so important to realise this in your life. 2 Chronicles 20:6 also reminds us that God rules over all kingdoms and nations. So why should we worry or be afraid, instead, we need to trust.

● A believer should know that we have an eter-

nal future. In 1 Corinthians 15:19 Paul said: If only we have hope in Christ in this life, we are of all men the most pitiable. We can hope in Christ alone in this life. We were born again through Christ by the hand of the Father, so we have to live like Christ did. We are seated in heavenly places and we have hope for an eternal future. We are designed with eternity in our hearts.

So we need to understand that we are on this earth for a purpose, and that our life here on earth is not the end, but the beginning of our eternal destiny.

● A believer is a solution to the darkness.

Matthew 5: 13-14 tells us that we are salt and light. We are called to shine in the darkness and to be a source of life to those who have lost their way. For people who are worried and struggling, we need to bring a message of salvation. Just as a small amount of salt can change the taste of the whole dish and a little candle can snuff out darkness, so we believers can impact those around us. Even if we do a little bit we can change a lot.

To conclude, be a part of the solution. In the middle of the Lord's prayer, it says that we will be protected from evil, so I say do not worry, rather lean into the promises of God over your life. Amidst these uncertain times, there is an opportunity to impact those around you.

Trust in God and may God bless you.

Fasil is a new member of our BCM family, having married our own Gwen Paget last year.



By Fasil Gashaw



BCM www.bcmireland.ie

www.bcm.org.uk

Reaching Children, Serving Churches

Our vision: For more and more children and young people to know, love and obey God.

BCM is a faith mission. The work is financed through freewill offerings from faithful people whose hearts are touched by God. Any gifts can be sent to BCM International UK (Anchor Trust), PO Box 668, Weston-super-Mare, North Somerset BS23 9PP Tel 07845 174853; Email: office@bcm.org.uk Follow BCM UK on Facebook.

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