

agapé^{7L}
IRELAND

A large, stylized white number '50' logo is positioned in the upper right quadrant. The '5' and '0' are formed by thick white lines, with the '0' being a simple circle. The logo is set against a background of rolling green hills under a clear blue sky.

**ANNUAL
REPORT
2022**

The background of the entire page is a photograph of a rural landscape. A wide, light-colored gravel path or dirt road runs vertically through the center of the image, leading from the foreground into the distance. On either side of the path are green fields, some of which appear to be planted with crops like corn. In the distance, a group of people can be seen walking along the path. The sky is a clear, pale blue. The image is framed by large blue triangular shapes on the left and right sides.



CONTENTS

A word from the National Director	1
What we believe	2
Our strategic intent	3
Review of 2022	
January - April	4
May - August	6
September - December	8
Our Accounts for 2022	11

A WORD FROM THE NATIONAL DIRECTOR

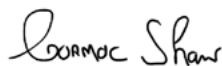
The Lord continued to encourage us and bless our ministry throughout 2022 as we kept our focus on winning, building and sending in the power of the Holy Spirit. As the world moved beyond COVID19, so our work with students and others began to return to many of our pre-pandemic activities. Students were back on campus, we could hold face-to-face meetings again, we could engage in person-to-person discussions about Jesus, and we could once again meet our ministry partners to share what God is doing in our lives and what is on our hearts and on theirs.

We were able to organise staff and student retreats again. We took two groups on the Camino de Santiago and held a Biblical Studies Conference. We recruited some new staff and sent staff on mission beyond our own shores. We also rented a new office space in Dublin city centre, and cared for and developed our staff.

2022 has been a good year for Agapé Ireland, and we thank the Lord for sustaining us and guiding us through all these things and much more.

In 2023, we are celebrating our 50 years of ministry in Ireland. We will take the opportunity to look back at what the Lord has done through us over those years, and we will look forward with hope and expectation at what He will do in the years ahead.

It's a privilege to be a part of all of this. Thanks to all our staff, Board members, volunteers, student leaders and ministry partners for the crucial part that each of you plays.



Cormac Shaw
National Director

**"As iron sharpens iron,
so one person sharpens
another."**

Proverbs 27:17

WHAT WE BELIEVE



Christ Centred

Agapé is centred on the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Therefore these inform our strategy, vision and mission.



Bible Based

Agapé's understanding of life is based on what the Bible says.



Evangelism

Agapé values taking the initiative and is committed to seeing movements of spiritual multiplication.



People

Agapé believes in people and enjoys working with them. We value trust and respect.



Transparency

Agapé values transparency and accountability in all aspects of our work, with a commitment to integrity.



Collaboration

Agapé loves collaboration. Come partner with us.

OUR STRATEGIC INTENT



Focus
on our
Strengths



Pioneer Into
Missional Gaps



Love Jesus,
Love People



Raise
Sustainable
Leadership &
Funding



Run an Agile & Effective
Organisation

JANUARY - APRIL

- > **We started the year with a January staff retreat, to reflect on 2021 and plan for 2022,** at Mount Saint Anne's Retreat and Conference Centre in Portarlington.

The retreat included times of prayer, teaching, reflection and a session with 'Living Out' staff member, Andy Robinson. As part of the retreat David taught on leadership, primarily focusing on lessons from the life of King David.



Brendan Byrne stepped down from the Board in January. Brendan had been an Intern with us previously and we are so grateful for his service to the ministry over the years.

Molly joined us as an intern through Learn International, working with the campus team. Brenner, a



Study Abroad student from the US, was a key student leader for evangelism and building the student community, and was a great encouragement to our team.



- > **In February, the campus team brought Dublin students on a trip to Galway** to do evangelism surveys and engage in gospel conversations on the NUIG campus.

We also held **a Guys weekend and a Girls weekend** in Wexford. The team booked two different AirBnBs for the guys and girls to stay in and then they all got together on the Saturday afternoon at Kilmore Quay. Over the weekend the groups read and discussed the Bible together, looking at topics such as sin and sanctification.


 A graphic logo for 'AGAPE TUESDAYS' featuring the text in a bold, black, hand-drawn font. The text is set against a background of overlapping, semi-transparent shapes in shades of orange, yellow, and green, resembling a stylized map of Ireland or a group of people.

> Our team was delighted that **the Agapé Tuesday community** was able to meet again in person, after almost two years of meeting over Zoom.

The group enjoyed time together with lots of laughter, tea, snacks and discussions about Jesus. Over the year there was a focus on students examining the Bible for themselves and learning how to discuss their thoughts with one another.

We also held an **'Open House'** evening and a bowling night for students.

We held **'Nexus'** - a graduate dinner and discussion evening at the RDS. There were presentations from Agapé staff members and friends, including James and Joanie Reilly. We talked about how to have a good work-life balance and we also shared information for graduates about working with Agapé.

> **In April, a team of three staff from the Swiss Campus for Christus ministry, 'The Four', visited the Irish ministry.**

They met with our team and with students for a number of events, including Agapé Tuesday and a hike in Glendalough. They also explained how they use 'The Four' tool for explaining the Gospel and having conversations with people about Jesus.



On Trinity College and UCD campuses, the team has been using a short seven questions survey that helps us to understand what Irish students believe about faith, the Bible, and the person of Jesus. These surveys often lead onto further discussions with students. After a friendly interaction the team are often asked, "Why are you asking these questions?" or "What do you think about that?"



STORY FROM MARCH

Sean and Levi met a student while doing surveys on campus. A few weeks later, Sean met the student again for coffee. The student brought three friends from his philosophy class along to the meeting. They had great chats about their worldviews, the Bible and Jesus' resurrection.

REVIEW OF 2022

MAY - AUGUST

Our Intern, Levi went for five weeks to work with refugees in Lesbos, Greece with our EuroRelief seconded staff, Kelly and Kate Mulholland. Diane Lyons joined the team as Administrator (Maternity Cover). Eve Wright, who was previously a student leader, joined the team as an intern in July. Liz Andreasen joined as staff in August, having previously worked with Agapé in Berlin and Copenhagen. Liz's role includes campus outreach, digital strategies and engaging with young adults.



- > **We ran two Camino trips in June and July - a Student Camino, and our first ever Camino Plus - taking a group who are not students to walk part of the Camino de Santiago in Spain.**



On the Camino trips the groups walk about 20km per day over six to eight days, finishing in Santiago de Compostela.



In the evenings there are group spiritual discussions and



reflection times, and the bond that develops within this pilgrim community lends itself to great conversations, encouragement and support. Our Caminos are organised each year by Kelly and Kate Mulholland, with the support of staff and a volunteer work team. John and Maria Broderick and Andy Halpin joined us on the work team in 2022.

- On 12th-18th August we held our **Agapé Biblical Studies Conference** at Dromantine Retreat and Conference Centre, Newry, County Down, where we studied Paul's letter to the Romans.

We were joined by a group of Agapé Lithuania staff and family members. Speakers included Gilbert Lennox, Patrick Mitchel, Seán O'Rónáin and David Wilson. Our speakers on life application include Catherine Carthy, Ruth Garvey-Williams, Honor Williamson and Nick Park.



At the conference, we also celebrated Chloe Hanan's great input and influence in various roles within Agapé Ireland over the last 13 years, ahead of her move to work as Lead for Digital Strategies in Europe and Russia with the Jesus Film Project (a Cru ministry).



SEPTEMBER - DECEMBER



Our team, now joined by Eve, continued to work on Trinity College and UCD campuses.

STORY FROM AUTUMN

I was struck by one conversation in particular. After working our way through the survey with a student in UCD, he started to share with us his fear of death. This was a special opportunity for us to listen and to ask further questions. As we continued to discuss the difficult realities of life and death, we were able to offer some encouragement and hope from a Biblical perspective. The student explained that he had been provided with some food for thought and that he wanted to look into it more for himself.

Sean

- > In **September**, we moved into our new co-working and meeting space in **Ulysses House, Foley Street, in the centre of Dublin**. We are now neighbours with Christian organisations Tearfund, Christian Unions Ireland (CUI) and the Irish Bible Institute (IBI). We are excited about having this new facility and we are enjoying having a collaborative working space for our team once again.



- > In **October**, Cormac visited the Agapé UK ministry to spend time with their National Director, Lesley Cheesman. He also had meetings with strategy leaders and operations staff there, and joined the campus team to do surveys on a campus in Cambridge. Lesley joined our Board in May 2022.



> **We held a student surfing retreat in Lahinch at the end of October**, which included Bible teaching and discussions on the Ten Commandments and how they point towards Jesus. 20 students came on the retreat. The retreat provided an inclusive and restful environment for students, getting everyone working together in areas such as cooking, organising lifts and preparing content for the talks.



The Agapé Tuesday community started up again at the beginning of the new semester. One series we ran was studying Paul's letter to the Colossians, which sparked many interesting conversations. We also held a Q&A night where people could ask all sorts of questions and discuss them together.



STORY FROM CAMPUS TEAM

Levi and Sean were on Trinity campus, praying that the Holy Spirit would send them to the right student to chat with. They approached a student sitting on a bench on his own, overlooking the sports pitches.

As they went through the survey, he explained that family was very important to him. He came from a Christian family and they went to church every Sunday up until COVID. To sum up his understanding of the Christian message he said, 'do right by God and others'. He explained that the Ten Commandments was how to 'do right by God' but that he could never follow them perfectly.

The second last question on the survey is Jesus' statement in John, chapter 14, "I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the father except through me". The student was stunned by this. He responded, 'Did Jesus really say that? Thanks for telling me... I never

Continue >

heard that before'. Sean briefly explained a bit more about the statement -- we often think that we get to have a relationship with God doing good works (or by following the Ten Commandments to the best of our ability). Jesus is saying here that our relationship with God is not based on our good works, but on our belief in Him.

The student was curious about these thoughts and said that he never really heard about believing in Jesus -- when he prays for his friends and family, he just prays to God and hopes that God listens. This gave a great opportunity to share that Jesus is God incarnate ('God with skin on') and that we can actually know what God is like by getting to know the person of Jesus Christ.

Their conversation ended with Levi and Sean giving the student a 'Knowing God Personally' booklet with Sean's phone number. The student seemed to be processing through a lot of thoughts and excited to learn more about Jesus.



"So go to the street corners and invite to the banquet anyone you find."

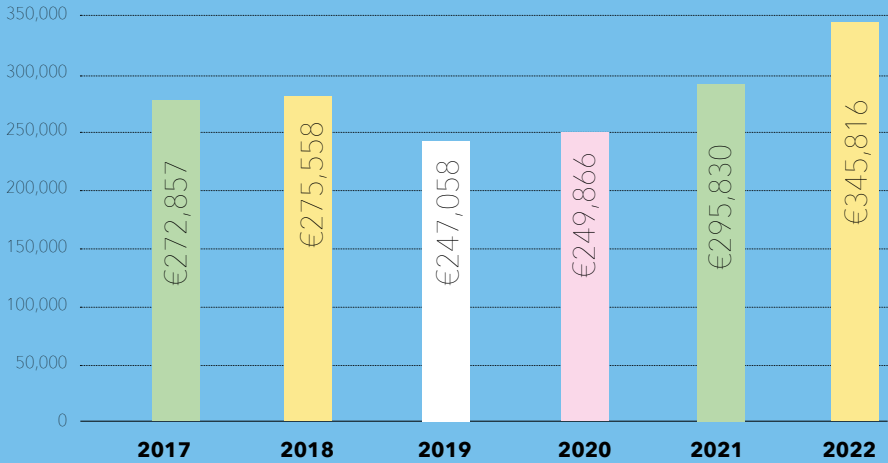
Matthew 22:9

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Acts 1:8

OUR ACCOUNTS FOR 2022

INCOME OVER SIX YEARS



**"We always thank
God for all of you and
continually mention you
in our prayers."**

1 Thessalonians 1:2



AGAPÉ MINISTRIES IRELAND

INCOME

for the financial year ended 31 December 2022

	2022	2021
	€	€
General donations	8,912	12,892
Contribution from Jesus Film Project	10,511	-
Designated donations	5,000	9,765
Support from Agapé Europe	35,925	15,500
Donations for local staff	209,292	205,896
Tax reclaimed	22,284	39,902
Conferences and summer projects	53,732	2,386
Other income	160	9,489
	<u>345,816</u>	<u>295,830</u>
Overhead expenses	(361,799)	(260,920)
Net surplus / (deficit)	(15,983)	34,910

AGAPÉ MINISTRIES IRELAND**OVERHEAD EXPENSES**

for the financial year ended 31 December 2022

	2022	2021
	€	€
Wages and salaries	150,562	129,034
Employer's PRSI	15,370	13,277
Staff training	672	-
Staff pension costs - defined contribution	4,500	-
Management charge	70,188	66,000
Contributions to Global Mission Fund	6,301	5,606
Rent	11,757	13,315
Insurance	2,436	1,413
Printing and stationary	4,351	2,773
Advertising	1,309	2,251
Telephone and broadband	671	757
Computer costs	1,966	2,743
Travelling expenses	23,480	6,267
Bank charges	452	446
Sundry expenses	65	595
Conferences and summer projects	57,391	12,122
Legal and professional fees	5,738	-
Auditor's remuneration	4,590	4,321
	361,799	260,920

agapé 
IRELAND



@AgapeEire



@AgapeIreland



@AgapeIreland

AGAPÉ IRELAND

Ulysses House,
22-24 Foley Street, Dublin 1
D01 W2T2, Ireland

www.agape.ie
office@agape.ie
+353 85 187 4548

Charity no. 20064990
CRO no. 449205