

NATIONAL PLOUGHING CHAMPIONSHIPS - Athy, Co Kildare



In three days, over 190,000 people attended the National Ploughing Championships in Athy, Co Kildare.

Over 18 people represented OM Ireland: four staff, the Immersion Team, a group from the USA and a couple from Singapore. Partnering with the Association of Baptist Churches in Ireland, they provided a cafe atmosphere by serving complimentary tea, coffee and sweets to passersby. Some team members handed out literature on other parts of the site. On the last day, the team offered free face painting and balloon animals.

“During the afternoon, one group of teens came up to me and the “leader” asked mostly good, but somewhat mocking questions and they left,” said Eric from the USA. Ten minutes later they came back and we talked some more. He told me he couldn’t

look in my eyes because he believed me when he did.”

Julia from Germany was working in the tent. “There were two young boys and when I sat down next to them, I couldn’t get myself to start. I had asked God before the Championship to give me a signal to speak to people. Through a very tiny hole in the roof of the tent, a small sunbeam hit me directly in the face. It was clear to me God wanted me to speak to these boys. And I just shared the Gospel for the first time in my life.”

“To hear that 99.3% don’t believe will break your heart, to experience that 99.3% will change your life.”

Seong Bok from South Korea was nervous because of her limited English. She decided to pass out as much literature as she could, to get the Gospel into people’s hands. Seong Bok was reminded of the verse from 2 Peter 3:9 “The Lord is not slow to fulfil his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward

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you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. “ (ESV) “Through this message,” comments Seong Bok, “I realized the honesty of God again, and I expect God to be at work in Ireland.”

Lindsay from Canada was talking with a group of teen girls, and was shocked after discovering these girls didn’t know who Jesus was or what He had done for them. “I’d never seen something like this in all my life,” said Lindsay. “Someone who didn’t know about Jesus? Impossible! This experience really made me realise the reality of the country’s need for Jesus.”

“We had heard about the Church in Europe - that it wasn’t so good,” said Rachel, from Singapore. “And we felt like the

Lord was leading us to come this year for the first time to get to know the culture. But we thought that just visiting the culture wasn’t enough.”

“We heard about OM Ireland, and that a trip was offered in September, so we made some inquiries,” said Jeremy, Rachel’s husband. “If it weren’t for this opportunity, we would have just come as tourists, and we wouldn’t have been able to interact with the locals and meet people. That has been very special to us. It’s one thing to read about the state of religion in Ireland, but a totally different thing to experience it for yourself. “

“This week I fell in love with Jesus all over again. I was just reminded of how simple and beautiful the Gospel really is.”

