

TiM Easter Challenge 2010, Ireland



The first Teens In Mission (TiM) was organized by OM Ireland during Easter break. The objective was to motivate international and local teens to participate in reaching out their communities. From Sunday, 04 till Friday 10 April 2010, the TiM team travelled around the Co. Leitrim on the Big Red Bus and shared the message of resurrection with kids.



The team was hosted by Rev. Bill Atkins, Church of Ireland. The 'dream team' of five, formed by Colm from Ireland, Leena from Dubai, Junior from Brazil, Marijke from The Netherlands and Deborah from Germany along with the local teenagers; Bhim, Arjun and Shivani from Rivers Church amazingly worked on the Big Red Bus throughout the week.

Junior De Larina the team leader of the TiM Easter Challenge, 2010 commented on this experience:

"I guess the campaign itself was a big challenge for all of us! First of all we didn't really know what would happen during that week, there were only one place confirmed for the bus to go! Secondly we didn't have any teenagers for our Teens in Mission campaign! So, my expectations for the week were very low. I knew that I would spend time with the kids on the bus and I was looking forward to that. But again the Lord surprised me

and encouraged so much! A small group of three teens from a local church showed up to help us. They are siblings and have been in the country for over one year. They were a great blessing to us. Very quick they engaged with the program and also learnt what to do very well. Their compromise and enthusiasm really touched my heart. It showed me that is possible for teens to be teen and yet serve and love God so much! I often look at the young generation of Ireland and think, is there any hope? Of course there is!!! Jesus is the only hope that they can have!! In the end of the week our TiM group were able to run the bus program all by themselves!

I was also encouraged when in the first day, a group of local teenagers came along. They were invited by our TiM group. Even though they weren't "kids", they hang out with us and even watched to the puppet show! I now remember them and think, Potential!"

The total number of participants during the week were 146. The kids clubs were conducted every morning at Hunt National School, Mohill. The afternoon programs happened in 4 different housing estates in Carrick-on-Shannon (Summer Hill, Lis Cara, Dún Ri and Brefinni).

Marijke Van Wijen from Netherlands who was a participant during this experience:

A great chance for me this week was to tell children about what Jesus has done for us at the cross. In the beginning I felt nervous because it had to be done in English. But God really gave me the words just to tell the story to them in a way that they could understand and in the way that kept them listening. I was impressed about the knowledge of some of the kids. At the end of the week I went to the Tesco and a little guy called my name. We met a few days before at the Kids Club. He immediately recognized me and asked where the puppets are. During the week a lot of kids told us that they liked us to come over there neighborhoods. One of the guys said: Wow this is the best day in my life. Another girl was crying when we



had to leave. Some of the parents were suspicious in the beginning. Perhaps when the Big Red Bus comes more often, the parents will get to know us better and after the relationship is born, there will be some openings to share the gospel with them. I realized again how important it is to build relationships before you can actually share the gospel with some people. I was impressed by how God can use a team of people from all over the world in such a good way. We all had different qualities and felt united by God's Spirit. During the week I struggled with my sleeping, but I knew I could go to God with it. Other people also prayed for me. I found it so impressive to know that God is the same everywhere I am. We have a great God!



Deborah Born from Germany writes about her experience:

I learnt much about myself, my struggles, fears and doubts and God helped me out of some. I was encouraged by team members and the devotions have challenged and changed my relationship towards God in a good way. My desire is greater again to read my bible and testify that God is here and alive.

Mission is God's great desire and this was very obvious for me and everyone on the team during my stay in Ireland.

The week ended with a great celebration of Mark (Bill's son) and Leena's birthdays.



Matthew 28:5-6 Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen!



Team practicing for the kid's club