



# ST PATRICK'S DAY challenge

*"Show me your faith without deeds,  
and I will show you my faith by what I do."  
James 2:18*

**St Patrick's Day Challenge 2010** was an exciting week of prayer and outreach in the heart of Ireland bringing together Christians from around the world with a heart for sharing the Good News of Jesus. The week began with training, challenging us to remember that without the bad news, the Good News is irrelevant. We were also reminded how we are just one link the chain: sometimes we are the first link, sometimes we are the last. During the week God used each member of the team to touch the lives of locals with His gift of eternal life and encouraging them to think about where they are headed, and where their hope is placed.

The Big Red Bus Team met locals in Athlone town centre through offering free tea and coffee during the late nights, as well as joining the local St Patrick's Day Parade and taking the message of Jesus into a colleges and schools. The Prayer Team travelled out to OM Ireland's longer-term teams in Tullamore, Athenry and Ballina, praying for them, the people of the area and the on-going ministry.

**Julia Collins—Global Challenge Coordinator**



## Angelika – Germany

As we were driving into Athlone on Wednesday I was praying for our time on the Big Red Bus that night. I prayed especially for people who were disappointed by life and those around them to come on the bus – those who were desperate, hurting and without hope. That night three kids who had been living in foster homes and were now on the street came onto the bus and heard about Jesus and the hope that the team had in their lives. It was so encouraging to see how God heard me and answered my prayer as well as

how He brought these kids onto the Bus to hear about real hope.

One highlight for me this week was how we could share God's truth so clearly in a school. Even though the message was not new to me, and even though we did it five times in one morning, I was really touched by it myself!

This week, God reminded me to stay focussed on Him! It was good to see once again that it's all about Him and to feel the compassion He has for the lost.



### **Mike—UK**

I shared with a 15 year old and his friend who had just walked up the street from a local nightclub. We gave him a Gospel tract and offered him tea, coffee and popcorn – he came on board the Big Red Bus and sat down with us. I was able to share my testimony and use God’s Law to ask him where he would be going after he died: heaven or hell. He admitted that he was guilty and that he would give his life to Jesus in the morning after he had sobered up and could appreciate what it all means. When he left, he took a Gospel of John home with him.

I had the opportunity to share my testimony in four classes at a Catholic Boys High School as well as with other guys on the Big Red Bus. All of the boys responded positively and I found out later that one boy in particular was involved with drugs in the same way I

had shared about in my testimony.

I am really glad to have come to Ireland – God has proved once again how He is faithful, and if I rely on Him He will help me to do the things I don’t feel comfortable doing for Him. The team was fantastic, the OM Staff were very friendly, organised, and a real blessing – I felt very encouraged by them and the wonderful pastors and church members who showed us such love and strength of faith as we served together for this week.

(Pastor) Dominic was an inspiration, and really showed me how to remain positive in all things – his daily devotions inspired me to walk closer with God. It was wonderful to do outreach every day, and feel such a blessing from bringing the Gospel to Athlone.

### **Alexa—USA**

It was such a great opportunity to attend the girls and boys Catholic schools in Athlone and share with them. Hearing Mike’s testimony was such a blessing as I could hear how God worked in another person’s life in similar ways to my own.

A huge answer to prayer was that during this week I only suffered one headache, when I usually have a

headache every night!

This outreach has given me more of a passion to share about Christ – it has given me a yearning to share my faith with other people. It has helped me understand a culture different to my own and I have more trust in God because I have seen him provide for me and answer my prayers.



### **Gabriela—Switzerland**

On Wednesday, while the group was praying together on the Big Red Bus, Darby told us that she saw a throne with God on it and reminded us that it doesn’t matter what happens, God is still on his throne. Afterwards, Alexa and I met two drunk guys on the street who we invited onto the Bus for tea. One of the guys didn’t agree with anything we said about God or Jesus, but he kept saying how much he liked Switzerland. I thought that God had given me this chance to say anything I wanted to him, but I didn’t know what. I’ve always felt that I was not a good speaker, but trust that God will give me the right words to say when I have none of my own. But in this moment I didn’t know what to say and felt so helpless as though God was not with me – all I could do was cry when the guy got angry with me and left the Bus.

Now I am really thankful for this situation as it has challenged me to believe that God can use these moments as well. It doesn’t matter what I said or didn’t say, maybe God brought them onto the Bus so that I could pray for them. What I learnt is that God is still the King – even in these moments.

This whole week in Ireland has shown me once more how important it is to trust God in every situation. It was a very hard week as we went through the programme on very little sleep and being challenged to do things I never thought I could. You only do it because you know that God can use every situation to build His Kingdom. I’m glad that I had the chance to see the ministry that is happening in Athlone – it was amazing to see the battle that is going on in this city.

## Michel—The Netherlands

I never thought I could perform a drama without freaking out, but we had such great opportunities to share the Gospel in the boys and girls schools and I am so glad that through the drama and the testimonies they heard the message.

We met with many guys and girls on the street in Athlone who were looking for something to do. Many of them were too young to get into the night clubs,



but we were able to invite them onto the Big Red Bus for tea and coffee, and share with them about Jesus. The bus gave us the opportunity to start deep conversations with these kids.

This week God has shown me abilities in me that I never knew I had! I see God in a whole new way and I want to work on how I communicate my faith to others.

## Johanna—Germany

We met a guy on Monday who knew the Big Red Bus and that we were “about Jesus” – he was intoxicated but still able to carry on a conversation. When asked if he believed in God he stated that it is a fact that there is no God – he was sure that the only reason we were here on earth is to reproduce, because that’s the only thing left of us when we die. He told us that there is no such thing as an afterlife and one individual just does not matter. I asked him if He was a good person and took him through God’s Law.

We continued to talk for a while and it was truly heart-breaking to see the hopelessness and disappointment he was facing. However, I was able to



share with him that even before God created the universe, God knew that he was going to create him and that God loved him more than he would ever understand.

He then wanted to walk away but when I asked him if I could pray for him he gladly accepted. After I prayed is said, “You just prayed for me? Here and now? You can do that?!?” I said, “Yes”, gave him a Gospel tract and encouraged him to read it in the morning.

This week has confirmed, once again, the tremendous need for workers here in Ireland. Putting faces to the “lost souls” is a heartbreaking experience, but one that reminds us that we must have our priorities straight.

## Peter—Ireland

I have never just gone onto the street and shared the Gospel with people before, but on Tuesday I was able to share my testimony with three people and answer their questions about the Gospel. I’m used to speaking at the Christian Union but am usually more prepared, whereas out on the streets the questions are more random. It was a challenging but encouraging night to find out that people are curious and *want* to learn more.

Although I’ve only known this team a few days, it was so encouraging to see them out on the street sharing the Gospel. I joined the team later in the week, but they accepted me instantly – being part of a group that loves the Lord so much has strengthened my relationship with Him. God has challenged me to speak with random people about my faith, on the spot, even when I have nothing prepared.

## Dax—USA

I had an interesting conversation with a self-proclaimed atheist who didn’t want to hear much of what I had to say because he knew there wasn’t a God. That opened the door for me to ask him about how he could be so sure of his beliefs. He was a little frustrated at that, but still couldn’t articulate why he believed what he believed. I said that I could if he would listen. He didn’t want to, so I challenged him to read the gospel of John and ask God to reveal himself. It’s one of those scenarios where you pray that the Holy Spirit will

work with the seed that was planted, even though you may not see the result this side of heaven.

I was reminded that I need to look to the Lord and rely on His strength, as well as be renewed and refreshed in His Word daily. Otherwise, it is so easy to become fatigued and distracted. I realised the impact of the spiritual warfare taking place when sharing the Gospel. Evangelism needs to be covered in prayer and asking God for boldness is crucial. Missions is extremely challenging, but also very rewarding.

## **Global Challenge Ireland**

OM Ireland hosts and organises short-term teams from around the world throughout the year.

If you would like to bring a team to Ireland, or host a team in Ireland, please contact your local OM office.

[gc@ie.om.org](mailto:gc@ie.om.org)



### Leena—UAE

Sometimes I don't feel like I have the right words to say to someone, my fear is that I cannot share my faith effectively in a foreign country without offending someone. However, prayer walking gave me the boost and confidence that I have the most powerful tool and weapon to attack enemy ground and the ability to stand in the gap for those who are on the frontline. I asked God at the beginning of the year, "How am I making a difference in Ireland?" – now I have my answer: through prayer!

As we walked through Tullamore and Athenry the immersion (Global Action) teams were so encouraged and described the Prayer Team as "reinforcement". The faces of the church leaders in Athenry lit up to see that someone cared enough for them to visit them and pray for their ministry.

This was a life-changing experience – I enjoyed it thoroughly and realised that I don't have to be a dynamic public speaker – I am a hidden part of the body of Christ. My attitude to missions is this: missions rock!!!



### Lisa—Germany

I was really encouraged during the times of prayer with the Prayer Team – especially on Thursday when I saw how encouraged one woman in Ballina was as we prayed with her. She was so touched by our prayers! Before I joined the Prayer Team I thought prayer was just about asking God for something – but now I know it's also to encourage one another!

One thing I experienced this week was that God always knew what I would need. Every time I felt tired he gave me some time to rest or some encouraging words – that was really awesome! I learnt that I need to trust God and He will do amazing things when I am tired and weak. This outreach has drawn me closer to Him – this is the best thing that has ever happened to me – I didn't expect this!



### Julianne—USA

This week God has spoken very clearly to me and I am learning to trust Him more. I was too scared to act on His command to "make disciples of all nations", but the second night in Athlone on the Big Red Bus I stepped out in faith and said the words the Lord put into my mouth.

### Tim—Ireland

I realised this week that I need to go deeper with God in my own relationship with Him. By becoming more familiar with God's love, grace and mercy in my own life, I am better equipped to share His love, grace and mercy with others.



For more details about OM Ireland please go to [www.ie.om.org](http://www.ie.om.org)  
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