Daily Prayer Diary
July / August 2011

Read the Bible in 2 years!
The M’Cheyne Bible Calendar
(Carson version - Year 2)

JUNE 2011
Wed 1 Isaiah 33; Revelation 3
Thur 2 Isaiah 34; Revelation 4
Fri 3 Isaiah 35; Revelation 5
Sat 4 Isaiah 36; Revelation 6
Sun 5 Isaiah 37; Revelation 7
Mon 6 Isaiah 38; Revelation 8
Tues 7 Isaiah 39; Revelation 9
Wed 8 Isaiah 40; Revelation 10
Thur 9 Isaiah 41; Revelation 11
Fri 10 Isaiah 42; Revelation 12
Sat 11 Isaiah 43; Revelation 13
Sun 12 Isaiah 44; Revelation 14
Mon 13 Isaiah 45; Revelation 15
Tues 14 Isaiah 46; Revelation 16
Wed 15 Isaiah 47; Revelation 17
Thur 16 Isaiah 48; Revelation 18
Fri 17 Isaiah 49; Revelation 19
Sat 18 Isaiah 50; Revelation 20
Mon 19 Isaiah 51; Revelation 21
Tues 20 Isaiah 52; Revelation 22
Wed 21 Isaiah 53; Matthew 6
Thu 22 Isaiah 54; Matthew 2
Tues 23 Isaiah 55; Matthew 3
Wed 24 Isaiah 56; Matthew 4
Thu 25 Isaiah 57; Matthew 5
Fri 26 Isaiah 58; Matthew 6
Sat 27 Isaiah 59; Matthew 7
Tues 28 Isaiah 60; Matthew 8
Wed 29 Isaiah 61; Matthew 9
Thu 30 Isaiah 62; Matthew 10
JULY
Fri 1 Isaiah 63; Matthew 11
Sat 2 Isaiah 64; Matthew 12
Sun 3 Isaiah 65; Matthew 13
Mon 4 Isaiah 66; Matthew 14
Tues 5 Jeremiah 1; Matthew 15
Wed 6 Jeremiah 2; Matthew 16
Thur 7 Jeremiah 3; Matthew 17
Fri 8 Jeremiah 4; Matthew 18
Sat 9 Jeremiah 5; Matthew 19
Sun 10 Jeremiah 6; Matthew 20
Mon 11 Jeremiah 7; Matthew 21
Tues 12 Jeremiah 8; Matthew 22
Wed 13 Jeremiah 9; Matthew 23
Thur 14 Jeremiah 10; Matthew 24
Fri 15 Jeremiah 11; Matthew 25
Sat 16 Jeremiah 12; Matthew 26
Sun 17 Jeremiah 13; Matthew 27
Mon 18 Jeremiah 14; Matthew 28
Tues 19 Jeremiah 15; Mark 1
Wed 20 Jeremiah 16; Mark 2
Thurs 21 Jeremiah 17; Mark 3
Fri 22 Jeremiah 18; Mark 4
Sat 23 Jeremiah 19; Mark 5
Sun 24 Jeremiah 20; Mark 6
Mon 25 Jeremiah 21; Mark 7
Tues 26 Jeremiah 22; Mark 8
Wed 27 Jeremiah 23; Mark 9
Thurs 28 Jeremiah 24; Mark 10
Fri 29 Jeremiah 25; Mark 11
Sat 30 Jeremiah 26; Mark 12
Sun 31 Jeremiah 27; Mark 13

A walking talking billboard for our church.

Richard (Richie) Cronin
Outreach Worker,
Dun Laoghaire Presbyterian Church

I grew up in Dunован (in Md. Ck.). My folks broke up when I was twelve and many of the problems I experienced in the next part of my life stemmed from the unhappiness of this event. I had a faith in God that was very strong, I was not ever able to talk about it to my old friends and I was very confused. I found that God was asking me to do the

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JUNE
Thur 7 Pray for the Moderator and members who will be attending the General Assembly this week.
Wed 6 Pray for Ambassador in Sport outreach to children and young people in Ballyjuly, Co. Limerick.
Tues 5 Pray for Jonathan Reid speaking at the Tent Mission in Desertmartin.
Fri 24 Pray for the Nighttime outreach time working in the Golden Mile area of Belfast tonight.
Sat 25 Pray for the Nighttime outreach team working in the Odyssey Arena in Belfast tonight.
Sun 26 Pray for the closing meeting of the Desertmartin Tent Missions.
Mon 27 Pray for Lynda McIvor, deaconess in 1st Carnmoney, in her recovery from a hip replacement operation.
Tues 28 Pray for Richie Coppen, the outreach worker in Dun Laoghaire Presbyterian Church.
Wed 29 Pray for Eddie Spence, the outreach worker in Ballygorman Presbyterian Church.
Thur 30 Pray for the four student deaconesses starting their probationary year in a congregation.

JULY
Fri 1 Give thanks for over 250 young people who will be involved in PCI youth outreach during July and August.
Sat 2 Pray for the PCI Summer team in Newry from 2 - 9 July.
Sun 3 Pray for the Grand Urban Mission Congregation meeting in the local primary school while they wait on a new church building.
Mon 4 Pray that the young people will work well as a team in Newry.
Focused prayer

Julie Peake, Deaconess
Portrush Presbyterian Church

r singing flower bulbs to build bridges, that’s what the members of our fellowship were doing this Easter. It all started through our Sunday evenings as we used Tim Keller’s material to investigate how the gospel is lived out in all of life. We were challenged by Jeremiah 29 to seek the prosperity of the city and pray for it. So that’s what we do. When we do that, people will ask us about God. That’s when we’ll get an effective opportunity to share the good news about Jesus with them.

In a nutshell, that’s what our mission strategy in Arklow is all about. We encourage our congregation to live good and caring lives and to be genuine friends with other people. Every couple of months we organise a Special Event that they can invite people to. If people respect them and the lives that they live, they are more likely to come along to the event.

Two of these events are focused around candlelight – an historic Christian symbol of Jesus, the light of the world, and of how we as his followers are to let his light shine.

The first is a ‘Christingle’ Service held at Christmas time. It is a great family event where the children get to make a candle and take home a special Christmas decoration made from an orange, a candle, a ribbon and some sweets. They hear how the symbols of the Christingle remind us of God’s love for us in Christ. It is inspiring to sing ‘Hark the Herald Angels’

The second is a ‘Tenebrae’ Service. ‘Tenebrae’ is a Latin word which means ‘Shadows.’ It is held on the evening of Good Friday. The church is lit by candles at the beginning of the service. As the service progresses, the candlelight is gradually extinguished until we reach the final reading: the death and burial of Christ. As the final candle is extinguished, the church is plunged into complete darkness. The service ends deliberately with no music and no Benediction. People are invited to remain for a few moments in quiet prayer and then leave in complete silence. This dark, stillness and incompleteness reflects the death of Christ and a salvation incomplete until the last miracle of the resurrection. People are invited to return to church on Easter Sunday for a Celebration of the Resurrection followed by an Egg hunt for the children!

Let me encourage you to let your light shine in the way that you live. Let me also encourage you not to be afraid of candles! Why don’t you try a Christingle or a Tenebrae service next year? We have found these two events very effective in bringing people together and in sharing the Good News about Jesus with folks who might not otherwise come to church. If you have any questions about organizing either of these events please don’t hesitate to contact me on www.arklowpc.com or manderson@presbyterianireland.org.

(photos taken by Miss Helen Owens)

Passover

Rev Molly Deatherage
Ballina/Ballymote/Killala

B alina Presbyterian Church had a chance to try something really different for us on Thursday before Easter. We had an evening of introducing people to the story of Easter.

I find it impressive that the Bible is so up-to-date with teaching methods. The Passover celebrates such an important event in Israel’s history, and yet we often only re-tell the story and use it to parallel the freedom from sin in our own lives as Christians. But the Passover celebration uses all the sensors to remember and teach us about God’s amazing power and intervention in Israel’s history, and then the history of humanity. From the bitter herbs and salty water to remind us of the bitterness and tears of slavery through various stages to the last cup of praise that we have been accepted as God’s people, the table is full of meaning that everyone can taste and smell and touch. We made no attempt to be completely authentic – it was simply an introduction to the ideas.

We gathered in the evening, with family-sized tables set up in the hall, and then we re-tell the story and use it to parallel the freedom from sin in our own lives as Christians. After that we were served lamb and bowls of salads were brought to each table; to retain the family feel of the evening. We finished up the evening with desserts and tea.

Although no one knew quite what to expect from the evening, they were all excited, and everyone who came brought something to share. In the end, not a chair was empty - the hall was full of people, full of food, and full of chat and great fellowship.

(continued from front page)

impossible. Luckily I met some Christians who began to teach me about grace that God loved me unconditionally; that the law was not just a standard but a caring teacher; that sanctification was also by faith and not by effort. Eventually the worn and harried crease on my brow softened and my friends started to listen rather than write me off. It’s many years later now and I’m still learning to mine the depths of his grace whilst aiming to live in the solid food of the gospel every day.

Currently I have two part-time jobs and one of them is as the Church and Community Outreach worker for Dun Laoghaire Presbyterian Church. As the outreach worker I am trying to find out what people in our area think of when it comes to God, and what are the needs of our area. Mostly it’s predictable but there are some things that come up again and again and I communicate these to our minister(s) so they can be done in the way that God intends.

I’ve also tried to farm links with the other churches in the area. As a part of this I’m involved in running an Alpha Course in a local pub with members of other churches – mostly Catholics. The last time I was in the north there was a man talking about people bringing ‘wonderfully saved’. We wouldn’t mind seeing a bit of that ourselves. We also wouldn’t mind becoming a church that demonstrably cares for Dun Laoghaire. Pray that these things would come to pass and also that everyone in our church would grow in understanding of the gospel and what it means for our lives, right down to the gritty reality of daily life. Thank you.

New arrival in South Belfast

Keith Preston
South & East Belfast

A t the Ulsterville Drop-In we are very excited about the appointment of a part-time Evangelist. Michael Sentance came from England to Ireland last September with one purpose in mind, to ask Katie to marry him, which he did, and she accepted his proposal (by the time you read this they will be married). Michael had been working as a team leader for OM on the streets of South Belfast and was invited to get involved in something he would say he had been praying for a long time. He got involved with the Ulsterville Drop-In under the leadership of Irongate church.

Please pray for this team as they give out the Jesus DVD and share their faith and for Michael and Katie as they discover God’s plan for their life together.

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