



## BCM NI PRAYER WALL

### Bubbles

for more leaders  
We need another 2 strong  
Female role models.

### Deeper

will start meeting  
in Mullartown and  
BCM Centre

### Finance

for help with funds  
for sports hall and  
new kitchen

### Mullartown

for when the time comes  
when we can open and  
wisdom for day group use

### City Kids

Pray for an opportunity to  
connect with the kids at the  
time of our October reunion

### City Teens

continued fruit for  
the teams labour  
especially salvation

### New Bible Club

West Belfast starting  
Friday evenings off  
the back of Hello Life

### Oaks

both boys and leaders  
would grow in our love and  
knowledge of God

### Stoneyford & Ballygowan Bible Clubs

hopefully starting in  
October at some point

### Candy Bible Club

decisions on  
starting up again

### BCM Centre in Lisburn

pray for manpower and resources to help  
turn the garden into a usable outdoor space  
for ministries who use the centre

## Congratulations

to Board member Judith Reid on  
becoming Mrs Judith Girvan  
over the summer.  
God's richest blessings  
to both you and Trevor.

*"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing,  
give thanks in all circumstances;  
for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus  
for you"*

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

# inform

NEWSLETTER  
BCM NORTHERN IRELAND

October 2020  
Issue No.16

## Limited humans, an unlimited God

Restrictions. Guidelines. Face masks. Social distancing. The limiting of our day-to-day freedom in order to stop the spread of a highly contagious virus has brought into focus a fact which has been true since the beginning of time: humans are limited. We have always lived with restrictions – hunger, thirst, tiredness, illness, finite mental capacity, to name but a few. But being part of a western, relatively prosperous, and largely free society has often lulled us into an over-inflated view of our own capabilities. Even in our Christian ministry we easily forget our human limitations and inadvertently begin to believe that we are responsible for saving the world.

Moses made this mistake: talented, wealthy and educated, he embarked on his own plan to save his people, and failed miserably. By the time he was 80 he had no resources of his own, he was a poor shepherd in a foreign land, with no ambitions to be the saviour of the Israelites. That's when God speaks to him from a bush and reminds him, "I AM that I AM" and "I will be with you". He is the transcendent God, unlimited in His capabilities, and He is asking Moses to be part of His plan, not to come up with His own.

Covid has stripped us of many of our sources of strength,

and highlighted our limitations, but that will not be a bad thing if it leads us to rely more fully on our unrestricted God, and to ask Him to allow us the privilege of being part of **His** plan.

### THE WAY FORWARD

At BCM NI we have watched with thanksgiving and amazement as God has made the path ahead clear, little by little, over the past 6 months. We have been hugely encouraged by Virtual Camp and Hello Life, and enjoyed meeting with our fellow workers from across the UK and Ireland at a recent BCM conference.

The leaders of the Oaks and Bubbles discipleship groups have been working hard to keep in touch with their young people and are hoping to meet face-to-face as often as possible this autumn. The City Teens team met with groups of their campers at the start of September, providing opportunities to share from the Bible, and to strengthen relationships with the young people, some of whom are now in their 20s. Our Bible Club leaders are currently considering how they can connect with their children in coming months, and a new club, following on from Hello Life Belfast, is underway in West Belfast.

Although we are unsure what the next 6 months will hold, we are confident that our God is not limited by a pandemic, and that He will lead us forward. Our desire continues to be to see children and young people engage meaningfully with the Bible; please pray with us for opportunities to open up in the months ahead.

**Judith Rogers**  
CEO BCM NI

*The Board is extremely grateful to all those who, faced with the challenge of Covid 19, didn't consider doing nothing as an option! We praise God for Jason and Gemma who, along with the Programme Directors and their teams, devised and ran an alternative camp for eight weeks; and similarly, Judith, Scott and Joanna and their teams for four weeks of Hello Life! We are deeply grateful to all of them for their vision, hard work and commitment in serving Christ in this amazing way over the summer.*



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## Reflections on our Internship

Going into the internship I didn't entirely know what to expect, however the year was packed with memories, challenges & lessons. One of my favourite aspects of the internship was the weekends, where we got to meet lots of new people and help them out. The weekends that stood out most to me were the Kids Reunion weekend and the Moira Primary SU weekend. This weekend was special because I got to spend time with the kids as a dorm leader and help out with their quiet times. It was a real encouragement to talk with the kids about how to live out their faith, as well as spending time in prayer with them. The boys engaged in conversation and asked loads of questions, which was great to see. Although it was challenging at times to settle the boys, it was clear that as the weekend progressed God was working in the boys' hearts.

**Nathanael McIlveen**



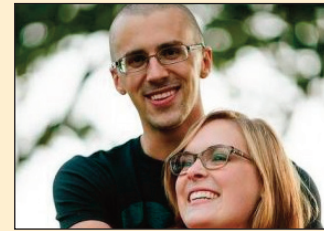
I loved my year as an intern with BCM. There were many challenges, not least of all the coronavirus outbreak, but by God's grace, His Word was able to go forth despite the challenges faced. I enjoyed every aspect of the internship, from schools' work to practical tasks to getting involved with a local church. I especially enjoyed Oaks and the relationships I was able to build up with the lads every Monday night to encourage them in their faith.

Gemma, Jason, Emily, and Nathanael were all a real encouragement to me in my faith and it was great craic to work alongside them. The thing I learned most was to trust God because He is always in control. Things may not always go our way, but it is all a part of His plan! Thank you to Gemma, Jason and the BCM NI Board for allowing me to serve God in this ministry.

**Jonny Dodds**



## Missionary Updates



Hello from Kutztown, Pennsylvania! Like most of the world, our lives have been unpredictable and far less structured these past months than we would have liked, causing us to be reminded even more than usual of the need to rely wholly on the Lord and His perfect plans. Between three moves and all the chaos of Covid-19, Rachael is back at university to finish her degree this Autumn, while Nate continues to be involved in BCM USA's mobilization work while also gearing up for support raising and visiting with supporting churches and individuals.

Nate had the opportunity to complete a EMT (Ambulance Crew) course this summer and is looking for



What a year this has been! Everything turned on its head. Schools, business, church, community and definitely ministry. Our recent life chapter is not that much different from yours. Over the past several months we have had to reinvent what our ministry looks like and how we carry out our calling. Frustration and uncertainty is lurking

opportunities to serve our community using those new skills. The certification also provides some potential options for extending a stay in the UK in the future.

We are hoping and praying for the door to be open for us to return to Northern Ireland early in 2021 to resume work with BCM there. The state of the world certainly throws a great deal of uncertainty and doubt into our plans, but we are trusting that God will both make clear the path we are to take and provide for all the challenges that will ensue.

We would appreciate your prayers as we navigate these decisions and look to be fruitful in the place God has us now. It's been great being able to build relationships and share the hope of the gospel with our neighbours and students at university.

**Pray also that we would both fix our eyes on Christ through these coming months, whatever they hold.** **Nate & Rachael Heater**

around the corner. BUT God has made a way forward in ministry by opening up new opportunities to serve people. BUT God has given us the means of corporate worship though the marvels of technology. BUT God continues to provide for our daily needs. Don't bother asking what tomorrow holds because I don't know...BUT God does!

*But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved. Ephesians 2:4-5*

**Scott & Joanna Widman**



Hey from a sunny Mullartown House (well this afternoon it is).

After an extremely busy summer we along with the Board thought it would be a good idea to use September as a furlough month - so we haven't been so involved at camp but got a number of things done round our own house.

Ethan has turned the big 6 (today) and has started Primary 2 and Caleb has started Nursery both at Annalong Primary. Both boys love school - maybe not always for the academic side but love meeting friends, playing and getting up to things they shouldn't be.

Bubbles starts back this Tuesday (29 Sept) and we are excited about getting started up - meeting to face to face. It has been strange because of the length of time we have been off. This year we are meeting in smaller groups and looking at "His plan is perfect and his heart is good." Please pray for the girls and leaders who have signed up.

**Pray for the future as there is still uncertainty as to when Mullartown will be able to open for weekend retreats.**

**Jason & Gemma Hill**



## Carryduff

"All things work together for good according to God's purpose." In the face of COVID restrictions, and even a rainstorm, God gave us a great opportunity for the Hello Life team to proclaim the gospel to the community of Carryduff. After a revitalizing time of prayer each morning, we ran a Bible club for local youth, followed by a variety of socially distant evangelistic events, including a community barbecue, a film showing and live streamed testimony services. I am thankful that not only did these events go smoothly, but that I was part of an amazing team of believers whose passion for the work inspired me even after the week was complete. The seed has been sown.

**Please pray with us that God will reap the harvest in His time.**

**James Gailey**



## Lurgan, Belfast and Lisburn

During three weeks of Hello Life teams in Lurgan, Belfast and Lisburn we were able to go door to door, in Mourneview Lurgan, the Divis and Moyard areas in West Belfast, and to the kids who attended the CandY club in Lisburn during the year. We were able to hand out adult's and children's packs with tea bags, biscuits, bouncy balls, activity books for the children and John's Gospel for the adults. It was great to be able to go round and be encouraged by the people we talked to, and as a team to be able to spend time praying for the people that we had met. We were also able to make testimony videos for the BCM Facebook

page. With some restrictions being eased we were also able to run two kids' clubs in both Dunville Park and Moyard Park in Belfast. It was great to be able to spend time telling children about God, not even social distancing or the rain was able to put the children off from coming. In Belfast an Explore course also ran in Apsley Hall which was a challenge to both the team members and those who attended. During all three weeks we were also able to get our hands dirty by working in the BCM Centre's garden, helping to do some work at the Faith Mission bookshop in Lurgan and painting a garden fence in Lisburn.

**Warren Glenny**



## year at Mullartown

Hey guys, just want to start by saying thank you for all your support this last year, I have loved (almost) every part of my year.

One highlight was definitely being involved with middle age group at Bubbles and getting to know those girls each week and see them grow so much in their love and enthusiasm for each other and for God!

Another highlight would have to be the Kids/Merge reunion weekend, getting to see campers again and run the

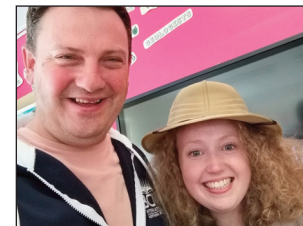
programme was amazing.

One of the things I found most challenging was probably trying to balance my time so I got everything done as best as I could and also finding ways to make talks more engaging whenever we swapped to virtual methods. Not being able to chat to the kids normally was something that I really missed. (Ooh... also in challenges let's just say I won't be rushing to rip out and concrete a floor anytime soon, being a tiny 5ft 1 weaking didn't always lend itself well to

shovelling stones!!)

One of the main things that sticks out from all I've learnt this year has to be relying on God 100% for everything and just the reminder that He is totally sovereign over everything that was going on and every talk that happened. And just really remembering that nothing we do is seeking glory for ourselves but rather we should be striving to glorify God in everything!

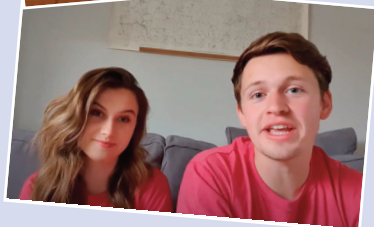
**Emily Kane**



## What's next for Mullartown?

With current restrictions we have no groups staying at camp - but we are taking this time to complete some essential maintenance including grounds work, cleaning carpets, storage areas under the barn and a new kitchen (see attached leaflet). It would be unfair for an intern to come only for maintenance during this uncertain time with ministry in schools grounding to a halt and opportunities being limited. However if you are at a loose end and could help with a project please do get in touch and we can see how you can help!

# VIRTUALCAMP



**Hard to believe but that is Summer 2020 complete, 8 full fun packed weeks with plenty of laughs along the way.**

Amazing to see the statistics of over 21,000 views on videos produced over the Summer Camps.

Each week we had a committed team of volunteers throwing themselves into everything to help the campers catch a little glimpse of Mullartown House and God's love.

Along our journey this year we looked at Paul - and looking back it was totally the right decision and taught us all a lesson! How he became converted, trials he faced and the strength he had to take the gospel to many places.

Each week it was amazing to see the campers' faces light up as boxes were being delivered; rather than campers coming to Mullartown we had the opportunity to take Mullartown into the homes of many people.

We are so thankful for the amazing team of Programme Directors and volunteers that we have behind us, who have stepped outside their comfort zone and reinvented camp.

**Here are some reflections from this year's campers...  
Jason & Gemma Hill**



My family have been holidaying at Mullartown for 6 years, enjoying every moment. The three of us have met a lot of amazing people over the years.

The day before Virtual Camp Jason Hill called to everyone's house with large boxes (one for children and one for adults) filled with everything needed for the week at camp with very clear instructions - this even included the glorious cakes we are used to eating there!

Virtual camp had everything that Family Camp has including a morning workout with 'Mario and Luigi' (hilarious), barn time with singing, prayers and Bible study. Following this there was a morning hobby where we had activities like cooking, photography, dancing

and crafts to name but a few. Afternoons consisted of more activities and hobbies including origami, lego challenge, magic tricks, painting, science experiments and sports day (all instructions, ingredients and equipment provided in packs). Evenings were saved for barn time with skits, singing and the famous missionary story which our family looked forward to every night. This was followed by a nightly activity, including a photo challenge, quiz, hunt the leader and a side-splitting talent show, amongst other fun-filled things to do. Another daily event was Nite Lite - this was a talk with Gemma Hill for the adults where she spoke from the heart about her daily walk with the Lord.

We had our yearly 'Ladies'

Night' where beauty packs and crafts for the mums were provided. We also had movie night (with treats!) and of course our last night camp fire songs (complete with smores) to toast on our own fire. We were encouraged to take photos and make videos of our family participating in the activities and it was so lovely to watch all the families taking part in the daily 'Mullartown News.'

It was unfortunate we could not spend our week with the other families, however, virtual camp kept us busy in the most enjoyable way all week. And it was so lovely to see our friends in the meet up in Hillsborough.

**Janice Anderson  
Family Camp**

## BRINGING MULLARTOWN TO YOUR HOME

When my mum first mentioned to me about Merge week during lockdown I was very unsure. I was so fed up with Zoom and online learning I really didn't think I would have enjoyed it as much as I did.

Everything was organised for us on an app and I was even able to do it with my friends, and also see what the others were getting up to! We all received a box of goodies before it started which was very exciting although I

couldn't open most of the packages until I was told to. My favourite part of the virtual camp was probably the water fight as I did it with a few of my friends and after we had a fire pit and s'mores! We still did barn twice a day and this really allowed me to grow in my faith! Thank you to everyone for making this amazing week possible!

**Gracie Millar  
Merge Camp**



This summer we did Senior Teens for the first time. Despite it being a different year we enjoyed it! We particularly enjoyed PEAK and dorm times where we opened God's Word and came together to share and talk about what we read and what God was saying to each of us. We loved evening barn times where we heard from the leaders about Paul's life from Acts. We were both encouraged in our faith and in our walk with God. The activities ranged from

a garden gameshow to evening activities like zumba, bingo, a quiz night and a talent show. It was great craic meeting up with our friends to do the activities together! A big thanks to all the leaders who put so much effort into making Seniors such a great week and we can't wait for next year to hopefully be able to meet at Mullartown House again!

**Ben & Lucy Andrews  
Senior Teens camp**



Due to coronavirus we had to do summer camp virtually. We did a selection of activities ranging from crafts, baking and even building! (with LEGO™) Our favourite activity was making pizzas. It was fun choosing what toppings to put on it, and there was a fun game bundled with the ingredients to play whilst they baked. We learned about Paul's journey to becoming a Christian and what it is like to be

a Christian, how it isn't easy and how it is worth it in the end. We also got to go to Ormeau Park to see some leaders and some of the other campers. We did some (social distanced) activities. Virtual camp was fun, we really enjoyed it but can't wait for next year to have camp happen normally, and to see everyone again.

**Jamillah & Jamal Toriola  
City Kids Camp**

