



Agapé Annual Report 2019

A NOTE FROM THE NLT

NATIONAL LEADERSHIP TEAM

When Jesus said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations” he wasn’t offering a theoretical proposal. It wasn’t an inflated goal to help us jump higher. It was his Plan A for bringing the gospel to the world. And he offered no Plan B.

While “all nations” remains on our screen, our nearest focus is on the nation he has put us in, Ireland. To disciple Ireland requires getting her attention and one of the ways to do that is through our universities.

Did you notice that in the early days of the pandemic the newspaper’s immediately referenced professors of immunology, virology, biochemistry, public health, global health, antimicrobial resistance, geriatrics and oncology? But it’s not just medicine. Any day of the week we’re invited to listen to what various professors have to say - about parenting our children, planning our finance, fostering our mental health, running the country and generally saving the world.

This same professors would quickly say that they don’t know it all. But the country thinks that’s where you go to get things sorted out. Academics and students don’t deserve the gospel any more than anybody else but when a culture claims to be standing on the commanding heights of the society that’s where the Lord Jesus deserves to be honoured by dedicated disciplers. What you hold in your hands is our plan to do this. It will be only with the empowering of God’s Spirit and always in collaboration with other believers - but this is the plan.



SPRING

Will Johnson and **Seán O’Rónáin** joined our campus staff team, following their 2018 Agapé internships. This was a great blessing to the campus ministry and increased our capacity for evangelism and student discipleship.

“Joining staff with Agape Ireland in 2019 was a great experience. Throughout the year I had plenty opportunities to grow in skills when it came to working with students and personal growth. Our daily and weekly structures provided me with significant time to connect with students on campus and to do the work I love to do. As a staff team I also felt like we were able to develop a strong team environment throughout 2019.” - Seán O’Rónáin

We were also grateful for new administrative staff joining our team- Nigel Locke (pictured here) as Financial Administrator and Louise McCabe as Office Administrator (Maternity Cover).



We started this year with a small amount of connections having been through an unusual end to 2018, due to visa changes. During these initial months we prayerfully set goals each month- for new connections, evangelistic conversations and potential student leaders.

We were galvanised to see these goals met each month, the latter beyond our expectations.

We launched a new discipleship group called 'Agapé Tuesday', a mission focused bible study for students. With 7 students in April of 2019, we took them through core Agapé training for evangelism through discipleship. A strong community formed around them, and by May we planned out teams for the Autumn retreats, attempted some outreach events on campus and most importantly prayed and reached out to their friends.



AGAPÉ
Tuesdays



Evangelism on campus is a priority for staff, have our feet to the ground on the campus results in familiarity, chances of seeing students we know, and of forging new connections.

Our second priority was sacred rhythms- that as staff we would have a healthy work and life balance, that are dependant on the Lord and walking balanced in the Holy Spirit.

SUMMER

We have run Camino de Santiago summer trips for many years and we were pleased to have a great turnout this year, with our largest group of students so far. On each trip the group walks 160km over seven days, finishing at the impressive cathedral in Santiago de Compostela.

The purpose of the Camino is to create an open and safe environment for students to discuss and share their thoughts about life, faith and the Gospel. It also allows students to gain headspace after the stress of the Leaving Cert or summer college exams. Students and staff chat while walking during the day, and there are informal discussion groups in the evenings, which are centred around a talk that focuses on a specific aspect of the Gospel.

An unusual aspect of this year's Camino was that all 18 of the students called themselves Christians. This was out of the norm for us because the majority of our discussion groups content is prepared with a wider variety of backgrounds in mind.

Therefore, early in the week we asked the students to look at the content as a way of examining the foundations of their faith in Jesus. We were very encouraged by the level of interaction and engagement during the discussion times, and the inclusivity and openness of the students created a strong sense of community.





After 12 years of serving with Agapé Ireland, Kelly and Kate Mulholland were ready for an adventure and change of scene, and headed to the Greek island of Lesbos to work amongst refugees. The Moria camp is run by an organisation called EuroRelief, with whom Agapé has partnered to support and succour with resources and personnel. Agapé Ireland seconded the Mulholland's to work alongside this organisation.

A complex situation is unfolding on this island, with a huge influx of refugees from the migrant route through Turkey. Camp conditions are rough, and the team is working hard to protect and provide for refugees.

Initially Kelly and Kate found their skills to be the missing pieces to Eurorelief's operational puzzle, and slotted right in to strengthening the work. Kelly worked on operations and finance for Euro Relief, and Kate served in a HR role, coordinating the many volunteers who come to help at the camp.

"It's amazing to see how God has prepared us for the work here on Lesbos. Our experience with discipleship and evangelism has been key in working with brand new believers and helping them understand the basics of following Jesus and reading scripture. We are also surprised to see how our previous experience with finance, data protection and HR has come at a crucial time for the organisation we are seconded to at the moment. Part of the work has involved us setting up a Google Suite for Non-profits, financial systems and GDPR systems, which we had learned from Agapé Ireland, for the longevity and growth of the volunteers and staff of this ministry."

Kate Mulholland



AUTUMN

In Autumn we held our yearly student retreats, to Glendalough in August and Lahinch in October. 30 students came to Glendalough and 40 came to Lahinch. The weekends involved chat, talks and discussion groups, games, walking in Glendalough and surfing in Lahinch. Students were involved in planning and leading the weekends, along with staff. At both events we were encouraged to see a growing community of students, with students engaging in our discussion times, asking questions and having fun together.



GLEN
DA
LOUGH



LAHINCH

We ran two weekly courses on discipleship in mission for students - one called 'Agapé Tuesdays', for students already involved in Agapé's ministry, and the other, 'Equip', for first year students which several of the 2019 Camino students joined.



EQUIP

"Sharing the Gospel has to be done through our works AND our words. By how we live our lives, but also by sharing the truth."

- Cormac, TCD Student who attended Equip group



The aim of these groups was to help students to grow in their relationship with God, to equip them with skills and tools for sharing their faith with their friends and then supporting them as we go out onto their campus. The group were then combined, which allowed older students to lead and disciple the younger students.

“Discipleship and Evangelism are uniquely interlinked. It has been our goal to see mission happen, our efforts through discipling students are bolstered by our missional ideas- projects, events and outreach. This way we see the relational develop and grow, while striding forward towards the missional goal.”

Chloe Hanan NCD

In September the staff team in Dublin provided the basic Agapé weekend course on how to bear personal witness. The course covered how to share your faith with your regular circle of acquaintance, how to sympathetically answer their questions, and help them take that step of faith in Christ with their eyes wide open. We heard recent stories of how God used local witness to change lives.

The event was held at the Irish Bible Institute building in central Dublin, which made it easy for participants to find lots of members of the public to talk to during the practical part of the course (it was the weekend of the All-Ireland football final!). When we asked people, “If it were possible to know God personally, would you be interested?” the answers ranged from, “I might well be - but so far I don’t know anybody who has done that” (from a man called John) to a homeless woman called Katie who said, “Sure”.

Afterwards participants said, “It was a great opportunity to learn from Christians who are involved in evangelism” and, “I want to not only prepare my children for the world, but the world for my children by sharing my faith.”



WINTER



In October staff visited Galway to do the Agapé National Student Belief Survey. We want to acquire quantifiable information on the beliefs of students around Ireland through a 10 question survey, collecting measurable responses, then collated and published. We also want to see partnership flourishing across organisations that are involved in Student ministry. We connected with the Dóchas and Pensa societies there, attended their events and provided training for them in evangelism.

In November staff visited Cork and Limerick. In Cork we led a discussion on 'Why Jesus?' at a café outreach event run by a local student. In Limerick we partnered with a local pastor for the NSBS and gave training to students in campus outreach, through a Gospel workshop and a "MyStory" workshop.

"My Story" (mystory.me) is a great resource where people can share their story with God online and then create MyStory cards (like business cards) to share with their contacts.



"The year of 2019-2020 has been a challenge in a lot of ways, but has also given us significant opportunity for adaption and growth. We began the year with ambition. I really felt that Sean and I were able to come into our own this year. Having completed the internship and having a bit of experience, we were helpfully encouraged and led into a space where we used the contacts and abilities that we had acquired previously. A great year to be sure to be sure."

Will Johnson, Staff

ACCOUNTS



Agape Ministries Ireland

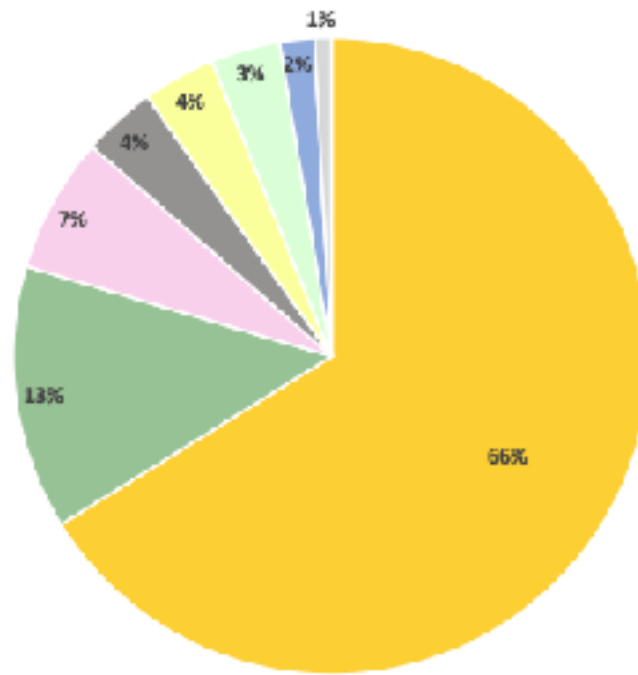
SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION RELATING TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

DETAILED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

for the financial year ended 31 December 2019

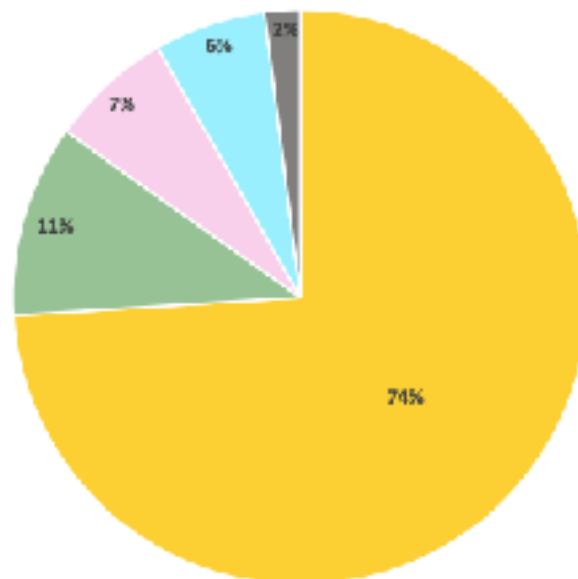
	2019	2018
	€	€
Income		
General donations	5,695	20,406
Designated donations	10,000	38,581
Donations for local staff	186,083	167,766
Tax reclaimed	27,129	25,129
Conferences and summer projects	17,517	16,591
Other income	5,000	7,083
	<u>251,424</u>	<u>275,558</u>
Expenditure		
Wages and salaries	109,127	83,304
Social welfare costs	11,201	8,635
Management services	54,000	69,660
Contributions to Agapé Europe	9,720	8,795
Rent payable and utilities	9,814	6,430
Insurance	-	1,184
Printing, postage and stationery	2,453	1,586
Advertising	2,356	538
Telephone	1,015	2,862
Interns accommodation costs	-	18,226
Computer costs	3,445	2,692
Travelling expenses	18,149	21,805
Bank charges	394	437
General expenses	1,871	2,376
Conferences and summer projects	35,350	36,375
Auditor's remuneration	4,626	2,400
	<u>263,521</u>	<u>267,105</u>
Net (deficit)/surplus	<u>(12,097)</u>	<u>8,453</u>

2019 Expenditure: €263,521



- Salaries and social welfare costs
- Office rent
- Auditor's remuneration
- Conferences and summer projects
- Contributions to Agapé Europe
- Other expenses
- Travel
- Communications and advertising

2019 Income: €251,424



- Staff member support
- Tax reclaimed
- Conferences and summer projects
- Other donations
- Other income

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