

UK and Ireland

LinkUP

Reaching children: Serving churches

Spring 2016



☐ Happy kids living it up at the April mini-camp - or Breakout Holiday as it's now known in their part of the world - at the Windmill Christian Centre in Arbroath. More pictures on centre spread

Tom McKinstry: 1923-2016

A faithful servant

I N 1 Thessalonians 1v2 Paul gives thanks to God for their “work of faith and labour of love and steadfastness in hope in our Lord Jesus Christ”.

These words could have been written for Tom McKinstry - or Uncle Tom as he was affectionately known (*writes LIZ MARR*).

On Friday February 24 Tom went home to be with the Lord and Saviour he had loved and served for nearly 70 years. He started Bible Clubs in Northern Ireland in the 1950s, reaching



many boys and girls for Christ and encouraging others to get involved. He was the instigator of the first Northern Irish camp in 1967.

His evenings and many weekends were taken up with clubs and meetings, while holding down a full-time teaching job.

In 1968 Tom, now married to Joan, felt called to join BCM as a missionary.

Having led camps at different venues for years, when Mullartown House opened in 1978 Tom and Joan were thrilled; more weeks of camp could be held and many more boys and girls would be

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All the fun of the

What makes 130 ladies make their way to Perth every year? Is it the shops? Or maybe the lovely walks along the riverbank? Perhaps it's the amazing food the hotel serves up?

No it's GOD and all He downloads into our lives as we meet every year. The Salutation



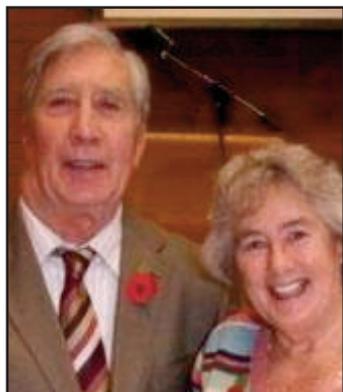
By Irene Paget

Hotel serves as our base and look after us extremely well. The ladies come from all over Scotland, love renewing friendships

and making new ones.

The highlight of our ladies weekends is the teaching from God's word. This year we had Valerie Murphy from Northern Ireland who shared five sessions

'You knew that if Uncle Tom said he would pray for you, then he would'



Tom - or Uncle Tom as he was better known to generations of Bible Clubbers in Northern Ireland - and Joan

From Page One

reached. There must be many in Northern Ireland who can thank God for Tom's faithfulness in clubs, camps and training.

So many people came to know Christ as Saviour through his teaching, and he encouraged many more to begin serving God.

But I also think there must be many who will be forever grate-

ful for Tom's faithfulness in prayer. Tom prayed constantly for all the children he worked with, the people who helped in any way and you knew that if Uncle Tom said he would pray for you, then he would.

There have been many tributes to Tom, all deserved. He was a Christian gentleman, a faithful worker, a loving husband, father and grandfather, and above all, a man of prayer.

Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His faithful servants. Psalm 116:15

Fair City...



on the theme of Wilderness Journeys where we explored God's word in relation to those wilderness times in our lives. We have all been through them and everyone found the sessions extremely relevant, challenging and helpful. GOD was working



'I came to speak and ended up with God speaking and confirming things to me.' V

Small group times were blessed greatly by God. Women found space to share with each other around deeply personal situations and found help from God via the group.



in ALL of our lives and everyone left spiritually encouraged, motivated and enriched from the words GOD gave Valerie for each of us.

Times of prayer and discussion in smaller groups helped to cement everything that was taught.

Shopping, coffee, cake and exploring the Fair City make for a

relaxing Saturday afternoon and later at night when we share in fun and fellowship with various folks entertaining the rest of us we truly prove that Christians can have fun with everyone retiring for the night with a merry heart. Our thanks go to the BCM Ladies Weekend Team who

meet with Fiona and myself throughout the year to prepare and plan for up to two years ahead, but most of all our thanks go to GOD who changes and strengthens us all to return from the weekends more able to live for Him in our daily environs.

'This has been so special...I'm blown away!' A

April Breakout

‘I’M GOING to ask Jesus into my heart when I go home’, was the comment of an excited wee girl as we travelled home from camp.

She had only just started club at the start of this academic year and went on to say that at first she didn't know much about the Bible or Jesus.

“I thought I had learned a lot, but since I came to camp I have learned so much more,” she gushed. “I want to talk to my mum and ask Jesus into my heart.

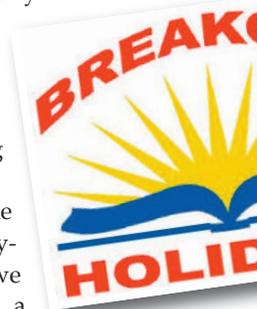
“I want to know why would you keep from telling

me about Jesus, you who are a Christian?”

This was the first of our re-branded Breakout Holidays. New name because so many of the kids coming to camp have no idea of the concept. Many of them, and their parents, thought it meant being in tents!

Our theme was Holydays and we celebrated a Bible festival each day.

Another child there for the first time told his parents that the Bible times were a highlight. He is determined to read the Bible more and wants to learn 10 verses a day! He is only eight or nine but his heart is



You can't lick a BCM Breakout Holiday!



Holiday - Arbroath

on fire for God's word.

We took 40 children with six teenagers as helpers. It was a happy, healthy and accident and injury free four days. Please pray for these children as they go home, that the seeds planted will be nurtured and grow.

If you would like further information about Breakout Holidays this year please contact the Scottish team. Check out the links to Scotland through the BCM website.

And, of course, we are all looking forward to returning to camp at the Windmill Centre in Arbroath in July.

A programme of fun has been laid on for juniors and teens.

FIONA BLYTH





Supporting the mission



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 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 to BCM UK.

I have arranged to leave BCM UK a legacy.

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

Name.....

Address.....

Telephone.....

Email.....

Any further comments

Please return to **BCM UK, 39a Swiss Road, Weston-super-Mare, North Somerset BS23 3AY**

Scottish teen and junior camps take place at Arbroath from July 9 to 15.

English camps are at Barton Camps in Somerset from August 5 to 12.

Northern Ireland: Camps at Mullartown are: July, Kids, 3rd to 9th, Family camp, 10th to 16th,

Please pray for children and staff at BCM camps

Junior Teens, 7th to 23rd, and City Kids, 24th to 30th.

August: Kids, 7th to 13th and 14th to 20th, and Seniors, 21st to 27th.

Hello Life (Lisburn, Street Ministry and five day clubs) July 10 to 16; More dates to be confirmed.

Ireland: Youth Camp, July 10 to 16, Fellowship Work Week, ages 18 and over, July 24 to 30, and Senior Camp, Ages 11 to 14, July 31 to August 6.

Where there's a will...

A legacy to BCM can keep this work alive

IN recent years BCM has been greatly blessed to have received several legacies that have enabled the work of the mission to move forward and our missionaries to be better supported.

Here are some examples of how legacy money has been used:

- To subsidise camp fees for campers who could otherwise not afford to attend.
- To assist missionaries with purchases of laptops and data projectors to use at clubs and in day to day preparation.
- To assist missionaries with the cost of attending BCM conferences.
- To supply Bibles to campers at reduced costs.

Could you be a part of BCM's future ministry and work among children and their Bible teachers? The gift of a legacy would enable more children to hear God's word and would help BCM to support our missionaries in their valuable work.

By David White

If you feel able to help us in this vital ministry, please use the response form opposite to indicate that you have left BCM a legacy or would like advice on how to do so. This form can also be used for one-off or regular gifts.

We can also take online donations securely through our website at www.bcm.org.uk/donate

Our financial officer, Alan Thomas, is available at our Weston office on Thursdays if you would like to discuss financial issues. You can call him on 01934 413484 or email him on finance@bcm.org.uk



From the editor

Hello - and I hope you are enjoying this second edition of your new-look Link Up.

Thanks for the many kind comments and helpful suggestions which were made about the last issue.

This all began to take shape after a brainstorming night involving myself, my wife Fiona and Liz Marr. We came up with various ideas to brighten the magazine and hopefully give it a more professional look.

But Link Up can only be as good as its content so please send us your news, photos, in fact anything you want to share with the BCM family and its partners.

Contact me at Alister.Blyth@BCM.org.uk

Our BCM UK and Ireland conference will run from Thursday September 8 to Monday September 12. We'd love to see you there. Pray too as we think and plan ahead

The Lord lives

GREETINGS to a BCM family which at Easter celebrated the greatest victory of all time!

We in Ireland recently celebrated St Patrick's Day, remembering the message of the good news of Christ being brought to this island. However, the celebrations were hijacked by many others to promote their own agenda, one that has nothing to do with Christianity. This year we had another celebration - The Easter Rising - probably the largest celebration this state has ever organised.

On first take it sounds great, unfortunately it has nothing to do with the Easter we as Christians celebrate, but rather the 100th anniversary of the 1916 Easter Rising here in Ireland, where a small number of rebels took up arms against British rule.

There have been many de-

By Richard Thompson

bates over different aspects of it including the morality or wisdom of it in the first place.

I got tired listening to it, but the real sad thing is I did not hear, even once, anyone in the media mention the true meaning of Easter.

Many of the debates over the 1916 Rising caused anger and division but what does Luke tell us of those on the road to Emmaus? They



□ Richard and Joan Thompson

asked each other: "Were not our hearts burning within us while He talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?" Luke 24:32

Marty recently reminded us of Romans 8:34-37 and the fact that in all things we are more than conquerors through Him Who loved us.

So as our understanding has been opened up, keep our focus on the scriptures, let us be witnesses of the joy of, and always celebrate, the real reason for Easter.

He is Risen indeed!

Where,
O death, is your
victory? Where,
O death, your sting?
The sting of death is sin,
and the power of sin is the law.
But thanks be to our God!
He gives us the victory
through our Lord Jesus
Christ! 1 Cor 15:55-56.