



D.C.F.I.
News

'My strength is made perfect in weakness'
2 Cor 12:9



Please visit our website at - www.dcfireland.co.uk

Welcome to our May 2012 edition. To all those associated with the Fellowship who have recently known bereavement we extend our prayerful and sincere sympathy, remembering amongst others the families of the late Albert Brown and Andrew Moore.

He's Coming Back

In John's Gospel, the record of the resurrection tells us that the napkin, which was placed over the face of Jesus as He lay in the tomb, was not just thrown aside like the other grave clothes. The Gospel writer, inspired by the Holy Spirit, describes for us what may seem to be a small yet very important matter of prophetic detail.

When Mary and the disciples came to the tomb, it was John who was first to enter the empty tomb and see the grave clothes lying, while the cloth which had covered the face was neatly folded and lying to the side. John would have recognised the significance of this symbol, perhaps not always recognised by those not familiar with Hebrew tradition of that day.

The folded napkin had to do with the Master and Servant and every Jewish boy knew this tradition. When the servant set the table for the master, he made sure it was exactly the way the master wanted it. The servant would wait, just out of sight, until the master had finished eating – and the servant would not dare touch the table until the master had finished.

If the master were done eating he would rise from the table, wipe his fingers and mouth and clean his beard and would wad up that napkin and toss it onto the table. The servant would

know this symbol meant to clear the table. In those days the wadded napkin meant "I'm finished". However, if the master got up from the table and folded his napkin and laid it beside his plate, the servant would know this symbol meant "I'm coming back"!

How wonderful for John, to enter the empty tomb and see this symbol, so clearly speaking to him, that Jesus was planning to come back. Is it any wonder John was inspired to record this for us also as an encouragement to remember the master is returning.

(Larne Branch)

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Getting To Know You

Julie Donaldson lives in Carrickfergus with her husband and son. Julie attends the Carrickfergus DCFI Branch, which presently meets on the 3rd Saturday of each month in Woodlands Presbyterian Church.

These verses are an account of how Dorothy and Jean (Foyle Branch) joined the DCF

We just moved up from the country
And barely a soul did we know
But a handsome bronzed man from Kilfennan
Told the two of us where we should go.

David said, you come up to the fellowship
It meets once a month in Richill
We both decided we'd try it
And we're both so glad we're still going.

The welcome we got was heart warming
Some names we found hard to recall
But the meetings were so uplifting
And the friendship that was given to all.

Soon we were offered a place here in Lawnfield
A beautiful home by the sea
Where there's fun, friendship and feasting
And love in abundance is free.

The boss David keeps the whole place in order
He's on duty from morning to night
The welfare of every resident
It's top of his list and his delight.

The carers - well - are they not tortured
Manoeuvring wheelchairs and folk to and fro
They're at the beck and call of every resident
It's a mercy there's none of them slow.

Now we cannot forget our young folk
Lisa, Andrew, Adam, Sarah and John
For to them nothing was a bother
Thank the Master who sent them along.



We mustn't forget our more seniors
Wesley, Uel, David, Ruby, Evelyn, Carol and Anne.
Now Wesley, our chauffeur is very patient
David is always acting the cod

Uel - well - words just fail us
But he's not a bad spud at all
Ruby, keeps a cool head at all times
And her quizzes are a great source of fun

Evelyn is a good organiser, she's full of laughter
and fun
Now Carol likes to keep busy and somehow gets
everything done
And Anne is always happy and helpful
But of course "she's a Donegal ONE".

Next week will be a different story
When we leave our new friends far behind
But we'll take home a bankful of memories
Praise the Lord who is gracious and kind.

This place is like an oasis
In a world full of turmoil and sin
But OUR LORD is walking beside us
And his spirit is guiding within.

We know He has gone up before us
To prepare a mansion above
We won't let our hearts be troubled
Our hope is in our God of Love.

Our Tribute

In every organisation whether voluntary or otherwise, people are always the greatest asset. DCFI wishes to pay tribute to the substantial contribution made by two former Committee members who were called home in March this year. **Albert Brown** had served as a Trustee and for about 10 years chaired the General Committee. **Andrew Moore** had served as a Chairperson of Ballymena Branch and also as Hon. Treasurer to the General Committee. We pay tribute to the faithful service of both gentlemen.

Care2ShareNI

Entering into a caring role can be very demanding as many in DCFI will know. It can sometimes be difficult to get to understand the many aspects of caring or where to turn for help and advice. A unique series of caring publications is now available containing a wide range of easy to read information and a copy of each is held at Lawnfield House.

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PRAYER

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PRAISE AND PRAY FOR

Ongoing ministry of the Branches and Lawnfield House

Faithful and consistent Branch helpers

The ministry of God's Word to touch hearts and change lives

Those going through a season of sickness, bereavement or hospitalisation

New and younger Branch helpers to join the ministry

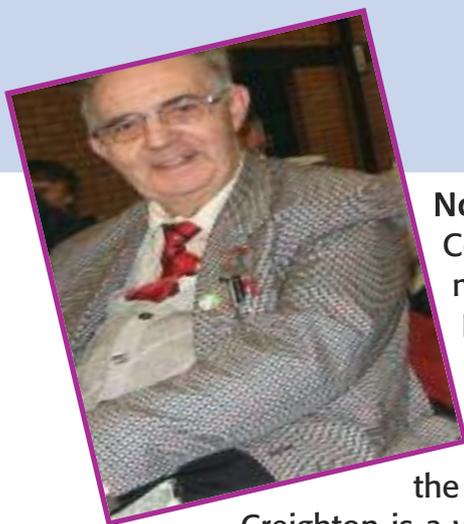
Sabrena, Matt and the Lawnfield House staff team

Faithful giving and continued financial provision

Trustees and committees for wisdom in all decisions regarding DCFI

Have you Branch news or other articles worth sharing, contributions for the next edition of DCFI News may be e-mailed to:- dcfinews@hotmail.co.uk or sent by post to: DCFI News, Lawnfield House, 5 King Street, Newcastle, Co. Down BT33 0HD.

My Branch



Norman Scott shares some thoughts about the DCFI rally in the Congregational Church Hall in Lisburn on the 2nd Saturday of each month. Many years ago my wife Rachel and I joined the Lisburn Branch, it was one of the best decisions we ever made. The fellowship meetings are very good, we really felt the presence of the Holy Spirit, Jesus was glorified and we both felt really at home. Hymn singing is led by our Chairperson Harry Thompson, everyone is very friendly, the gospel is preached and others taking part are encouraging. Mrs Mabel Creighton is a very good Secretary and Jim McClenaghan is our tireless Health and Safety Officer. Jim's wife Emma is very good at helping and we are glad to have Margaret Herron from Newcastle to play piano beautifully at each meeting. Just as this article was about to go to press, Lisburn Branch learned about the sudden home call of one of their faithful members Alfie Heaney.

Leaving a Legacy

Making a Will is one way you can provide and care for those you love and as well as being a method to contribute to charities, such as DCFI, can prevent legal problems after your death. We are very grateful to those who have remembered DCFI in their

wills. Every legacy, of whatever value, helps to support and continue our ministry. While we naturally want to make provision for our families a priority, if you would like to help the work of DCFI in this way you will need to provide your solicitor (or other professional) with the following details
Name: Disabled Christians Fellowship of Ireland, Address: 5 King Street, Newcastle, County Down BT33 0HD, Charity Registration No. XN83953



THANK YOU...

...also to those who contribute to our ministry on a regular, occasional or one-off basis, please be assured these contributions are appreciated. If you would consider making a monthly donation, please contact WENDY our administrator at Lawnfield House (Tel. 43726860). Donations to our DEVELOPMENT FUND may be sent to our Treasurer BEVERLY MURRAY, 9 Derryvolgie Park, Moss Road, Lambeg, Lisburn, BT27 4 DA.

Christmas Rally in Newcastle

Thanks to **Margaret Herron** for the information contained in this article. On Saturday 3rd December, 48 persons (including friends from the Lisburn Branch) met at Lawnfield House for Christmas Lunch. The beautifully laid tables set the scene for a delicious meal provided by Sabrena, Matt and a member of the kitchen staff. Sabrena and Matt were thanked for the lovely meal enjoyed by everyone. Due to the unavoidable absence of the Branch Chairperson Clifford Moorhead, Stephen Annett welcomed everyone, opened in prayer and led in congregational singing. Guest soloist and speaker was Jordan Lichfield, an American married to a Northern Ireland lady, both now living in Portadown. Jordan was accompanied on the piano by his mother, who was visiting from America. Jordan's superbly gifted voice brought renderings of several items of delightful Christmas music. Mrs Lichfield was presented with a poinsettia plant and each DFCI member received a gift. Appreciation for a spiritually uplifting afternoon was expressed by many.



New Year Honours



Congratulations to **RUBY PARKS** Newtownabbey DCFI Branch. Ruby was awarded the MBE in the 2012 honours list. The branch always felt Ruby was a real gem and the honour was made in recognition of Ruby's contribution to charity.



Diary Dates 2012 (DV)

- ❖ Week of prayer 24th-28th September (TBC)
- ❖ General Committee, 29th September (TBC)
- ❖ Carol Service, Lawnfield House, Friday 14th December (TBC)



Why Am I Different?

These verses were written by **Rebecca McLellan** when she was 11, for Away With Words Staffordshire Young Writers 2007. Philip, who is named in the poem, attends Coleraine DCFI. The verses help our understanding of some of the frustration a disabled person can feel.

Why was I born different?
Why am I not the same?
Why am I a disability?
Instead of Philip, that's my name!

I love all the people around me.
I treat them all the same.
I look to them for friendship,
They look to me in pity and frown.

I am nineteen years of age now.
And I understand your world.
I can see the world through your eyes
I invite you to come and see mine.

I wish God would make me better,
So that people would be my friends
I wish God would make me better,
So that people would understand me.

Why won't you look past my disability?
Why can you not see Philip?
Don't you realize that we are the same on the inside?
When you laugh I laugh, when you cry, I cry, and
When you hurt so do I.

Why was I born different?
Why can I not be the same?
Please look at me as Philip,
Please try and learn my name!

STAFF RETIREMENTS

At the close of the 2011 summer season several members of the Lawnfield House staff decided to retire. **Maura Travers** (Senior Carer), **Lily Ward** (Cook) **Barbara Scott** (Assistant Cook) – see photo. We thank each of them for their faithful and consistent work and support, especially during some of the periods when the home was experiencing change. It is our prayer they will have benefited from their time with us and wish them God's richest blessing on their future days.



WHY DON'T YOU JOIN US

If you are reading DCFI News but you don't presently attend one of our branches, please think about meeting with us. At present we have 23 branches at various locations in Northern Ireland and our Hon. Secretary (**Margaret Russell - 97533970**) will be glad to give you contact details.



Focus on Brazil



Paul Crothers (Lisburn Branch) shares about his experience with Latin Link in Brazil. When thinking of the country of Brazil what is the first thing that springs to mind? Rainforests, football, beaches, maybe even coffee?? In truth those are some of the things that I associated with Brazil but what struck me most during my first visit there almost 10 years ago was the poverty and hardship that faces so many of Brazil's people. In July 2002 as part of a missions team from my church I spent 3 weeks working at Valley of the Lord Orphanage in Recife,

Brazil. Since then I have had both the opportunity and privilege to return to Brazil on a number of occasions including a 6 month spell in 2007 where I lived and worked at the same orphanage.

My passion and desire to continue serving remained with me and I applied and was accepted onto the Latin Link Stride program (for people wishing to serve 6-24 months) and I left Northern Ireland for Recife, Brazil in late August 2009. During my time there I studied part-time in a local Presbyterian Bible College alongside my work in a number of evangelical social projects. One of these projects was in the poor and needy community of 'Frei Damiao' where I began a football ministry working with the boys within this community. The project began in January 2010 with 50 boys aged between 10-16 and with the vision and desire to impact the lives of these boys both on a personal and a spiritual level. During the weeks and months that followed, friendships and relationships between the leaders and the boys developed and this provided many opportunities to influence and shape the lives of the boys, teaching them values such as respect, discipline and emphasising the importance of education. One of our rules was that to be involved in the project you had to be enrolled and attending school and for those experiencing greatest difficulties in schooling we began a homework club in an effort to address those problems. More importantly we used the project as a means of getting the boys involved in the local church and this provided many opportunities to witness and to share with them the love of Jesus Christ. As the work of the project continues in my absence please pray for the lives of the boys and their families.

THE BALLYMENA BOYS



Stephen and Alec are helpers at Ballymena DCFI. Stephen who plays piano is deafblind and Alec is amazing with sign language. In the photo Alec is signing "Thank you Jesus for loving me"

Lawnfield House Reflections

"I have hallowed this house which thou hast built to put my name there forever" 1 Kings 9:3

The 2011 'summer season' at Lawnfield House was brought to a close with our carol service on Friday 26th November, 2011. We thank Sabrena, Matt and the staff who prepared the home and the lovely supper. Some modest but necessary internal refurbishment/improvement was undertaken in the winter closure period and once again we thank Clem Gilbert for his faithful contribution by painting in the home.

God willing, in May 2013, Lawnfield House will celebrate its 20th year. While Lawnfield House is registered as a Residential Home, we open only on a seasonal basis and have not offered 'long stay' places offering instead respite care and a specific feature of this has been the fact that we have been able to offer respite breaks which a carer may share. For those who have taken respite in this way, it has proved beneficial. Our home has been shared by people from many walks of life, some with high dependency care needs while others require minimal care, or mainly self-caring (see photo). We encourage a 'home from home' atmosphere.



The beginning of the 2012 season saw Sabrena and Matt begin their second season as managers. We thank them for all their hard work covering both the responsibility for the entire day to day management of the home and also the external work of 'developing/promoting' the home in various ways. We welcome a number of new staff and hope to introduce you to them in our next edition.

While we cannot predict the future, we thank everyone who stands with us in faithful, prayerful and practical support and continue to look to the Lord for His guidance.