



**December
2009**

From Dromore Youth for Christ

Hello and welcome to our update on all the things that have been going on recently at Dromore Youth for Christ. It certainly has been a busy time for us and yet for various reasons we have fewer full-time staff on the ground than we have had for quite some time, so apologies that we haven't sent you a newsletter for a while. Between schools work, supporting local church ministries and intensive mentoring and pastoral roles with individuals, God has been guiding, blessing and challenging our staff and volunteers to become a more tangible expression of His love to our town. In this newsletter we will be looking at just a few of the things we have been up to from the summer time, so grab a mince pie and a nice hot drink, and please join us in praising God for the opportunities He has given to us. - Cheryl Baillie x

React 2:21... Our detached street ministry continues strongly on Tuesday and Friday nights in Dromore Town Square. This work has helped us make connections with people who need help as our volunteers stand so visibly, whether it was to help a man get a warm bed duvet over the winter months, supply a young lad with a bible that he wanted, connect another young lad to an alpha course or listen to the problems many people in our town are struggling with (sometimes into the wee small hours). Recently this ministry has been given a mention a couple of times in our local newspaper from those in local authorities who see the benefit of it and we give thanks that our local police have come behind us in a big way, providing free transport for trips with the young people we are engaging with. Please continue to pray for this ministry, that God will provide further connections with our community and that our React 2:21 team will see people come to Christ through their work.

In addition... 6 of us were able to take the React 2:21 van and support 3 ministries in the Republic of Ireland in July. Brae, Tuam and Galway city all saw our van trundle in. We had a great time running kids holiday bible clubs, Djing on the streets, helping to paint Brae's drop-in centre and even doing a spot of singing outreach! We realised quickly though that God was simply calling us to be an encouragement for our brothers and sisters who are working all year round in those areas and to pray for their work. It was a really great time, and some of the kids we worked with really stole our hearts. One boy in particular in Galway was 7 year old Jamie. His Dad was in prison and on one of the days we were there his mum left the house without telling him where she was going. The hours ticked by when he realised it was time to come to our programme, so he decided to walk the 1.5 miles to the church by himself. That day through Jamie's tears we had an opportunity to tell him about God's love for him. Truly special.

Pray for...

People to come to faith

Our Board members who are currently forming our next 3 yr vision

Our staff and volunteers to be wise, discerning and led by God in all situations

For more monthly supporters to replace the few we have lost

YFC Summer Camp

In August we took 17 of our young people to YFC's first ever summer camp. We joined young people from YFC work in Killyleagh, Ballysillan and the Ormeau Road for an incredible week of fun with quad biking, canoeing, rock-climbing, zorbing, high ropes courses, zip lines, archery, clay pigeon shooting to name but a few of the activities! Each night we also had an interactive discovery of what the Bible says about life. For some of our group this was difficult at the beginning as many have a distinct suspicion of 'religion' but after a few chats, all of them loved the evening focus by the end. Only 2 weeks ago I was chatting to a couple of the young people who went to camp with us and they sincerely said that camp was one of the best weeks of their lives. Many more of our young people would like to opportunity to go to Camp in 2010. Each young person needs to fundraise £150 to go, so if you think you would be able to contribute (or indeed hold a fundraiser of your own for this) then please get in touch with Cheryl at cherylbase@hotmail.com.



Romance Academy!

Following on from Summer Camp, David and Cheryl were able to run what is called a Romance Academy. Originally run in London and shown on a BBC2 documentary, Romance Academy is a 12 week project supporting and mentoring 12 young people as they build their self-esteem enhanced by sexual delay. We had an amazing time working with 6 boys and 6 girls in this intensive programme which included electronic babies, confidence building outdoor pursuits, critical thinking about social trends and a look at abortion. We had moments of intense honesty and vulnerability within the group about deep rooted pain, emotions, fears and questions about life, as well as times of immense hilarity. The group grew so close, and whilst reading some of the things they wrote in each other's memory books at the close of the project, I was moved by their encouragement and perceptiveness towards one another. At their graduation ceremony on Monday 21st December, all of the young people spoke of how they have grown in self-confidence, self-esteem and the ability to weigh up decisions and not go along with the crowd. I was also moved when speaking to some of their parents and hearing about how they have seen differences in their children as a result of the project! It was a great time with a great bunch of young people and we hope to run further Academies in the future.



Kidsfest...

Our monthly children's ministry held in Dromore Central Primary for all kids in P4-P7 has also been going really well. This year we are looking at God's promises and so far have seen how God promises to rescue us, protect us and speak to us when we cry out to Him. The children's faith in God and enthusiasm to live for Him is such an encouragement. I was speaking to one Mum who said her son couldn't stop talking about Jesus whenever he left Kidsfest one Saturday and had great fun talking to a groups of P6s who got so excited about our bible story about Elisha that they told me they had to go home and read the story for themselves! Our next Kidsfest takes place on Saturday 23rd January from 2.30pm-4pm so please pray for this work and let any children you know about it. We would also love to have a couple of more volunteers for this work, so if you have a heart to share God's kingdom with children and are free for one Saturday a month, then please contact us.



Finally...

Some of you are already aware but so that all our supporters are kept in the loop, we want to take this opportunity to let you know that both David and myself feel that God is calling us to finish our time with Dromore Youth for Christ at the end of next summer. We have absolutely loved the past 5-6 years from initially volunteering to both of us sitting on the Board for a time before both then being called as staff members. Our hearts are still passionate about the work that Dromore YFC is doing and we know that it will be so difficult to say goodbye to so many good friends and young people next summer. However, we do trust in God and believe He knows what is best for both us and Dromore YFC. Where He is leading us hasn't been 100% confirmed but it does look like He is taking us overseas with Operation Mobilisation, a missionary group that I have previously served with. Please pray for us in this, that we follow God wherever He leads and that we will be able to raise the support for both of us to go. Pray too for the Board of Dromore YFC as they seek to know what God has for the ministry in regards to staffing.

We can already praise God though for allowing Amanda to return to us as a full-time staff member. Amanda has been interning with us now for 2 years and after hearing God's call on her life to stay here on a more permanent basis, has been accepted as a YFC USA staff member who will be sent to Dromore as a missionary. Amanda is currently at home in the USA raising financial support. Please pray that the funds will be provided and praise God that she was able to secure the necessary visa. Already God has been so good in the connections He has provided Amanda, but there is still a way to go before she will be able to return to us in Dromore. If you would like to contribute to Amanda's support, then please contact our chairman Chris Rankin at oneder07@hotmail.com.

Finally, as it's already that time of year again, all of us from Dromore Youth for Christ would like to wish you and your family a wonderful Christmas and a peaceful New Year. Thank you so much for your support! May God bless you x