



YWAM Ireland News



Greetings!

Short term teams...Why? Where? What for? As YWAM Ireland we are committed both to local, incarnational missions, and to cross cultural missions in our focus nations in the developing world. On the back we have the remarkable story of Lidia, and her journey from enduring a harsh childhood in Buenos Aires to a life of missions in Belfast, taking teams around the world.

The concept of short term missions has existed for only about the last 50 years. At best it introduces people to a reality of the world that they never knew existed and changes their life completely forever, as well as making a sustainable impact in the place visited...at worst it can be very little more than Christian tourism with a heavy dose of carbon emissions. As YWAM Ireland we believe that short term missions can create an environment for participants to be changed forever. Furthermore with strategic partnerships, host cities can benefit hugely from a visiting team. Jesus' message to go, and the consistent biblical narrative of sojourning, being nomadic, and going resounds today, we just have to be wise in how we do it.

In July 2010 YWAM is facilitating an opportunity for multiple individuals and teams to go to Durban, South Africa to partner with churches, and community projects in some of the neediest urban centres of poverty on earth. At the climax of the FIFA World Cup it will be incredible to have a number of people from this island go together in unity to participate in projects specifically designed to meet the skills and needs of the individual teams.

DTS Update!

This year, over 20 people participated in our Discipleship Training School programmes. These DTS trainees were able to serve God all over the island of Ireland as well as in India, South Africa, Rwanda, and Burundi! If you've ever wanted an opportunity to learn more about God and serve Him internationally, then consider applying for a DTS this year. Its not too late!

Upcoming Events

Crossroads DTS

5 July - 21 November 2009 in Downpatrick for those over 50 years old!

DTS

4 October - March 2009 in Belfast

Reconciliation DTS

24 January 2010 - July 2010 in Belfast.

Faith & Conflict Conference

Please check our website for dates and further info.

Creideamh

An outreach to inner Galway by Tine, which YWAM is excited to partner with. July 4 - 18. Check our website for further info.

Sponsor YWAM at the Belfast Marathon!

5 YWAMers, including Jonny Clark, will be running the Belfast relay to raise funds for YWAM Ireland. Check our website for further details.

Meet Lidia Lammardo, staff member extraordinaire!

From Argentina to Northern Ireland...and beyond



Lidia plays with one of the street kids in Delhi, India while leading a DTS Outreach.

My testimony

My mother raised me until I was 8 years old as a single mother as she didn't have any other family alive. When she was diagnosed with schizophrenia it was already too late. For the first 8 years of my life, I lived with a very violent mother, who had hallucinations, was abusive and had frequent suicide attempts. I would hide my bruises at school and lie about my relationship with her feeling that somehow I was responsible for her, and that it was even normal for parents to hit their children without reason. Finally our neighbours found out that my life was in danger with her and social service intervened. She was taken to a psychiatric hospital and I was sent to an orphanage.

Life wasn't much easier there. I grew up with loneliness, anger and the sense that I needed to take care of myself or nobody would do it. I would visit my mother on weekends, as she had times when she was controlled by medication. When I was 15, I heard that people were praying for her and by the end

of a year, her medication was decreased significantly. Finally, she was allowed to leave the hospital. God had healed her mind, and I knew it was a miracle.

Heading into missions

In the years to come I was on a journey with God of restoration. He became my Father, helped me to forgive my mother, and gave me hope for the future. I knew by experience that he had the power to heal the broken hearted, and I wanted to share that with everyone. I studied, became a nurse and began to work in intensive care in a children's hospital.

In 2002, I came to the UK with YWAM to study English with the intention of going on to work in India after my course helping the poor, but God told me specifically that my time in the UK wasn't done. He led me to Northern Ireland, where I was struck by the pain in the community here and the need for reconciliation. For the next 3 years I was involved in the Discipleship Training School (DTS) and worked mainly with children in the area.

Looking ahead

My desire right now is to see young people here using their gifts, experiences and talents to bless other nations. Amy Carmichael, from Northern Ireland, started her ministry in the Shankill Road but ended up in India rescuing girls who were sold as sexual slaves in the temples. I believe each of us can make a difference in the world and I want to see both the young and the not-so-young become empowered to help others, both here and abroad.

This year, I am planning several short term trips to different countries throughout the year, where people can get a taste of another culture, help in practical ways and see if God is leading them to be a blessing to another nation long term. Please join us in reaching the nations and join a short term team this year!

SHORT TERM TEAMS

Israel & Palestine

Join us for prayer, practical service, and a journey of understanding to the refugee camps, cities, and towns of this beautiful and tragic region.

South Africa 2010

Come be a part of this outreach to Durban, South Africa in July 2010 to serve the local community through YWAM's partnerships with former DTS sponsored students! Check our website for information nights in Belfast.