



FOUNDATION
IN CHRIST
MINISTRIES

2019 ANNUAL REPORT



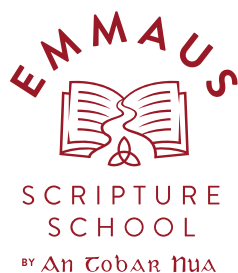
In addition to serving craft coffees, house-made cakes and full lunch menu, the Café also represents a point of first contact with youth. The Games Club runs three days a week and attracts dozens of students to play strategy and board games after school. With more intentional time set aside for students, comes greater opportunities to talk to the students one-on-one, often opening conversations about profound subjects.

Our end-of-term parties for secondary school students (7th-12th grades) continue to be well-attended, with 70+ students attending each of the two events. For the first time, a team member shared their personal testimony at the Christmas party. Several students, who had come to the café for the first time because of the party, came up to her afterward and they were really positively affected by her story. They are now daily regulars in the Café!

At the end of each semester, it is amazing to see so many secondary school students, along with twenty staff members, cheer each other on in celebration of one another. This is the kind of culture that has become familiar to students when they come into An Tobar Nua and join our student parties. It's a time of fun, laughter, encouragement, inclusion, and friendship.

It is very uplifting to see the outstanding commitment of our team members who regularly stay after working hours to make the most of these opportunities to develop deeper relationships with the students.

We have a student that regularly comes into the café and claims to be an atheist. He's always saying how much An Tobar Nua and the staff mean to him and how everyone here has such a joy. He shared that he always feels better when he visits the café. What is more, recently this student has been asking questions and becoming more curious about God and the Bible. He says he's now open to knowing more about God. — STAFF MEMBER



The Emmaus Scripture School has thrived within the past academic year. We offered four courses: The Book of Psalms and Survey of the Bible in the Autumn semester; followed by The Gospel of Luke and The Divine Conspiracy-A Discipleship Programme in the Spring semester. 13 students attended classes in Autumn, with that number increasing to 16 in the Spring semester.

Part of the Emmaus Scripture School is our Lectio Divina group. We have been meeting for four years now and have grown to a consistent number of 8-10 attendees.

Moreover, there has been an unexpected development: having finished our Spring courses, the students requested an opportunity to keep meeting through the Summer so we started a discussion group on Wednesday nights - 10 people joined the group within the first two weeks!

It is rewarding to see in the Emmaus Scripture School students, the hunger for answers to meaningful questions and the importance of Christian fellowship and discussion.

I'm really enjoying this class. There is a great balance between having a structured lesson and also getting to delve deeper into related topics that the class has an interest in. The instructor has great knowledge on the topic. I like how he leads students to form the answers to their questions themselves (with guidance of course). — STUDENT



AN TOBAR NUA
COUNSELLING
CENTRE

Our counsellors have seen a total of 100 clients since July 2018. We have extended our reach to include children and adolescents, and are now qualified to offer Couples Therapy. Our two full-time counsellors are supported by two student counsellors who are seeing clients at An Tobar Nua as part of their training hours which allows us to reach more individuals. Both of the students are expected to be fully accredited in the next year and able to take on additional clients. We are seeing real breakthrough in our sessions with clients, despite the tremendously difficult circumstances, trauma, and pain that they experience.

When I leave here my heart and head are always strong. — COUNSELLING CLIENT



YOUTH OUTREACH

BY AN TÓBAR NUA

RETREATS

This past school year, we have had the privilege of running a total of 268 school retreats nationwide through our four retreat teams located in Connaught, Leinster and Munster. Schools that we have not had access to in the past are inviting us to come, including the Aran Islands! God is opening doors in a massive way as we expanded into Munster in January 2019. We have shared the Good News of God's love with 12,463 students altogether this year, with 9,170 lives making a public response to that Good News.

I found this a very positive experience. It opened my mind and perspective on how to deal with and cope with some problems in my life. I found all the life stories very interesting and very insightful. It felt very refreshing that there are other people out there who feel and think the same way about God as I do. This also makes me want to lead a life closer to God. — RETREAT ATTENDEE

To get the privilege of carrying this Gospel message to secondary schools across my nation is beyond my wildest dreams. God is on the move in Ireland. His eyes are fixed on this generation of students. The hope that it evokes in my soul is hard to articulate. Ireland will once again be known as 'a land of saints and scholars', and I get to partner with God to accomplish that! Incredible. — RETREAT STAFF MEMBER



FAITH ALIVE YOUTH CLUB

Faith Alive, our youth group style meeting on Saturdays, has been growing this year. We have had as many as 25 teenagers come, and we have gained new regular attendees over the past few months, even teens who have no Christian background. It continues to be a place of fun and laughter, a great place for the teens to make new friends and experience what it is like to be surrounded by loving Christians who care about them. Each week we pray, sing worship songs and look at Scripture for 15 minutes, socialise and have fun. The reflections are very relevant to teenagers and are accessible to 'unchurched' teens also. God is gradually working in these teens lives and Faith Alive is a part of that journey for them.

Faith Alive is a fun, safe place to speak your mind and meet new people. I look forward to coming every week because the workers are so kind, lovely and welcoming. It helps my confidence. — PARTICIPANT

SUMMER CAMPS

This summer, we had 36 teens at our summer camp, and 32 kids at our primary school camp. The day camp runs for 4 days and includes games, Bible stories, music and art. We consistently have campers returning each year, and our numbers have grown steadily.



YOUTH ALPHA

Youth Alpha has been presented to four classes in two schools this year to a total of 78 students. The program has always received wonderful feedback, and students are grateful for the opportunity to ask questions and share their points of view on God, Jesus, religion, faith and life in general. There is a lot of interaction within the classes. A few of the students told us about their personal situations, and how their belief in God or lack of, affects the way they live their everyday lives. The teachers at the schools are very happy with us visiting the students and are very supportive of what we are doing and are happy to continue our partnership.

NUA

We are now offering a follow on series to Youth Alpha called 'Nua' to classes that have already completed the Youth Alpha programme. 'Nua' [meaning "new" in Gaelic] is an Irish-made film series that encourages questions, and offers an engaging perspective on the Christian faith.

Our first session was held for a class of 26 students over 8 weeks who had completed the Youth Alpha series in the previous academic year.

The students were happy to have us back again and they were always ready to ask questions or share their point of view.

PRAYER TIME WITH PRIMARY SCHOOL STUDENTS

This year, we have had the opportunity to help lead a prayer time for a local primary (elementary) school. It takes place once a month, and is attended by approximately 80 students from 2nd to 6th class (2nd to 6th grades). The children are between eight and 12 years old. Everyone is lead in contemplative prayer and a reading from the Gospel. This is a great opportunity to help these younger children build a relationship with Jesus and minister to them in a very simple way. Some of the teachers have commented on the children's behaviour during the prayer time and the positive difference that they can see in the classroom. We are delighted to have been invited back for the next school year beginning in September 2019.

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