

# inFORM

BCM NI Newsletter



## LOOK UP, LOOK OUT

CEO UPDATE: JUDITH ROGERS

The voices around us often encourage us to look inward to find strength; at our recent Vision Day we reminded ourselves of Paul's encouragement in Ephesians ch 6 to **look up** instead, to take hold of God's mighty power, and to take from Him the armour which is uniquely designed for the spiritual battle in which we find ourselves.

We also explored the necessity of **looking out**, increasing our awareness of the 2023 battlefield, the landscape of which is very different to that of 1948, when BCM NI was founded by Tom McKinstry.

Only a few months before the commencement of the **75th anniversary** year of BCM NI, our sister **Joan McKinstry** followed Tom home to glory. Together they developed the ministry of BCM in NI, pioneering the acquisition of Mullartown House in 1978. An innumerable number of children, young people and volunteers have been impacted, both directly and indirectly, through the ministry of Joan, through bible clubs and camps.

BCM NI is exceptionally grateful for the legacy Joan has left behind and we pray that the Lord will give us help to continue to fight the good fight, as we **look up** to our ever-powerful God, and **look out** to the spiritual needs around us.

## BUBBLES UPDATE

GEMMA HILL

Since September, **Bubbles** has been meeting regularly every week - 3 weeks of bible study and then a social gathering. We looked at: the fruits of the spirit, friends, anxiety/stress and how we are made in God's image. The girls listened well to the talks, but we would just love to see them move from having a surface-level faith to something deeper-rooted and personally owned.

These girls are honestly fab, a lot of fun to be around, and most of them are committed to coming every week which means we get to know the girls well. Between January and April, the studies we are going to be looking at are common Christian phrases/words that we hear regularly yet may not necessarily know, things like 'cord of 3 strands', 'the sparrow', 'associate with fools' etc. We are really excited to unpack these with the girls so that they can remember God's promises in difficult times. Us leaders can't wait to get stuck in, and we've a few wee fun nights lined up as well. Thank you so much for praying for the leaders and the girls.



## CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF OAKS

ALASTAIR GLENNY

On Monday 12th September we had an evening to celebrate reaching the **10 Year Anniversary of Oaks!** It was great to see past and present leaders/members along with friends and family on this occasion. We have much to thank God for over the past 10 years.

We have been studying the book of 1st Peter in our small groups since September which we hope and pray has been beneficial to both the boys and the leaders. Please pray that God will continue to bless our group in all we do as we continue to meet each Monday Night at Mullartown House.



## ENDURE BIBLE STUDY NATHANAEL MCILVEEN



ENDURE BIBLE STUDY  
THE WORD OF THE LORD ENDURES FOREVER - 1 PETER 1:25

This year at **Endure**, we've been focused on the book of Galatians and Paul's defence of the Gospel against the Judaizers. The emphasis on salvation by faith alone and not by the law has really encouraged us all to rely solely on Jesus. Our Endure group has also provided amazing fellowship and a fantastic opportunity to cultivate Christian friendships to support and build each other up in our faith. We've been encouraged to intentionally pray for and with each other, not only at our weekly meeting but also during the week.





The theme for the **Junior Teens' Weekend** was '*Upside Down Living*', a challenging look at the Beatitudes in Matthew 5 and their counter-cultural call to a radical re-ordering of our lives. Nearly 60 junior teens gathered over the first weekend of December to consider the blessings of living for Jesus, to be encouraged to dig into God's word on their own, and (of course) to get up to all sorts of fun. Despite the rather freezing weather, the group enjoyed worship, good teaching, great food, and even breakfast at the beach (which involved a lot of hot chocolate and tea!).

**Deeper:** Over the first few meetings of the school term we have been overjoyed to have over 50 young people come out to Sloan Street Presbyterian for our first-Saturday-of-the-month fellowship and Bible study night. Offered as a follow-up to Junior Teens, and open to years 9-12, we spend time hanging out (with plenty of snacks), playing games, singing, studying God's Word, and in small groups. This year, Deeper is working through Jesus' Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5-7, considering what living as part of the kingdom of God looks like. It's been a blessing to be able to maintain and deepen relationships with so many of the summer campers, and to see young people deepen their knowledge of and love for the Lord.

## THE TRUTH WILL SET YOU FREE

JUDITH & STEVIE ROGERS

Many of the children with whom we work in Belfast come from homes where the truth of God's word is largely unknown. Instead, the children are bombarded with lies, which lead to an absence of hope. What a privilege to have over 40 of them at Mullartown in October for a **City Kids' Camp**. Over the weekend our theme was '*Truth versus lies*': in hobbies the children learnt magic tricks and created "lying cupcakes"; and on Saturday evening they helped Inspector Cluedo discover the truth about a heinous crime! But the most important aspects of the weekend were our barn times and quiet times where we focused on 4 key truths from the Bible, truths contrary to commonly-held beliefs. We pray that the Holy Spirit will dispel the lies which they hear regularly, and lead the children to saving faith in Christ.

A large number of the children we meet at Bible Clubs have never been to camp, and may never be able to attend. Visiting the Divis Bible Club a few times gave us the opportunity to pour more truth into the hearts of children we met during Hello Life 2022, and we also had an encouraging spell in the **Markets** area of Belfast. In spite of the dark and cold, the children came rushing over at 6pm each Thursday, many of them coming all five weeks, and we taught them about people in the Bible who had meals with Jesus. The truth of God's Word is beginning to sink into some of the children's hearts and minds – please pray with us that they will find freedom in Jesus Christ.





What a fantastic term we had at Stoneyford Bible Club! God has blessed us with a brilliant group of children who come along faithfully each week and listen intently to the story. We have been going through the adventure of the Apostles in Acts and learning Psalm 121.

We had a stall at the Stoneyford Christmas Fayre this year giving us the opportunity to advertise the Bible Club and share the Gospel through giving away literature, New Testaments, poems and stationery. We are so thankful for the opportunity to share the good news of the Gospel with the children of Stoneyford and look forward to the term ahead.

*If you'd like a BCM NI representative to speak at your church about what we do, send us an email to get connected! office@bcmni.org*

## MISSIONARY UPDATES

### JASON & GEMMA HILL

This past couple of months have been really busy; since summer camp we have had Christian groups using Mullartown every weekend. It's genuinely been such an encouragement to see Mullartown being used to help strengthen these groups. Since the Widmans retired, we have taken on organising the catering for groups who request it. Please be praying that God would provide someone who could take this task on – we're praying specifically for an Assistant Director to come on staff.

The new year always brings the busyness of getting ready for summer camp. From bookings, design work, lesson plans, working with programme directors to help them bring their teams together and providing training for our summer volunteers, as you can imagine there is a lot of work involved. Balancing all this alongside outside groups, church commitments, family life, and the weekly clubs/talks we do, can be challenging. We ask for prayer for creativity and wisdom in the midst of all this and that God would really lead and guide us in this busy season.

### NATE HEATER

I am busy kicking off Hello Life planning with the team leaders, as well as getting back into the discipleship groups, Bible studies, and schools work. I'll also be starting on the application for the next visa in the coming weeks, and would appreciate prayer for that.

### MIRIAM REIMER

I am keeping busy helping with the term-time admin work, sending out a lot of emails, helping to plan the Ladies' Weekend, prepping Mullartown for summer (keep an eye out for fresh paint and shiny new tiles), and ordering food for the catered weekends! It's really been an enjoyable mix of work coming out of the holiday time.

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