

Missionary Updates...



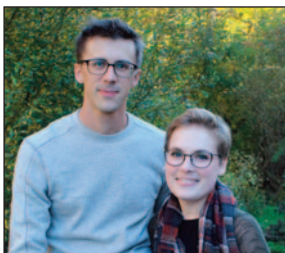
Scott & Joanna Widman celebrate 20 years of service in Northern Ireland with BCM

Scott & Joanna

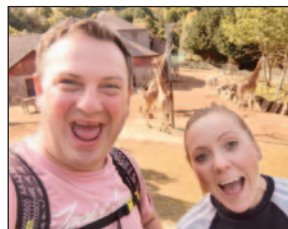
The autumn and early winter have been filled with maintenance, gardening, baking, cleaning and other practical ways of supporting those around us. Opportunities to encourage believers, and to share the gospel with unbelievers, have emerged from many of these interactions. We have also been supporting our Bible Clubs and Discipleship Groups as they have tried to keep in contact with their members. We are now back in the USA for an extended furlough. Along with the usual deputation, we are supporting a number of family members who are struggling with health issues, and eagerly awaiting the arrival of our first grandchildren!

Nate & Rachael

Four years ago, we were preparing to move to Northern Ireland for the first time, excited about what the Lord had in store for us and nervous about all the changes ahead. Now, in January 2021, we are once again working through the logistics and paperwork for a transatlantic move, still eager (and a bit nervous) to re-join in all the Lord is doing in NI. In the meantime, as we prepare, Rachael has completed her university degree, Nate is working with a local ambulance service, and we both continue to be involved in BCM USA's work in the ways we are able. Pray for us as we move closer to returning and continue to seek out the Lord's will for each step of the way!



**Do you have experience in accounts or book-keeping?
Could you volunteer with BCM NI for a few hours
per week? You could be a real help to the Ministry!
If so please contact the BCM NI office 028 9260 3864.**



Jason & Gemma

Taking stock we are very thankful for all the encouragement, prayer and financial support we have been shown over this past year at Mullartown.

We have been kept busy with practical tasks ongoing at camp, **Bubbles** meeting in person and online, with church life - Youth Fellowship and Sunday School, and now with homeschooling.

Currently we are making plans for Summer Camp 2021, thinking about the theme and talks, and hoping to launch it at Easter.

Pray for Gemma who is carrying our third child, due in May 2021, God willing. So far everything is going well.

We would appreciate your prayers over all these things.

NEWSLETTER *inform* BCM NORTHERN IRELAND

February 2021

Issue No.17

Updating Mullartown

Hard to believe the last weekend group we had here at Mullartown was 15 March 2020. Very strange having no campers running about, late night glow stick hunts, groups arriving full of energy for a mighty weekend and leaving tired and exhausted but with a smile on their face of great memories.

We are very glad we have received peace over the closure during the pandemic.

We have been trying not to get discouraged at not being able to open and not having interns or people generally about Mullartown. We find ourselves constantly needing to turn to God for hope and reassurance.

In Philipians 1:6 it tells us "I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ." We have been called to a ministry at Mullartown House and have been encouraged to look at different ways to minister to kids and young people.

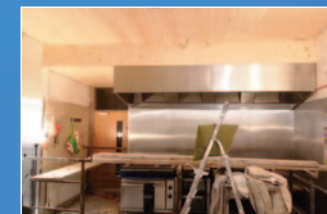
We felt led to open **Mullartown Live** up during half term for a 5 day club looking at the invitation Jesus calls us to, and then again for a 'Christmas Mullartown Special' looking at Jesus coming to be the Light of the World. We received over 800 views for these two sets of **Mullartown Live** which is amazing. A lot of our summer volunteers were involved for which we are very thankful.

Since October we have had **Bubbles** and **Oaks** meet in person during the times when restrictions allowed them to, which the young people have just loved.

During this time of closure we have been using the time wisely to do much needed **maintenance work**. This has included repainting the walls, roof and skirting in Meelbeg, Meelmore and Ben Crom (three of the most used dorms at camp which can't be closed off during weekends). We are also repainting the metal bunks in these dorms and planning to replace the carpets too.

Storage has always been an issue and one of those jobs we constantly have on the list and never get round to - so we have been able to put shelves in the sports hall sports cupboard, in peak (under the barn) and in the attic.

The major project we have taken on is the refurb of the **kitchen** - this has included removal of the units and the ceiling and we have now put in a new wooden ceiling with recessed lights. A new window



is going to be installed, new fitted kitchen units, including an island, new electrics and splashbacks are on the list too so hopefully by end of February it will be completed. We are very pleased to say we have received the full finances required to complete the kitchen project and want to thank everyone who contributed to that: God is good.

Ongoing **outdoor jobs** are being worked on as well, in order keep the grounds looking well.

So all in all we are continually thankful for God's provision of safety, supplies just when we need them, and a real peace through this time.

Jason and Gemma Hill
Mullartown Camp Directors



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Connection It's what we have all craved during this pandemic. How grateful we are that our connection with Jesus is never in jeopardy. But connection with others is often instrumental in strengthening our relationship with our Saviour. We have been privileged to facilitate some small group Bible studies in recent months, face-to-face when possible, online at other times. What a joy for teenagers, ladies, believers, and unbelievers, to meet around the Word of God during these times when hope is in short supply.

Judith Rogers CEO BCM NI

Virtual CandY and CandYouth

The Bible says in Ephesians 5:16 'to make the best use of our time, for the days are evil.' So with the restrictions of lockdown, we decided on a 5-week virtual programme for the autumn based on the parables. We put out a video on the BCM app every week for the kids to watch and interact with. We prepared packs which included materials to make a weekly craft. We encouraged the parents to send in videos and photos of the children saying the memory verse and making their crafts to use in the video going out the following week. It was lovely to get photos of the kids participating at home for these videos.

As restrictions loosened again, we were able to meet in person with 8 of the older kids (CandYouth) in the BCM Centre and go through the Christianity Explored course for youth. This was very different to what the kids would have been used to at CandY club as it was more of a small group Bible study. They were very enthusiastic and it was lovely to see their desire to learn more about Jesus!

We were so pleased that the kids engaged with the content we put out every Friday and are actively praying for all the children at CandY as they go about their individual lives.

Andrew Smith



Bubbles & Oaks

Hey, my name is Katie Annett. I'm 13 years old and I go to a girls discipleship group called **Bubbles** down in Mullartown. I started going to **Bubbles** in September 2018 when I started high school. The leaders were so welcoming and we had so much fun!

The past year everyone has struggled with the pandemic, but **Bubbles** continued on, which I was really happy about. Every Wednesday evening, we had a zoom session. After a while we were finally back to

Mullartown (socially distanced of course!)

I am so thankful for having the opportunity to go to **Bubbles**. My faith has really grown through the bible study, prayer and friendships. God has got a way through everything - even a global pandemic!

Isaiah 41:10

"Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand."

Katie Annett

This past term for **Oaks** has been different from the previous terms but despite all that's being going on in the world, it is evident that the leaders at **Oaks** have put in just as much, if not more, effort than the previous terms; and tried to the best of their ability to make **Oaks** enjoyable despite the restrictions. I'm now 18 and **Oaks** has been there for me and all of its members from the start. The leaders have expressed repeatedly how they want us to grow in our faith and this year only proves how dedicated they are to helping us grow in our walk with God.

Joshua Sutton



The WAY

(Wallace Avenue Youth)

The BCM Centre has been a real lifeline to us at this time whilst not being able to use our hall at the moment. We had been using Zoom but only got a handful of the teenagers on this and feared that we would lose contact with the majority.

Each Sunday night from September to December we had between 11-14 teens aged around 16 at the Centre. Each night consisted of having a chat with them, reading Bible passages related to specific topics, followed by questions and a discussion. We then finish with pizza and chips!

Topics included: 'What does God want from me?', 'Will God really judge me for my sin?', 'Why is Jesus the only way to heaven?' etc.

There has been a core group coming now for quite some time and we feel the majority know how to get saved, but have big barriers in their lives (peers etc). Many have expressed interest but, sadly, would prefer to wait until they are older as they want to 'live their lives' first.

Pray for these young people to have courage and that they would make a 'break' from the rest in going in for salvation.

Romans 1:16

Jonny Kelso

The Dwelling Place

I would like to share a few personal testimonies from **The Dwelling Place** ministries in the BCM Centre to encourage and remind you of the goodness of God and the power of Jesus at work in our individual lives.

One woman describes **Bird Table** as "a place that has encouraged me to go deeper in my walk with God and learn more about Him and who He is. It's a place where I've been built up in my faith through the studies each month and from hearing the testimonies of what God is doing in each of the other women's lives. It's a safe place where a group of women meet, encourage and pray for one another".

Louise Kirk

Another woman describes **Flourish** (the over 50s Bible study) as "a place to share the highs and lows of life and benefit from knowing God has brought us together to learn, mature, and support each other through God's word. Wednesday is the highlight of my week. I truly appreciate the opportunity to meet in **The Dwelling Place**, a safe and welcoming place."

Psalm 121 v4 "he who watches over Israel will neither slumber or sleep". He is always at work because he is working all things for our good no matter how seemingly hopeless or impossible our circumstances may look or be around us.

Christmas Packs to Bible Clubs

Delivering Christmas packs to the children from the Stoneyford and Ballygowan Bible Clubs provided an opportunity to connect with the families again, and the goodies were much appreciated by the children!

"Hi Julie, I just want to say Abbie really appreciated the little goodie bag. Thank you so much!"

"Thank you for the surprise we arrived home to! Kye was delighted with the colouring sheets and all the sweets, many thanks."



One outdoor Bible Club was possible in Moyard Park, West Belfast, in December. The children from the club also received a Christmas pack which included a CEF children's calendar in Irish, and a copy of the Christmas story illustrated by one of the families on the team.

Scott Widman