



## Transforming lives and communities

**Thank you** for your partnership with the ministry of OM Ireland during 2008! It was a year of miracles and challenges, new beginnings and historic moments. Here are some of the incredible highlights that you helped to make possible:

**February:** OM Ireland signs the contract and takes possession of the deeds of Lacken House. Gifts provided almost 1/3 of the asking price of €1.1 million while loans from Christian businessmen enabled OM Ireland to move forward with the purchase.

*"We are so grateful to those who have been praying and giving and to those who have stood by us in this major milestone in our OM Ireland history. Like us, many believe that this property will enable us to be more effective as we seek to see lives and whole communities transformed."* Mike Mullins, Director



**June:** A local Baptist church is delighted to be able to use Lacken House for its weekend retreat.



**July:** "Impact Ireland" is hosted in Lacken House with 50 participants from 10 countries worldwide. Teams receive practical training and Bible teaching before heading out to serve churches around the country. The Big Red Bus moves from Donegal to Lacken House in time for the start of "Impact Ireland".

*"The minute I drove up for the first time, I realised that it was a special place. It is truly a spiritual retreat and a place where I could really spend time with God. The facilities have been perfect for a conference and preparing for our mission before we headed out into the community."* Joe Wilson, USA

**August:** The majority of OM Ireland team members move to Roscommon (one couple remains in Donegal to continue the work in Buncrana). Work starts on transforming the Lacken House Bridal Boutique into the OM Ireland offices under the supervision of new Project Manager Bill Holden.

**September:** A new year-team arrives. They are based at Lacken House and working with the Big Red Bus ministry. More people join the team in key roles including Events Management and TeenStreet / Youth Ministry. The meeting room in the stable block is used as a temporary office while work continues on the offices.

**October:** OM Ireland launches monthly world prayer meetings at Lacken House together with local churches from Roscommon and Athlone – building unity and raising awareness of world missions.

**November:** The offices are finished and the team moves in just days before OM Ireland celebrates the Grand Opening of Lacken House along with friends and supporters from across Ireland. A plaque unveiled to celebrate this historic moment reads: "Unless the Lord builds the house, its builders labour in vain." Ps 127: 1



*"Our church was so encouraged when we heard that OM was moving its Irish headquarters to Rahara. OM Ireland brings a global vision for evangelism that greatly encourages local churches. We can see how our people can literally fulfil the Great Commission. OM Ireland brings a wealth of experience and resources that will be such a blessing to local churches, opening much greater opportunities to learn from one another and serve together. Rahara is a training base from where teams of enthusiastic global Christians can be sent out to help with the spiritual harvest in local areas."*

*"We see God's perfect timing in this and rejoice that He has brought OM Ireland into the heart of island for such a time as this!"*

*Dominic Montgomery, Athlone Baptist Church*

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**December:** The Big Red Bus team tours schools in the Midlands with a Christmas presentation reaching over 820 children and 38 teachers.



*"Rehearsing and practicing the show was exhausting but it is worth all the effort when you see the children reacting and responding (as well as the teachers). I hope they can pick up our message that Jesus is mighty, powerful, loving and caring. Some children heard that for the first time in their lives!" Mathis Kuch, Bus Team*

**January 2009:** The OM Ireland team grows from 10 adults at the end of June 2008 to 21 adults at the end of January opening many new doors of opportunity and ministry possibilities.

Lacken House hosts the Evangelical Alliance Ireland retreat as key evangelical leaders plan and pray through their strategy for 2009.

*"We were blessed by your hospitality and hugely impressed by the wonderful facility that God has given to OM Ireland. During our time at Lacken House, the Lord led us to great clarity and focus for our ministry during 2009. We believe Lacken House will be a great blessing to the Irish church as you make it available in many different ways." Tom Slattery, Evangelical Alliance Ireland*

#### **Finance update:**

At the end of December, OM Ireland had received €404,696 and about €30,000 of this has been allocated to the development of the office and property.

#### **The next steps:**

OM Ireland needs to raise an additional €75,000 by March 2009 to pay back the businessmen who gave us a loan at the time of the initial purchase.

After that, another €650,000 is owed to the previous owners. OM Ireland has agreed to repay this amount in August 2009. We will look to raise these funds through gifts and through a mortgage or loans from other sources.

#### **Coming soon:**

- **Connect – (February)** OM Ireland's youth event investing in the lives of teenagers and youth leaders from across the country.
- **Golf camp – (April)** In partnership with FCA (Fellowship of Christian Athletes), this will provide opportunities to invest in the lives of young people in Athlone and sensitively share the Gospel.
- **Logos Hope – (Summer)** OM's new ship visits Dublin and Cork – an opportunity to mobilise churches in Ireland for world missions, to share the Gospel and to raise the profile of OM Ireland.
- **Impact Ireland – (July)** OM Ireland's short term programme attracts volunteers from all over the world to serve and share the good news in partnership with local churches in Ireland.

***Thank you for standing with us as we seek to see lives and communities transformed by Jesus Christ!***

OM Ireland, Lacken House, Rahara, Roscommon, Ireland +353(0)90 6623964  
[www.ie.om.org](http://www.ie.om.org) Email: [info@ie.om.org](mailto:info@ie.om.org)