

YWAM Newsletter



"Wisdom is supreme; therefore get wisdom. Though it cost all you have, get understanding. Esteem her and she will exalt you; embrace her and she will honour you." - Proverbs 4: 7-8

"Man created in the image of God is called upon to re-create the world in the likeness of the vision of God." - Abraham Heschel

Youth With A Mission seeks to be a real force for change on this island. We are made up of people from many different continents and nations living in a rapidly changing Ireland. From the Belfast skyline, to the ethnic backgrounds of the kids who attend our local schools, to the average person's perception of God and Christians: this is a different world and a different Ireland.

The above passage from Proverbs reminds us that we desperately need wisdom as we seek to be part of re-creating our cities, towns, and villages in line with the vision of God. We continue to be committed to being an incarnational message in some of the most troubled parts of Northern Ireland. But our vision is also that from these shores will come multitudes of pray-ers, and activists seeking to bring God's peace to some of the darkest corners of the earth. Already this year we have sent a team to Serbia and Bosnia in the midst of the protests over Kosovo's sovereignty. By the time you read this we will have a team in Beirut, Lebanon doing forgiveness work, two teams in various parts of India, and a team that will be in both Burundi and Rwanda. The Burundi team will be furthering the process of planting a permanent YWAM work there. So this newsletter comes with greetings from our staff in Belfast, Bujumbura, Kigali, Kashmir, Beirut, Calcutta, and Banbridge!

We so value the friendship and support of those who have stood with us over the years. Please continue to remember us in your prayers!

Peace,
Jonny Clark

UPCOMING EVENTS

Faith & Conflict Conference in Belfast June 22 - 26

Go Ireland! Short Term Mission Trip to South Africa August 3 - 18

Discipleship Training School in Closkelt
29 September 2008 - 22 March 2009

Reconciliation Discipleship Training School in Belfast
2 November 2008 - 22 May 2009

Discipleship Training School in Closkelt
January 2009 - July 2009

Forgiveness Education Association

-A new and independent charity-

For 3 years, YWAM NI has been partnering with the International Forgiveness Institute in bringing Forgiveness education to over a dozen primary and secondary schools in and around Belfast. In the last 2 years, 'the Forgiveness Programme' has been developed through YWAM, making a great impact on those who have benefited from its profound simplicity and depth whether in state, Catholic, or integrated primary and secondary schools. In 2007, several hundred young people went through the 6 week programme, learning about the stages of forgiveness. In 2008, that number will exceed 500 pupils.

YWAM's Forgiveness Programme owes most of its success and development to Pádraig Twomey, a YWAMer for 15 years. In May 2008, YWAM's Forgiveness Programme will become a separate, independent charity called the Forgiveness Education Association. It will be run by Pádraig and assisted by Becki Fulmer.

YWAM is excited to continue working with the Forgiveness Education Association as a missions partner. Our hope is that through this partnership, we will heighten our effectiveness and increase the number of young people impacted by the simple message of 'loving our neighbour'.

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NORTHERN IRELAND AND SOUTH AFRICA - PARTNERSHIP IN ACTION



Vusi Kweyama is from Durban, South Africa and he's here in Northern Ireland doing a DTS in Closkelt. YWAM is pleased to be raising funds to cover the costs of his training here. It is an opportunity for Vusi to take time out from his

hectic schedule, to 'renew his strength', and to give him a wider perspective of the world and his faith.

In and out of prison from the age of 15, Vusi believed he was born a criminal and had no hope for the future. It wasn't until 2002, upon his release from prison again at the age of 24, that he first gained hope for his life.

The day after being discharged from prison, Vusi enrolled in a life skills development program, run by World Changers, with the intention of stealing all the computers. But his life changed at the beginning of the course when he heard Jesus' message of hope, and it changed his life forever. He immediately became passionate about teaching life skills to others like him and he invited criminal offenders into his home, training them in the same life skills he had acquired. Believing that all people are created for a purpose gave Vusi hope - a hope he wanted to pass along to others. Since 2003, Vusi has trained over 1000 people in life skills while working with World Changers, coordinating their life skills programmes and running

the community centre. Vusi has since started his own organization in 2005 called Light Providers, in partnership with World Changers. Because of the success rate of Vusi's programmes, which teach life skills but also address other issues such as health, as 50% of the population is infected with HIV, the courts in Durban now discharge criminal offenders directly into his care for education and training.

Vusi is very thankful for the opportunity to come to Northern Ireland and do a DTS. Since being here, he has realized that South Africa and Northern Ireland have similar histories. What he has learned about reconciliation here, he will be able to apply in South Africa. He is excited to see reconciliation occur in his native country.

Upon his return to South Africa in August, Vusi will be hosting a short term YWAM team from Northern Ireland in his native Durban to help with a variety of programmes. For information on how to be a part of the team working with Vusi in August, or to have him speak at your church, school, etc. (until mid-July), please contact our office at 028 4067 1919 or email us at: info@ywamni.com.

Right: Vusi teaching in South Africa



BURUNDI BOUND



Alison Gill, serving in Burundi

Alison Gill is English and a student on our R-DTS in Belfast. Over the last 10 years God has put an increasingly strong burden on her heart to work in Burundi, a nation that has seen well over a decade of civil war and genocide. Two years ago she heard about YWAM Belfast and our desire to help see a long term work birthed in that nation. She therefore came to be part of our school and is now on outreach in Burundi. She will be returning to staff with us next year in Belfast and will be preparing to go long term to Burundi to be part of a team of people that will begin a work there. She has trained in post-trauma counseling and inner healing at university and hopes to use these skills to bring real change to this beautiful but often forgotten nation, which literally means 'the other place'.

Did you know that over the past year, YWAM NI has...

- sent outreach teams to Rwanda & Burundi, Ireland, Serbia & Bosnia, India, Lebanon, and China
- had 35 DTS students from 9 countries on 4 continents
- sponsored 5 international DTS students from Palestine and South Africa
- worked with youth in Banbridge, Belfast & Tandragee, ran breakfast clubs on the lower Shankill, worked with the Girls' Brigade in Closkelt and Night Reach in Banbridge, taken Forgiveness teaching to over 20 schools in Belfast, and partnered with churches and local organisations to provide support in cross-community work.

