



Agapé Annual Report 2018



REACHING A NEW PLANET

At the beginning of the year staff met a student who chronicled her spiritual journey. After a teenage atheistic rebellion against all religion, she has now reached her more placid, “believing” stage at the age of 26.

So what does she believe now? Tibetan Buddhism. Why? She thinks it’s better at looking after the poor. Yet her answers consistently referenced Jesus and his teaching about the poor.

And here’s the clincher - she said that if she were to embrace Christian belief nowadays that would be looked on by her father as “a bit rebellious”. He is now a “total atheist”. His favourite authors are Christopher Hitchens (“God is not Great”) and Richard Dawkins.

We’re on a new planet where the issues to be dealt with now include: equality, God’s “doubtful” character, gender theory, women’s reproductive rights.

There are new questions like “Is Christianity actually a fake news story?”. This is a job for cross-cultural missions - and now in Ireland we all need to get good at it.

Thankfully, God is not in the least surprised by any of this and is changing lives in the midst of it all. During 2018 we met students who were keen to be trained in sharing their faith and ready to lead others.



SPRING

Christian societies in UCD joined together with the Chaplaincy to create a **Christian Unity week**. They served coffee on campus, ran events and shared with the University why they follow Christ.

In **Cork**, two students came to faith and four have agreed to become student leaders. In Limerick, our team have spoken to over 350 students, had follow up appointments and ran taster events.

"I was amazed to meet a Christian girl in the first building we tried. She was excited to hear what we were doing. She explained that although she was a Christian, she usually didn't tell people, but she was interested in hearing more about how to talk to people about Jesus."

- Staff Member visiting Cork



Staff at an event in UCC, Cork

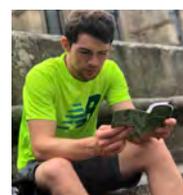
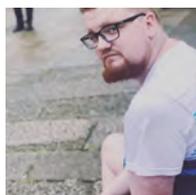
"We met John* doing **Soularium, which is a picture-based survey we use to have deeper conversations with students. We went through the gospel and throughout the entire conversation it was clear that the Holy Spirit was giving John a deep understanding of what we were saying. He told us that he did not have God at the centre of his life, but genuinely wanted to! We explained to him that all he needed was to pray and ask Jesus to come in his life, and then John prayed with us to receive Christ. The following Sunday we brought John to a local church and he was so excited to be there and planned to attend regularly."**

- Staff Member

SUMMER



In June we took a group of staff and students went on the **Camino de Santiago**. Over the 160km trek, our team saw students engage with the Gospel and grow in their relationship with God. One of the students committed his life to Christ during the trip.



The annual **Biblical Studies conference** (held this year in the Lucan Centre) was addressed by Myles and Phyllis Wilson of "Funding the Family Business" (and early founders of Agapé in Ireland), Dr David Shepherd, Director of the Centre for Biblical Studies in Trinity College Dublin, Olivia Hdiya originally from Cork now serving on the Agapé staff in Paris as a counsellor, Natalie Warren (Agapé intern) and David Wilson (national director).

This conference covered Bible study methods and hearing about what God has done in people's lives. This year we were joined by Agapé staff members serving in France, Greece, Lithuania and Sweden.



AUTUMN

Our student team helped to staff an Agapé recruiting stand at **Bangor Worldwide Missionary Convention**. The convention filters in those who already have a missions commitment.

Dr. Norman and Sue Patterson held a special evening “**What is Love Actually?**” on Christian marriage, in the form of a romantic dinner for couples at the RDS. Sue also spoke at a women’s brunch in Castlebar and both Pattersons ran an afternoon marriage seminar there.



Dr. Norm and Sue Patterson



In Dublin, we were visited by a group of students from **Agape Denmark**. They teamed up with our staff to do outreach in Dublin universities.

The October bank holiday weekend saw 25 students join our annual **Lahinch surfing retreat**. The group surfed and hiked, and each day a student led a talk and discussion time, on the topics of Christianity in today's society and the claims of Jesus.

We had the privilege of dedicating a new staff member, **Laura Reynolds**, who went to work in Kurdistan (in Iraq) in a secondment to a sister movement, Frontier Alliance International who aim “to serve and care for those suffering through great crisis and geopolitical conflict” – i.e. the people who are left behind by war.



ACCOUNTS 2018

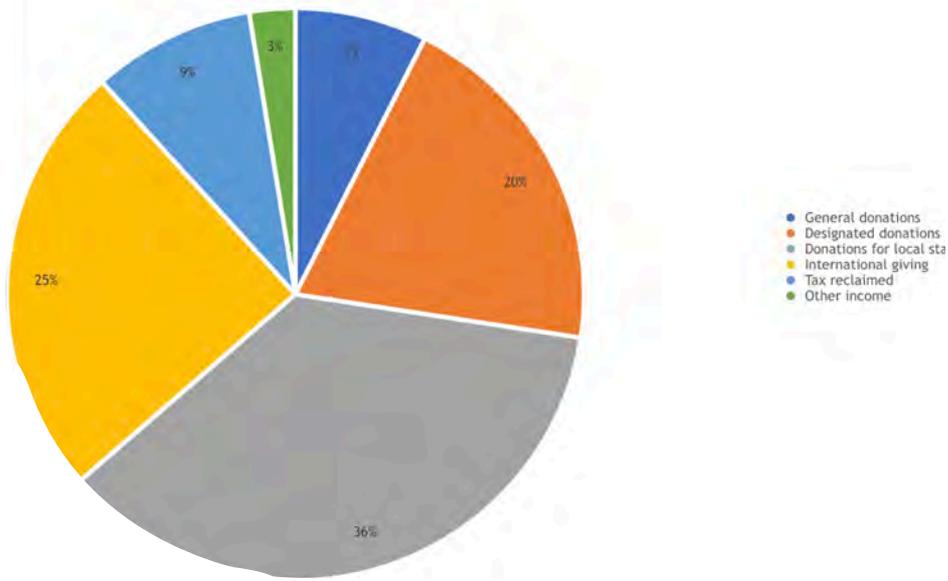


Summary of 2018 Accounts

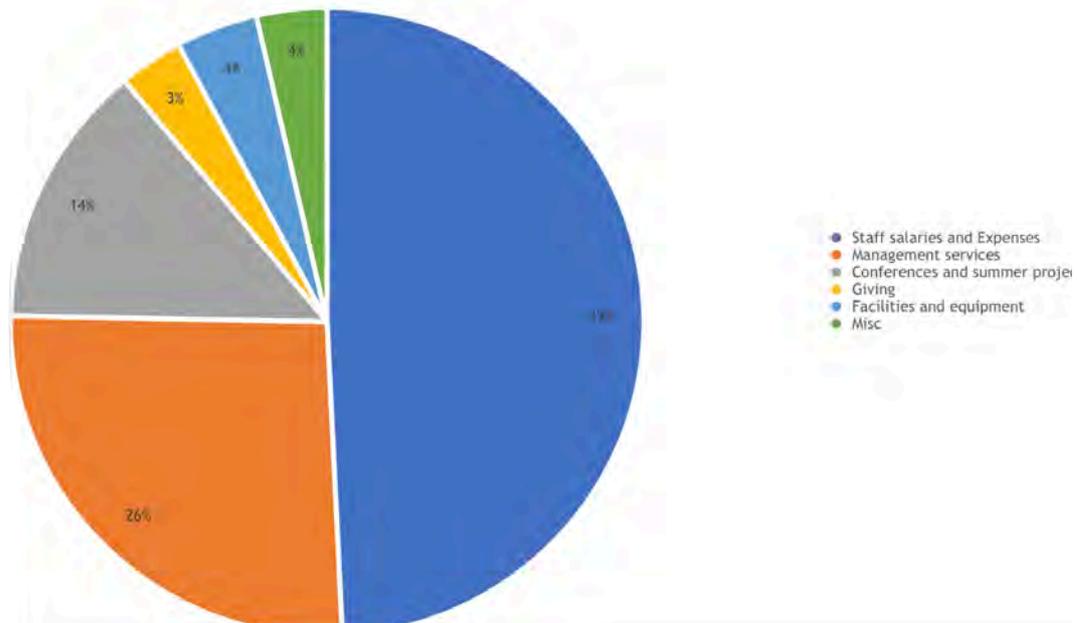
	2018	2017
	€	€
Income		
General donations	20,406	37,850
Designated donations	55,172	50,969
Donations for local staff	167,768	145,515
Tax reclaimed	25,129	22,354
Intern housing subsidy	-	12,500
Other income	7,083	3,669
	275,558	272,857
Expenditure		
Movement in stock	-	2,361
Wages and salaries	83,304	89,100
Social welfare costs	8,635	8,965
Management services	69,660	49,320
Contributions to Agapé Europe	8,795	8,113
Insurance	1,184	1,169
Advertising	538	2,498
Telephone	2,662	2,288
Interns accommodation costs	17,743	9,667
Facilities and equipment	11,191	10,504
Travelling expenses	21,805	9,024
Bank charges	437	450
General expenses	2,376	2,890
Conferences and summer projects	36,375	60,094
Auditor's remuneration	2,400	2,400
	267,105	258,843
Net surplus	8,453	14,014

ACCOUNTS 2018

Total Income: €275,558



Total Expenditure: 267,105



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