

Scripture Union Diary and Prayer Focus

January/February 2012

WE PRAISE and THANK GOD

We continue to Rejoice, Praise and Thank God for so many blessings and encouragements in 2011. The **Ovoca Manor Extension Project** was completed in June and the Official Opening was held in September. What an amazing facility this is for camps, church, youth and schools groups!

In 2011 we were gifted some funding to explore the appointment of a **Programme Manager** to develop and co-ordinate the mid-week programmes at Ovoca Manor focused on linking the Outdoor Pursuits with the challenges of team exercises and the spiritual with relevant Biblical teaching. A pilot of this programme has been successfully completed and it is hoped to launch this in 2012 with a range of secondary schools. In mid-January one of the prospective candidates for this role and his wife will visit the Manor.

The new **Youth Alpha Coordinator** role was launched in partnership with Alpha Ireland and **Jonny Somerville** is now working with some 300 students in some 10 schools delivering this 10 week course.

Authentic Youth Team continue to minister into the lives of thousands of secondary school students in some 25 schools throughout Ireland under the leadership of **Jude Barry**. We were blessed with two GAP team volunteers **Emma Doherty and Andy Waller**.

The **'It's Your Move'** Programme (ROI version) was developed, piloted and completed by **Grace Deegan** our Primary School Coordinator and will be officially launched in 2012.

Some **3000** children, young people and families attended our Camps and Missions Programme coordinated by **Rachel Browne** as well as Adventure Club camps for Primary schools.

A major new development for 2012 is that we have leased our **Talbot Street Christian Bookshop**. **Valmai Gee** has taken on the lease from the beginning of January 2012. Sadly this meant that some of our dedicated staff were made redundant at the end of December: **Elva Byrne; Evelyn Taylor and Valmai Gee**. The store will continue on a franchise basis to meet the needs of our customers and provide SU Bible Reading Notes and Sunday School materials.

We are also planning to develop and launch a completely new **SU Web Site in 2012** which will profile the ministry and assist our support base and public to access our work and services.

The New Year 2012 will bring many financial challenges as we are more focused on our core ministry with children and young people through our camps and missions and schools work. We therefore greatly value your prayers as we face into a year of uncertainty but trusting God to be our provider.

Please keep all of these aspects of the ministry in prayer on a regular basis. Thank you

Jim Donnan

for your prayer support which is vital to our ministry.

January 2012

- 9th Pray for **Jonny Somerville** as he starts a Youth Alpha course in a new school **Colaiste de Aide in Tallaght** this week. Pray that God would provide the right people to partner with him.
- 10th Pray for **Jonny Somerville** as he continues the Youth Alpha Course in **Wesley College and the Holy Child Sallynoggin** for 4th and 6th years. Pray for the local youth works **Ross, Norman and Rachel** as they assist him in presenting this course.
- 10th Pray for **Jim Donnan, Grace Deegan and Rachel Browne** as they meet today to plan the **SU E100 Bible Reading Challenge** which will take place in Ovoca Manor from 20th to 22nd January 2012. This is a FREE weekend to encourage people aged 18+ to immerse themselves in the Scriptures at the beginning of a New Year. Pray for many to participate and for wisdom in planning.
- 10th Pray for **Jim Donnan** as he chairs the **Youth Alpha Advisory Group** meeting today. Pray for **Jonny Somerville** as he coordinates this work in some 10 secondary schools.
- 12th Pray for **Jonny Somerville** as he presents the Youth Alpha course to 5th years in **Gonzaga College**. Pray for God to provide support to partner with him.
- 12th Pray for **Jim Donnan** as he meets with **Rev Rob Jones** from Holy Trinity Church Rathmines today. Pray for more opportunity to promote the ministry of SU through this new

expression of church.

- 13th Pray for **Jonny Somerville** as he continues to deliver the **Youth Alpha Course in Sligo** and for Fr Jonny and Goretti as they start a new course themselves in a new school.
- 14th **Joint meeting of SU Family Week Committees.** Pray for **David Percy** as he chairs this meeting. Pray for wisdom in planning this summer's two Family Week Camps.
- 14th Pray for the **potential candidate for the Programme Manager role and his wife** as they travel to Ireland and visit various staff and Council members over the coming weekend. May this be a time of hearing the voice and call of God for their lives?
- 16th Pray for **Jim Donnan** as he meets with the potential candidate for the Programme Manager role and his wife at Ovoca Manor today. May he know the Lords discernment in this important decision and appointment for SU and Ovoca Manor.
- 16th **CAMP LEADERS TRAINING EVENING.** Pray for **Rachel Browne** as she organises this training evening for all SU Camp Leaders. Pray for a good attendance and a good learning experience. Pray for the guest speaker Sam Moore from Innovista Ireland.
- 16th to 17th **Authentic Youth retreat at Boyne Community School** for 2nd years. Pray for **Jude Barry** and her GAP team **Emma Doherty and Andy Waller** as they lead this retreat. Pray for hearts responsive to message of Christ.
- 17th **Meeting to plan Ecumenical Walk** on Sat 21st April along seafront from Clontarf and Dun Laoghaire. This is a joint venture fund raising initiative between SU, Alpha Ireland and Methodist Church homeless Dublin project. Pray for wisdom for the group organising this event.
- 18th
- 20th to 22nd **Authentic Youth Retreat in St Louis High School Rathmines** for 2nd years. Pray for **Jude Barry and her team** as they share their Christian faith with these students.
- 23rd & 24th **SU E100 Bible Reading Challenge for 18+ year olds at Ovoca Manor.** This is a unique event for people to immerse themselves in God's Word at beginning of a New Year. It is also a challenge to reflect and read in a community context the key passages and themes from Old and New testament. Pray for a great response to this event and for many blessings.
- 23rd
- 24th **Authentic Youth retreat for St Anne's school in Kilaloe** for 3rd and 4th years. Pray for open hearts to the message of Christ.
- 26th **Training evening for leaders of Parenting Camps.** Pray for **Rachel Browne** as she delivers this training evening. Pray for much encouragement for these leaders.
- 30th & 31st **Executive Council meeting.** Pray for **Jim Donnan, Dirk van der Flier, Basil Good and Mark Groves** as they meet to discuss the upcoming items on the agenda for the Council meeting.
- 30th **SU MANAGERS MEETING.** Pray for **Jim Donnan** and the management team as they meet today to plan for a New Year of ministry.
- 30th **Authentic Youth Retreat for 2nd years in Gonzaga College.** Pray for **Jude Barry and her team** and for God's Word to speak into these young students' minds and hearts.
- 31st **TRAINING EVENING FOR SU ADVENTURE CLUB LEADERS.** Pray for **Rachel Browne** as she coordinates this training event for the leaders of the 14 Adventure Club Camps. Pray for a time of great encouragement and learning.
- 31st **FULL COUNCIL MEETING.** Pray for **Nathan Norris** as he presents his annual report on **Ovoca Manor to Council.** Pray for all the staff team at **Ovoca Manor** and their families, Pray for much encouragement as they seek to develop this ministry over the coming year.
- Pray for **Jim Donnan** and his one to one staff meetings with **Rachel Browne, Grace Deegan and Jonny Somerville** today
- 'It's Your Move Programme'** will begin in **Multyfarnham National School** for the next four weeks today. Pray for **Grace Deegan** and the 6th class students that this programme will draw them to God and His Word as they make the transition to secondary school.

February

- 1st **Building Blocks Committee meet today.** Pray for **Grace Deegan** as she attends this meeting. Pray for good planning for the 2012 conferences.
- 2nd **Lunch meeting for Pastoral Parish Workers from 30 parishes in Dublin Diocese at Ovoca Manor.** Pray for this special gathering to hear about the ministry of SU and Ovoca Manor. Pray for a time of good fellowship and opportunities to share about the varied ministries of SU.
- 3rd Pray for **Jonny Somerville** as he works on plans to start a new Youth Alpha Course in **Castlerea Co Galway** on Friday mornings
- 3rd to 5th Pray for **Grace Deegan** as she attends a training conference for children's workers in

- 3rd to 5th** **Eastbourne.** May it be a great time of learning and refreshment.
Adventure Club Camp at Ovoca Manor. Pray for **Dirk and Olly van der Flier and their team** as they organising this camp for Primary Schools from Wicklow town. May it be a time of great fun and encounter with God
- 6th** **Authentic Youth retreat for 2nd year students at Gonzaga College.** Pray for **Jude Barry, Emma Doherty and Andy Waller** as they share their Christian faith with these students.
Pray for Grace Deegan as she provides Sunday School Training for Holy Trinity Church Rathmines. Pray for wisdom as they train and learn together.
- 6th** **Authentic Youth retreat for Mount Anville girls school for 1st years.** Pray for hearts open and receptive to the message of Christ.
- 7th**
- 11th to 13th** **Adventure Club Camp at Ovoca Manor.** Pray for **Norman Thompson and his team** as they lead this camp for primary age children from **Kill of the Grange School**. May this weekend be a time of great fun and encounter with God.
- 11th** Pray for **Grace Deegan** as she speaks the Methodist Children's residential event called **'Soul Survivors'** in Tallaght. Pray that the Holy Spirit will move in these young people's lives.
- 23rd** **SU MANAGERS MEETING. Pray for a time of much encouragement and cooperation among the management team.**
- 23rd** **SU Youth Forum meets this evening.** Pray for a time of envisioning as this group meet to discuss the youth ministries of SU.
- 25th** A **National Youth Conference will be held in Tullamore** today and a few hundred young people are expected to attend. Pray for **Jonny Somerville** as he is one of the guest speakers. Pray for great wisdom and may he impart the living Word of God.
- 28th** **Authentic Youth Gap team return to IBI to continue their last module of Biblical studies.** Pray for a time of great learning for Emma and Andy at IBI.
- 28th** **Pray for Jim Donnan as he has one to one meetings with Jude Barry, Rachel Browne, Grace Deegan and Jonny Somerville today.**
- 29th** **Pray for Jim Donnan as he has one to one meetings with Nathan Norris today.**