



BY THE SPIRIT

On Tuesday, 5 July 2011, 25 individuals from all over the world came together at OM Ireland's headquarters for the annual Impact Ireland campaign.

Participants traveled as far as 30 hours from Australia and as close as three hours from Ballina with the desire to share Jesus with the people of Ireland.

The large group of American, Australian, Brazilian, Canadian, Dutch, Finnish, German, Irish, South Korean, and Swiss participants was divided into five outreach teams which ministered in

Athlone, Mohill, Shannon, on board the Big Red Bus and on the roads with the Cross Walk.

Before the teams dispersed, they were encouraged and challenged from Dominic Montgomery's teachings from the Word. "By the Spirit" was the overall theme of the morning Bible studies which focused in on John 15-16, Galatians 5:16-24 and Ephesians 4:25-5:21. These teachings pointed to the desperate need each person has in relying on the Holy Spirit to sustain them. Additionally, that each person would need the

Holy Spirit to speak through them as they encountered many people throughout the week.

And by the Spirit's working, these are their stories...



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Each day, the **Athlone** team split into three groups which hosted kids clubs at Battery Heights, Monksfield and St. Kierans' housing estates. The teams played games, lead praise and worship, and taught the gospel through skits and memory verses. In the afternoons, the entire team came together for estate parties while youth drop-ins, street evangelism, a ladies tea and "The Greatest Question" were held during respective evenings for further ministry opportunities.

Used in Weakness

Angelika from Germany was feeling very weak and unsure as to whether or not she'd make it through the two weeks of Impact. One Wednesday night, when Angelika planned on resting she instead went out for street evangelism. Angelika was able to get into a conversation with a young man who walked up to a small crowd she was talking to. "I explained the Gospel and he was very open. He admitted that he sinned and would be guilty before God and understood he would be lost forever," said Angelika. "I asked him, if he wants Jesus in his life, he hesitated and said no. So I asked him what it was that kept him from making this decision. But he didn't really

know, so I explained the gospel again. And asked him if he understood what I was talking about, and he said yes and that he actually wanted Jesus in his life. Afterwards I asked him if I should pray for or with him and he said yes and I prayed."

Questions to Answer

Melinda from Australia was able to connect with a girl who was more interested in changing the subject and playing soccer rather than talking about Jesus. "One day you will have to answer these questions," Melinda said after getting the girl to focus. "For two seconds it clicked. It just took one person to take time with her and to take her seriously." Melinda learned that people of any age need to feel important and to be taken seriously.

Keep on ministering

The Monksfield housing estate was new grounds for the Impact team and when Kaeli from the United States helped teach nine children at Kids Club she and other teammates became very excited. On the second day of Kids Club, only one child from the neighborhood showed up. In discouragement, Kaeli asked herself why they were prepping and doing the clubs for only a few children. She then thought about the girl that did come and that what she was learning was touching her somehow. The third day of Kids Club 15 children participated, including the girl who'd come the previous days. "God knew how much of a struggle that was, but He put it on my heart to just push through it and really just understand that sometimes we're going to go through things where only

one person's listening in the whole entire group and then the next day you might have 20 who are listening." So, despite the number of people who do participate in outreaches we can be sure that God is working in lives.

True Friendships in Christ

With anticipation to be treated as an outsider during Impact, Ulla from Finland found that she felt truly loved and accepted by the constant encouragement of her teammates. "Everyone just loved me so much, it just touched my heart so much," Ulla said. "Even when I tried to be the last in line someone would start to talk to me...the love here...it's touched me and it's changed me...and I want to thank you all so much."



The **Big Red Bus** team travelled to Sligo, Carrick-on-Shannon, Mohill, Athlone and Shannon acting as not only a Kids Club with face painting, puppet shows, games, music and crafts; but also a youth drop-in and a free tea and biscuit hub for those passing by.



Meant to share

After working with crafts throughout the week, Bethany from the United States felt like God was telling her to sit down and really talk to the kids He had brought onto the bus. She approached a little boy who was in the back colouring a picture of Jesus resurrecting from the dead. "I asked him if he knew who that was in the picture," explained Bethany. "I said, 'It's Jesus!

Have you heard anything about Jesus or what do you know?' And he just shrugged his shoulders and so I explained why Christ died and the whole death and resurrection in the simplest terms I could. And I realised, a lot of these kids [really] don't know about Christ. In that moment I [just knew] I needed to make sure I was sharing with these kids and not just glossing over going about doing one activity from the other and not taking the time to share with them."

Going home changed

Talitha from Germany struggled with working on the Big Red Bus while battling a fever and cold. Then, in the middle of the week, her nose broke while participating in the jousting game at a housing estate party. "I was thinking, 'What's happening? What's wrong?' and 'I wanted to go home,'" Talitha said. "I knew everyone was praying and it gave me this peace in my heart—that I know I can trust God. God showed me my limits and [that] I need to rely on Him. I will definitely go home changed and kind of [with] a new start with God."

Don't let the enemy take out two

After learning that Talitha had broken her nose, Caitlin from Australia was shaken and felt awful. A couple of teammates chatted with her and something that specifically, Ed had said helped her regroup. "[He said] 'Don't let the enemy take out two,'" recalled Caitlin. "I couldn't let this distract me from what I had come out to



do. It gave me a fresh determination to say, 'it's going to take more than that to take me out of this for good!'" Caitlin was able to learn that as Christians we must pick ourselves up again and walk with God.



The **Mohill** team had quite a week together. On their first Saturday, the team went to a local festival and was able to pass out tracts and engage in conversations with festival-goers. They spent Sunday on a "church marathon," as they visited each of the five churches their local pastor lead throughout the area. In the mornings, they spent a lot of time either on prayer walks or preparing for the different events they hosted. During Monday thru Thursday afternoons they ran a children's holiday club and ministered through games, puppet shows and music. On the last couple of evenings, a sports night and youth movie night were held to bring teens together and share Jesus with them. They had a good crowd of very active teens during the sports night and were able to get to chat with a handful of teenage girls during the movie night.

People that really matter

Heather from the United States reflected on a couple of encounters with people in Carrick-on-Shannon and Mohill. In Carrick, one couple asked

many questions which the team was able to answer and then the couple even admitted that they would be found guilty for their sins. After hearing the Gospel, they did not receive Christ as their Saviour, however they allowed the team to pray with them, "It was just a really special experience because we knew that we'd done what the Lord asked us to do and they were very open to that whole experience," Heather said. At the last youth meeting, the team was able to have a special time with four girls who showed up 40 minutes late. After starting to open the Bible, the girls began asking loads of questions about God and His relationship with people.

"I'm grateful that it was a very difficult situation," Heather said in relation to the entirety of the week. "That God was very faithful and He answered lots of prayers through the week for different things and I'm thankful for those that He has serving faithfully in these little, teeny places on a map, but they're places where there are people that really matter."



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 us at info.ie@om.org

The **Cross Walk** team trekked over 180km from the southern tip of Ireland in Waterford to OM's base at Lacken House in Rahara. Along the way they had amazing opportunities to share the Gospel. Even after a set back with luggage being stolen from the team's van, the spirit and desire to share remained throughout the team.

Using all Circumstances

When the team realised a stack of tracts they brought was printed in French, Keilah from Ballina took one and stuck it in her pocket. While in Waterford, Keilah was disappointed as she saw a group of French tourists who were taking pictures of the cross, but because of language barriers, they couldn't communicate with each other. She, then remembered about the tract she had in her pocket and brought it to them. "They were so excited when they saw it and it was in



French and they were huddled in a group reading it," Keilah said. "It just showed me that God can use all circumstances and that He's completely in control.

Wrong turn's right

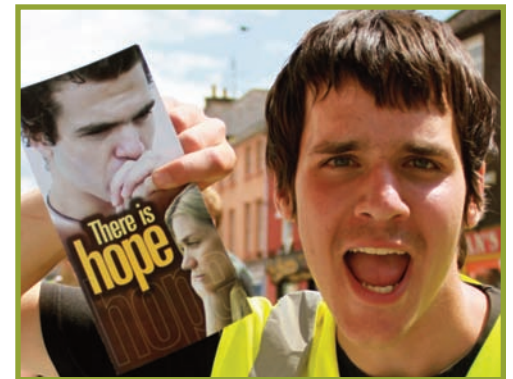
As the Cross Walk team made their way through a small town one afternoon, team leader Cornel Christen encouraged the group to walk up a seemingly empty street. After some protest from the team, they ended up making the turn. At the top of the hill, they were met by an old man standing by a church. After chatting for a while, his friend came over and the team found out that they were Christians. "Who would've thought we'd meet the only two Christians' in this town?" said Melissa from the United States. "They prayed for us and we took pictures with them. It was like God was

saying 'go this way' and we were like 'for what? There's nothing there!' but there was something there."

Daily Carrying the Cross

On the day the Cross Walk team's van had items stolen out of it, Kyle from the United States lost virtually everything he had brought with him. After focusing on the things he'd had taken from him, Kyle realised that he needed to look beyond and see what God was doing. "It took me a few days for it to finally sink in that I had lost a lot and I was pretty

frustrated about it," admitted Kyle. "I just think that God has made more peace in my heart. I'm beginning to see that all these things that I lost are really worth nothing. Our material things, they're not going to further His Kingdom in any way, that's for people carrying the cross; that's our job to do, is to further the Kingdom. I was thinking about carrying the cross spiritually rather than physically. We carry the cross spiritually every day."





found that so amazing and so encouraging that over her entire life this family had been working on her and praying for her and just being a family to her, and they were able to see that fruit," Mary said. "And I just thought of all those friendships in life where you think, 'I'm trying to tell you about Jesus and I'm trying to be loving to you,' but you don't see anything. And just to think that that one 10 year friendship just had that fruit and now she wants to tell people about Jesus."



Important part missing

After going door to door for witnessing and praying, Karen from Germany and her partner Sophie were invited in for tea after asking a man if they could pray for him. Once their conversation got going, it lasted for three hours during which Karen and Sophie were able to ask the man questions about his beliefs and answer theological questions he asked them. "He really trusts in God and believes He can do a lot," Karen said. "He's so close to being saved, but the important part's missing. He never used [the name] Jesus, he knows that that's what saves us (Jesus), but somehow he was still sticking to good works." Karen and Sophie were ready give up, as their conversation at times seem to go nowhere, but they were able to go so far in conversing with him that they could see he was really starting to think about his own thoughts on God.

The team in **Shannon** spent mornings working with the local church hosting Vacation Bible School and afternoons on the streets for evangelism and door-to-door witnessing. Every day was different as the team was challenged to create and execute different outreach ministries.

Worth it all to witness

When Amie from the United States came to serve in Ireland she asked God to get her out of her comfort zone. Amie quickly found her prayer answered as she began street evangelism. After being laughed and yelled at while sharing her testimony, Amie and a few other teammates approached a girl who sat at a distance. "She claimed to be an atheist, but she was so excited and willing to hear the Gospel," Amie said. "We actually got to talk to her for a whole hour. So even though it was challenging to talk about my personal experience with God, it was worth it all to witness to somebody who said they didn't believe in God but actually got to experience [Him]."

God's working in their hearts

Jeff from the United States shared about a group of four drunken teenage girls who harassed Impact participants while they sang worship songs, preached and shared testimonies on the streets. "The next day we saw them again; they weren't drunk, but they were still yelling and just really trying to give us a hard time," Jeff said. "The third day they were drawn back to us and someone gave one of the girls a gospel of John. I saw her walking away and she just threw it—that kind of breaks you a little bit...and sure enough one of the other girls picked it up and started flipping through it as she walked away." At the end of the week the four girls ended up participating in the youth night the team held at the church.

Constant love becomes fruit

One day, Mary from Australia asked a girl from the church to share her testimony. Mary learned that it was the constant love and investment of the local church's family, the Cassidy's, which lead her to Christ. "I just



And each of you were brought here for such a time as this...



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