



The doorbell went and there they were on my doorstep; two young people with a tattered white envelope in their hands. "We just thought we'd do a little whip around among us and collect some money for the summer team coming," they said. They reached it out to me. As I accepted it I felt the beauty of that moment and then came the tears...



## Summer Outreach Teams Servants of the King

It can be easy to forget that PCI summer outreach teams are not predominantly about those who sign up to go on the teams, they're about the young people living in the communities across Ireland that we go to serve, who are craving some Hope and Purpose for their lives. For some of these young people that I've got to know through being part of the Woodvale ministry, they will want to know who's coming on the team long before those people have even signed up; they may even phone the YAC Office to ask what the dates of the team are so that it doesn't clash with a holiday they're going on! It can mean that much to them...

I'm a believer in Summer Outreach. Yes, I've experienced the frustrations of having to walk away after a week, with all the fears you have for those young people you feel you're leaving behind. But then again I've witnessed God unveiling a story of His glory in Woodvale over years; how a summer team can be a spark for ministry which doesn't just last for a week.

In Woodvale the most eclectic little youth group has been birthed from summer team connections. They meet on Sunday nights, and as one of our teenagers summed it up: "It's the only space in my life where I feel like it's OK to be myself."

These young people, some of whom are struggling Christians, some who have very little belief in God and some who have none, tell a story of hope for this part of inner city Belfast. If you spoke to them, some would tell you that if it wasn't for the Summer Outreach team they'd be out on the street corners drinking their lives away. And yes maybe some weekends they still get drawn into that, but they've been shown another perspective now; a perspective that says life doesn't need to be that way; a perspective that says they are worth fighting for, and that actually Someone already has. And the prayer of my heart is that one day that perspective will win out for every single last one of them.

Judith Hill



## Please Pray...

Give thanks for the opportunities that there are in ministry, outreach and events that we all have to be involved through PCIYAC.

Pray for our children and young people as they attend the Kids' Praise Party and Youth Night. Pray for both speakers that God would give them wisdom as they seek to connect with those attending and share God's Word.

Pray for our Summer Outreach teams: for the team leaders, members and the churches who will be impacted by the teams in July and August.

Pray also for our Overseas teams to Romania and London.

Continue to pray for our VIPs working in congregations throughout Ireland. Also for our staff team and volunteers who are involved in delivering our Road trip training programme.

Pray for the Working Group of 'The Word' as they think through and plan for this new event.

## Events

### KIDS' PRAISE PARTY

Saturday 21 May 2011  
Carrmoney Presbyterian Church  
Tickets costing £3 will be available from 1 March.

### YOUTH NIGHT

Glimpses of Grace  
Saturday 11 June 2011 at 7.45 pm  
Assembly Hall, Church House  
Tickets cost £3.50/€3.50 and are available from the YAC Office

### TECH CAMP

11-14 August 2011  
Derryvolgie Hall  
Ages 13-16  
Cost £110  
Download an application form from [pciyc.org](http://pciyc.org)

### MAD Youth Weekend

28-30 October 2011  
University of Ulster, Coleraine  
Places go on sale from 3 May

## Contact Info

Church House,  
Fisherwick Place,  
Belfast BT1 6DW  
Tel: 028 9032 2284  
Email: [yac@presbyterianireland.org](mailto:yac@presbyterianireland.org)



# Generate

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*I want them to learn to talk to one another and to me, rather than just text all the time.*

From the desk of Roz...

This quote is the heartfelt cry of a youth leader who understands the importance of relationships with children and young people in our ministry of reaching and keeping them. In a culture where value and worth are often determined by how much of a 'techie' you are or the wearing of the right gear, knowing how to 'be human' as God intended is a skill under serious threat in the world of the under 25's. Perhaps this is why children's and youth programmes in local congregations still provide the vital opportunity for relationships to be built through which the love of Christ is still lived out and care for kids is given. The Board of Youth and Children's Ministry does not attempt to deliver these kinds of programmes. Rather the vision for Youth Night, Kids' Praise Party, MAD and 'The

Word' is to create space that serves leaders and their children and young people with the added benefit of bringing together kids from across the island and denomination.

These are important opportunities for our children, teenagers and young adults to grow in faith and personal well-being. We encourage you to support the Board as we seek to serve you through these events. Please promote them and if financially possible, perhaps you could consider sponsorship for those from your congregation planning to attend.

Yours in Christ  
**Roz Stirling**  
Director of Youth and Children's Ministry

## Presentation Bibles

Do you know that there is a Local Bible Fund which provides presentation bibles for children who have had an unbroken attendance for 5 years and for teachers who have taught for 30 years or more?

Sunday Schools wishing to present bibles, other than the NIV Bible available through the office will be credited with £25 which they can supplement in order

to purchase a more expensive bible from Living Oasis bookshop in the Spires Mall.

Personalised labels signed by the Moderator for these Bibles are available from the Youth and Children's Office but please give at least one week's notice.



**Andrew Thompson**  
Events Convener

The Ministry Events Committee of the YAC Board is responsible for planning and delivering the current programme of four events each year. These events bring together upwards of two to three thousand children and young people and their leaders from right across our denomination and island, and they provide opportunities to share the Good News, instil Kingdom values and promote the wider work of our Board and Church.

The events under the management of the working groups of our Committee are as follows:-

- Kids' Praise Party
- Youth Night
- MAD Weekend

**The Word** (this is the re-launched young adults' event, formerly known as Route 66)

One of the key tasks for our Committee is constantly to be evaluating these events and asking why we do what we do? We are committed to avoid running events simply because we have always done so, but rather to ensure that these events remain relevant to the needs of our Church.

As a Committee we believe that events can benefit PCI in the following ways:-

#### EVANGELISE

across our events we are committed to introducing non-Christian kids to Jesus.

#### ENTHUSE

through lively worship and fun activity we aim to stir up the passion of young people for Jesus and their faith.

#### EMPOWER, ENABLE, ENCOURAGE & ENGAGE

through careful teaching of the Bible and by the power of the Holy Spirit, we purpose to disciple our children, teenagers and young adults, giving them the tools to live, grow and serve as Christians in a hostile world.

#### ENLARGE

We are Presbyterians, not Congregationalists! Our goal in bringing large numbers of young Presbyterians together is to encourage them to cherish their local congregations but also to enable them to experience being part of something much bigger than what they see locally.

We commend our events to your prayers and your support. Full details of our programme are available from the YAC Office.

# the Word

equipping a generation to be transformed, not conformed

Barbara McDade (Director of Programmes)

## 'The Word' is an exciting new event for young adults replacing the very successful Route 66 Conference which ran for ten years.

'The Word' affirms our desire as a Board to train and equip young adults in God's word and help them engage biblically with the challenges of living in today's society. The conference will help those attending to consider how they can live out their calling to be salt and light in this world. Michael, a student at Queens University, shares a little about one way in which he is trying to live out his faith through the initiative 'Everyday Belfast'...

**"God put me in Elms halls at Queens to be a 'light' for my flatmates. This can only happen if I make the effort to build relationships and show God's love to those around me. An easy way in which I was able to do this was to cook dinner for all 10 of my flatmates - showing them love without expecting anything in return as well as developing community within the flat."**

I asked Lachlan Webster, Working Group Chair, a few questions to help explain a little more about our vision for the conference ...

#### When and Where?

'The Word' is PCI's new annual conference for young adults. It's a weekend residential from 26 to 28 August and will be held at Castlewellan Castle. There will be teaching, worship, debate, food, fun, fellowship and a bit of relaxation.

#### Who is the conference for?

It's for anyone aged 18-30 who is passionate about Jesus and wants to go deeper in their relationship with Him. It's for anyone who believes that the Bible is relevant to today's culture and wants to develop their skills in applying its teaching in their own situations. It's for anyone who enjoys fellowship with other Christians and wants to see how we can walk together as we follow Christ.

#### Why a Bible focused conference?

We want to see how the word of God connects with every area of our lives from the knowledge in our HEAD, to the love in our HEART, to the actions of our HANDS. The main teaching sessions will focus on the big picture of the Bible, looking at key themes which run right through the whole book. There will be interactive seminars which will explore how the Bible's teaching can be used to tackle cultural issues. We will also have late night discussion/debate on some of the big issues facing our church today. All of these sessions will have a heavy emphasis on how we live out and defend our faith in all areas of our lives.

#### Why should ministers encourage their young adults to attend 'The Word'?

If you want the young adults in your congregation to grow in their faith, if you want to see them develop skills in mission and apologetics, if you want to see them enjoying fellowship with other Christians, if you want to see them blessed in the same way you were when you last enjoyed a weekend conference then please encourage them to come!

Andy, a student with the Centre For Youth Ministry Ireland, sums up why he feels this conference is so important for him as a young adult. **"I believe in my life that what I feed my mind is highly important; the TV shows I watch, the activities I devote myself to and the people I spend time with, all effect what will come out in my actions and my worldview. Every day I try to ensure I have spent time reading and meditating on God's word, for me there is no other substitute for this discipline in a Christian's life if they wish to grow spiritually."**

We long for hearts and minds to be transformed not conformed so that the light of Jesus shines brightly through this generation.



I asked Neal to explain why he valued Route 66 so much.

*After 10 years of following Jesus I look back at a long list of people and events which have shaped and influenced my faith. Included in that list is Route 66 where the penny dropped in terms of understanding the Bible in its full context, and the themes which weave it together. I am indebted to the friendships made with Christians across Ireland, the support provided to me, and the opportunities to learn and serve.*



## Local Youth Club Makes Big Community Impact

The rural village of Parkgate sits at the foot of Donegore Hill in the Six Mile Water Valley in Co Antrim. Geographically it is midway between Antrim town and Ballyclare with a population, according to the 2001 census, of 646 people. Interestingly, the census also revealed that 26.7% of the recorded population were aged under 16. Like many villages, Parkgate has a small number of local amenities, among which is 1st Donegore Presbyterian Church located on the edge of the village.

In any community, whether large or small, it is not size or numbers of people that make the difference. It is people with a vision and concern for their community. This is exactly what Parkgate has in Sam Pollock and Brendan Magill. They along with a small but dedicated team of local leaders - many of whom are parents of young people in the village, recognized the need to provide a work that served Parkgate's young people.

Sam Pollock: **"If a church is going to reach the community it is located in, then it must respond to the needs within that community."**

Brendan Magill: **"I grew up going to every youth club there was in my area so I wanted to support the vision of the church when they decided to provide for the young people of the village."**

In 2008, the Board of Youth and Children's Ministry provided a team of young adults to work with 1st Donegore Church. During this time, the club was started, running for an initial ten week period. The following September, the regular fortnightly club was launched on the alternate Friday night from 2nd Donegore Presbyterian Church club which is located three miles outside the village.

Brendan and Sam and their team of leaders are very encouraged by the success of their club. They regularly have over seventy young

people of a wide range of ages at the club. **"I want the young people to learn to talk to one another not just text one another."** says Brendan. **"We try to provide a fun environment for them with plenty of relevant activities but building up relationship with them is our core aim so that we can be that positive and wholesome influence that leaders should be."**

The young people certainly think he has succeeded. Amy says, **"I come to club because it is a great place to meet my friends and I can talk to my leaders about my faith and how to be a better Christian."**



## VOLUNTEERS & INTERNS PROGRAMME LEARNING WHILE SERVING

VIP is the GAP Year programme run by the Board of Youth and Children's (YAC) Ministry, where young adults (18-25 years old) can work in a Congregation/Host Project anywhere in Ireland. The year is a time when our young adults are given the opportunity to serve God through PCI, use their gifts and abilities, step out of their comfort zone, grow in their faith and let God transform them. Romans 12 v 1&2

#### CONGREGATIONS & PROJECTS

Congregations who wish to develop their youth and children's work, launch a new initiative or breathe life into an existing programme may wish to apply for a VIP member. If congregations are small, but don't feel they have enough work for a VIP member, smaller churches in the same locality can work together and share a VIP member. By the same token, if the YAC ministry in an area is demanding, churches can work together and apply for a VIP Team (but must be able to fund this.)

#### "Learning While Serving"

VIP is a discipleship programme and while a VIP member will bring energy, ideas and new skills to a congregation/project - they are not a full time youth and children's worker, so they will need support from the YAC Office and the congregation/project.

#### What does the YAC Office do?

- Process congregational/host project and VIP member application forms
- Interview the young adults and visit the host project/congregation
- Match young adults to an appropriate placement
- Access NI application process
- VIP training - 2 week training programme including 'The Word' Conference
- Pastoral Support - through the Young Adults' Development Officer

#### VIP MEMBERS

VIP members work from Sept-June (can be extended), the opportunities include: Volunteer Programme: work in a congregation alongside the Church Ministry Team to develop YAC ministry e.g. kick-start a new programme or build relationships with the community.

VIP Teams: work in a small team to develop, encourage and support YAC ministry in local congregations and the local area.

YAC Intern Scheme: work in the YAC Office in Church House, in areas such as the Website, Research and Education, SPUD Youth Assembly and PYP (Preparing Youth to be Peacemakers).

#### Further details can be found at

www.pciyac.org/serve  
or contact Carol Johnston  
(Young Adults' Development Officer)  
carol@pciyac.org