



# Foundation in Christ Ministries

## 2016 Annual Report

*"For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ."—1 Corinthians 3:11*



**"God...will not forget your work and the love you have shown Him as you have helped His people and continue to help them."—Hebrews 6:10 (NIV)**

It is a privilege to bring you this year's report of the many opportunities to share the Good News through Foundation in Christ Ministries. Thank you for your continued prayerful support to this work.

### School Retreats

Our high school retreat program has grown beyond our expectations this year! Since last September, we led 106 faith filled retreats at our center and on-site at various schools, with just over 2,600 students participating. The continued growth of this ministry has resulted in hiring three employees who are primarily devoted to the retreat program, spending their time creating engaging and relevant talks whenever they are not leading a retreat. We already have 116 retreats pre-booked for the upcoming 2016-2017 school year. For 20 days so far, we have double retreats scheduled. We are delighted to share the Good News with the teenagers of Galway and other counties through these fun, life-applicable, and interactive days. The feedback from students has been overwhelmingly positive and encouraging, even from those who have different religious views. Here are some comments from anonymous surveys completed by students who participated this year:



- *"It was a great day and I learned a lot. I was raised atheist but lately I have been believing and looking to God. Today was very meaningful and it showed me it's never too late to change your life. I would now like to try and live my life by the word of God. Thank you."*
- *"The highlight of the day was coming together as a class and learning to understand God and beliefs together and just the whole day was amazing."*

- *"I thought the day opened my mind to God and to other feelings within. It answered many questions that I had in relation to life and religion. It was a good day."*
- *"I worried about a lot of things but now I feel my faith with God has grown stronger. I feel relaxed. Thank you."*

### Counseling

Our Christian counseling center is a place of hope and healing. Modern life places many stresses on our mental and emotional health. Our two fully-accredited counsellors are always available to give a kind and listening ear to those who need to unburden and are looking for ways to cope. In the past year, our counselors have helped 64 clients. Here is a sample of the comments we have received from our clients:

- *"I feel so comfortable and safe here. I have been able to go to places with you, I couldn't with other counsellors. God is here."*
- *"This is the only place where I feel understood and cared for."*

During the year, the counseling center also hosted a free community mental health event called "MIND-YOU", featuring guest speaker Denise Mullen. Dr. Mullen spoke on 'Practical Ways of Coping with Anxiety and Depression'. 105 people attended this free event. Here are a few of their comments:



- *"Everything she said applied to my life. I got so much out of this."*
- *"This is what I needed to hear."*

- *"Wow, so impressed by the warm vibe of all you guys yesterday. Very good, well done! Brilliant idea, more please!!!!"*

### Alpha-Youth Courses

We are blessed each year to be able to lead some religious education classes in local high schools. One of the tools that we use in these classes is the internationally acclaimed Alpha-Youth course. Alpha-Youth is a contemporary exploration of the Christian Faith to help young people explore the character and claims of Jesus. Over 12 weeks, the course looks at a wide range of topics, from 'Who Is Jesus?' and 'Why Did Jesus Die?' to 'How & Why Should I Read the Bible?' This year, we led two courses in two schools with a total of 40 students attending. We are praying to be able to continue to expand this area of ministry in the coming year, and hope to hold four sessions at local schools.

### Emmaus Scripture School

Our Emmaus Scripture School's tenth year has seen 30 students from diverse faith backgrounds and traditions committed to learning in-depth scripture study. This year we taught seven classes: 'How to Read the Bible', 'Old Testament Survey', 'New Testament Survey', 'Jesus and the Gospels', 'Luke and Acts', 'Exegesis of Romans', and 'Hebrews and the General Epistles'.

We received the following feedback from one of our Old Testament Survey students:

- *"I look forward to [class] nights every week. I am so thrilled to be able to see my faith grow. It's amazing to see God working through the Hebrew people. The stories make sense together now! Where I was nervous about reading the Bible before, I am now excited."*

### Bookstore

Our bookstore continues to be an invaluable source of Bibles, inspirational books, cards, Christian music, and other faith-based gifts. We have a lot of regular customers who love to stop by just to chat or request prayer from our staff and receive encouragement in their Christian walk.

### An Tobar Nua Café & Mission Experience Volunteer Program

The café operates with the intention to provide a safe, clean, and welcoming environment with great food at reasonable prices so that locals, visitors, and tourists alike will want to return. Our café is staffed with a team of Irish employees and non-Irish Mission

Experience Volunteers. Volunteers come for a semester or a year to work in various areas of the ministry, with a primary focus in the café and retreat programs. Our café team supports the retreat program team, as all retreats hosted in-house also provide lunch and a snack during the retreat. The café continues to receive great feedback for our food and customer service on TripAdvisor.com:

- *"Great Atmosphere - Stopped here while passing through Galway on a tour of Ireland at the suggestion of my son... Everything was fantastic! If you have some time, and they aren't too busy, ask someone about what all they do there, and the causes they support. This is really the type of place that makes a difference."*
- *"Best café in Galway!! Loved this cafe while visiting Galway this summer! The staff was always so friendly. My favorite part was how spacious and clean it was. You kinda just wanted to stay there all day. Plus they have the best Hazelnut Latte I have ever had!! A definite when visiting Galway!"*



With best wishes for God's blessing,

*Kelly E. Curry*

Rev. Kelly E. Curry  
Chairman and President



*All gifts are tax deductible as allowed by law  
and may be sent to:*

*Foundation in Christ Ministries  
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