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BCM NI Newsletter



FAITHFULLY KEEPING THE BIBLE CENTRAL

JUDITH ROGERS

*What is the mission of BCM International NI? In many ways it's obvious – to run **Bible-centred ministries**!! But how do we measure “Bible-centredness”?! How do we know whether we are remaining faithful to our mission?*

These were just some of the questions which the Board of Directors and staff discussed at our annual Vision Day in January. Undoubtedly our desire, and the desire of the volunteers who head up each ministry, is to use the Bible effectively to proclaim the Gospel and to disciple young believers. But as we considered the potential danger of drifting from our mission, we were challenged to think about how we train, encourage and inspire new generations of volunteers to prioritise the Bible-teaching aspects of our programmes in their planning and preparation. Last year, we had the privilege of having over 200 opportunities to open the Bible with children and young people in the summer, and at least a further 250 opportunities during term-time. We want to maximise the potential of each opportunity!

Please pray that those in leadership roles would have help, not only to guard the mission which has been entrusted to us, but to faithfully “pass on the baton” to upcoming generations of volunteers. Also pray that God, in His grace, would continue to use our “Bible-centred ministries” to draw children and young people to faith in Christ, and subsequently to help them grow in their relationship with Him.

BALLYGOWAN BIBLE CLUB

BARBARA + BETH

We meet each Sunday at 3pm in Ballygowan Mission Hall. We had a fun day in October to get the children together again which involved bowling, food and games, as a welcome and ice breaker. Our programme highlight in December was the children participating at the Mission Hall Carol Service when the parents also came along.

This is always a lovely festive evening and the children presented Christmas choruses, readings and poems with some jingle bells as well!

The children are very faithful in coming each week and are always very enthusiastic: doing crafts, learning memory verses, competing in the quiz. Given our rural location we are very thankful for this and for the support of their parents. There is much to distract children from the Lord Jesus Christ and we try to reinforce how relevant the Bible is today in everything that we do and that the Lord has a plan for each one of us. Please pray with us that the that the children will truly understand God's love for them and that invitations distributed would bring some more children along.



CANDY UPDATE

ANDREW SMITH

We thank you so much for all your prayers and support thus far; we have had a great year at Candy club and are excited for the future. Here are some points for praise and prayer:

Praise God for:

- the enthusiasm of the kids - they attend consistently, smiling, eager to learn and giving everything 100% especially the song actions!!
- the kids' growing understanding of the Bible which is so evident, as is their desire to learn more.
- how well they're learning Psalm 23:1-5 so far.
- the leadership team - everyone plays their part in the team brilliantly; it is such a privilege to lead alongside them.

Please pray for:

- guidance and well-being for leaders - protection and help in preparations.
- God to be with the kids in their everyday lives as their shepherd, even if they face difficulties.
- the leaders as we tell the story of David each Friday night - that these won't just be stories but they will be words through which Almighty God speaks to the children.





Here at Mullartown we feel the excitement building for summer camp 2024; our theme this year is going to be **'Stand firm'**. We are going to be looking at Daniel in the Bible and how, in the many, many different situations in which he found himself, he stood firm in his faith in God. Our prayer this summer is that the campers and leaders alike will be inspired by the Daniel and want to be just like him, and that their hearts will be open to the leading and guidance of the Lord in different circumstances of life.

Our camper bookings open on 19th February, and we are also in the process of building our teams to serve across the summer.

In the past few months we have loved continuing to pour into the teens who meet in the weekly discipleship groups here at Mullartown (Bubbles and Oaks). We also had a great **Senior Teens New Year retreat** and **Kids/Merge reunion**. It has been great touching base with lots of campers again and continuing to point them towards the Lord and the things of God.



We have weekend groups every weekend here at Mullartown and are fully booked until November next year. It is an honour to host these groups each weekend and to serve them in whatever capacity they need. It gives us joy to see the facilities here at Mullartown being an encouragement to churches and Christian youth groups each week.

We have just finished a 5 week series at **Annalong Primary SU** where we looked at 'The Truth'. It was amazing to see 40–80 kids gather for this. We even had one of our camp volunteers, Matthew Wasson, join us for 2 weeks as part of his placement. All in all, we genuinely seek the Lord every day here at Mullartown for His leading and guidance, and every day we see His faithfulness and goodness.

Psalm 34:8 "Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in him."



It is an honour and a privilege to be taking up the role of **Administration and Finance Assistant** with BCM in Northern Ireland, a mission close to my heart.

I live in Annahilt with my husband Paul and our daughter Abigail. After Abigail, a seasoned Mullartown camper, 'graduated' to Junior Teens I became a kitchen volunteer at Week 2 Kids Camp. I also help in the kitchen on occasional weekends.

For some time I sensed God directing me away from my employment. Like Abraham, unsure of what was ahead, I nervously resigned. Within a few days of commencing my notice period this opportunity arose. I am excited to see how God will take the knowledge and skills nurtured over a lifetime career within Health & Social Care Procurement and use them for His Kingdom.

I would really appreciate your prayers for my transition and that God would be glorified as I serve with BCM.



Prayer meetings:
First Tues of the month
on Zoom
8-9pm
First Thurs of the
month at Mullartown
7.15-8.15pm

MISSIONARY UPDATES

NATE HEATER

I'm currently in the USA on furlough; busy visiting supporters, friends, and family, updating them on how God is working in Northern Ireland. Lots of driving, hugs, and goodbyes – a good time, but I can't wait to get back to NI!

Even remotely, I am working on getting **Hello Life** teams organised and working on plans and programmes for spring and summer ministry, as well as continuing to meet up with people online for discipleship and Bible study.

JASON NICHOLL

January can be often characterised as slow and uneventful, but for us here at Mullartown House it's been anything but! Our month has been full of opportunities to serve the Lord in a variety of ways! From DIY work on the dining hall and repairs being completed around camp, to gospel opportunities in the form of our 5 week series in Annalong Primary SU and our Kids and Merge camp reunion weekend! These are but a few of the great opportunities we have had as a team and we thank the Lord for the great privilege it is to serve Him!

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