



# D.C.F.I. News

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



**Welcome to our May 2011 edition and thanks to all those whose contributions make up this edition. We feel the loss of members who have passed away and extend our sympathy, prayerfully remembering those who have known bereavement since our last edition was published.**

## DOES IT GET ANY BETTER?

Does it get any better? Record snow falls, sub-zero temperatures or perhaps other difficult personal situations may have caused you to ask this question. We'll try to answer this question by looking at some thoughts based on Psalm 118 v 8 "it is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in men"

**Better promises** – We cannot live in the world without at least a measure of confidence in other people. For many in DCFI we may need to place confidence in a doctor, family member or close friend. Despite the generosity and sincerity of other people and their promises, we can sometimes be disappointed, or feel let down, even if the causes for such occasions are not deliberate or intentional. God's promises are not like the promises we make, Psalm 146 v 6 "He is the one who keeps every promise forever". One of God's promises is "him that cometh to me I will not cast out". We may sometimes struggle to keep our promises or in hope that others will keep theirs, we have a God who promises better.

**Better security** – Hebrews 12 v 24 (NLT) "...to the sprinkled blood which graciously forgives, instead of crying out for vengeance as the blood of Abel did". We live in a world which has known much bloodshed, in many cases that of innocent people. In more recent times questions have been asked about the value of the blood shed by soldiers on the field of battle. The blood Jesus shed on the cross at Calvary fell to the ground just like Abel's. God is not seeking vengeance; He is graciously calling men and women to seek His forgiveness. In Jesus' death, God's justice upon sin was perfectly fulfilled, by faith in Christ alone, it offers security in a salvation which I cannot earn by my good living (self righteousness) or following the rituals of my church or a religion.

**Better future** – It is good to strive for better things, we encourage our children and grandchildren to get a sound education. We have listened to our own and other governments set out their plans for a better economic



future. Would you like to look forward to a future that did not hold any sickness, weakness or pain? However the future may be for each of us materially, financially or in our bodily well being and however improvements may affect our lives, they will last no longer than the span of our lives. God is not confined to time, He dwells in eternity. The future from God's perspective is not limited to any timescale by which men may plan, God sees forever. Revelation 21v 4 (NLT) "He will remove all of their sorrows and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain for the old world and its evils are gone forever". Here is a better future hope for our times of despair and distress, for the sickness that causes pain and for a life after death.

Have you taken God's promise to heart? In realisation of your standing before Him as a sinner have you come in faith to Him, the one who will not cast you out, who because of the precious blood Jesus shed for you on Calvary promises a salvation you cannot, buy, earn or work for, it is a gift of His love. Can you look forward to a future beyond all the limitations of this present world age?

**(CARRICKFERGUS BRANCH)**

# Thank You Eileen

For many years DCF Dungannon Branch (which meets on the 3rd Saturday of each month) has run a Christian bookstall stocking new books and a good selection of cards for every occasion at each meeting. This work has been willingly carried out by Eileen Hazleton for twenty two years and she feels that the time has now come to take a back seat. A percentage of the profits from all



sales has always gone to the Holiday Home and in this way Eileen has raised quite a considerable sum over the years. Eileen ran her last stall at our May 2010 meeting and we just want to take this opportunity to say "thank you Eileen" for all your time, energy and enthusiasm given over the years, "God Bless You". However, we are also glad that Eileen is not leaving us completely but has volunteered to help Gwen on our Bring and Buy bric a brac stall. This stall also raises valuable funds for the Holiday Home each month when it is enthusiastically visited by many of our folk at the meetings looking for a bargain. Keep up the good work ladies! Thanks to Lynne Shaw for the photograph.

## T R U S T

Ruth McConnell, Larne Branch submitted this thoughtful verse, attributed to A.B. Simpson

**It is strange we trust each other and only doubt our Lord;  
We take the word of mortals and yet distrust His Word.  
But oh what a light and glory would shine upon our days;  
If we would always remember God means just what he says.**

Proverbs 3 v 5 *"trust in the Lord with all your heart do not depend on your own understanding"*

The evangelist D.L. Moody is reported to have said "trust in yourself and you are doomed to disappointment; trust in your friends and they will die and leave you; trust in money and you may have it taken from you, trust in reputation and some slanderous tongue may blast it, but trust in God and you will never be confounded today nor in a day to come"

## Getting To Know You



While shopping in Saintfield, Sara spotted a poster about Saintfield DCFI Branch and asked her friend Elizabeth to go with her on 6th February. Sara says she could not have been made more welcome and that she enjoyed meeting new people, listening to the speaker and of course, being with Elizabeth her friend. Elizabeth says she has been disabled for about 5 years and while most of the people she met are older than herself and Sara, it was enjoyable and good to meet and speak to other disabled persons. Everyone made both young ladies feel very welcome and Elizabeth says "it is a brilliant idea whoever started the DCF, it gives the disabled something to do and go and enjoy".

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

**Anniversary celebrations - Several DCFI branches held anniversary rallies in 2010. We praise the Lord for so many faithful branch volunteers/committees, a number who have been consistently serving the Lord through their branch or DCF for 30-40 years. All 3 of the branches in this article report how much they appreciate the hard work of their committee/helpers in providing a lovely tea and refreshments and the support shown by other branches whose representatives attended, this is a great mark of fellowship. The highlights of each celebration are given in the individual reports and a small selection of photos.**

## *Dungannon*

October 16th 2010 marked the 30th anniversary of the Dungannon Branch, meeting in the canteen of the South Tyrone Hospital. Roland Watt, chairperson of the local committee, is beginning 6 years of study for the Presbyterian ministry and he was presented with a card and monetary gift. Dessie and Margaret Russell brought ministry in song (Margaret was the soloist at the 1st meeting of the branch). The branch produced a booklet containing a brief history and a gospel CD appropriately called "What a Fellowship" which were given to every home represented. Lexie Sinnamon edited the CD and also brought the gospel message on it. Thanks to Roland and Jimmy for all their efforts in production and copying of the CD. Dr David McGaughey (DCF Council Member) brought an encouraging message from Hebrews 12 v 12-13 reminding everyone about something to do, something to stand for, somewhere to go in life.



40 years ago on the 5th May a group of people met to form the committee of South Belfast DCF. They felt led of God to form a new branch following the success of the recently established East Belfast branch. The first meeting of South Belfast DCF was arranged for Saturday 19th September 1970 in

## *South Belfast*

Rea Memorial Hall, Rugby Avenue. A great deal has happened within those 40 years, too much to mention in this brief report. The 40th anniversary rally was held in St John's Presbyterian, Rosetta and a good attendance was encouraging. The Newtownards Baptist Male Voice choir brought special ministry in song and Samuel Graham shared a message from God's Word. South Belfast has always been a lively branch and it is one of the branches which hosts an annual holiday in Lawnfield House. It's a branch where we all enjoy fellowship and fun but where we always seek to put God at the centre of our activities. So as we face what could be an uncertain future with the same faith as those of 40 years ago and in every year since then, trusting in the God and Lord who has kept us through the past four decades.



## *Carrickfergus*

Victoria Evangelical Hall has been the venue of the branch for its 30 year history and we extend a sincere thank you to the hall Trustees and committee for making the premises freely available. It was encouraging to see the hall almost filled to capacity at the November anniversary rally. John Rainey, one of the long serving committee/helpers, shared a brief history of the branch and this was followed by a short selection of slides to illustrate John's remarks. Mrs Jean Black and Mrs Betty Wilson brought a lovely singing ministry and the Reverend Norman Brown (Wellington Presbyterian, Ballymena) shared an encouraging word. Reverend Brown had spoken at the opening rally of the branch and he and his wife presented everyone with a 'promise box' to mark this special occasion. The branch committee had prepared an anniversary bookmark to recognise this special occasion.



# What Is Your Life?

*The verse below, was found in a Bible notes book and is attributed to Derick Bingham*

A commonplace life' we say and we sigh, yet why should we sigh as we say?

A commonplace sun in the commonplace sky makes lovely the commonplace day. The moon and the stars, they are commonplace things, the flower that blooms and the robin that sings. Yet sad were the world and unhappy our lot, if flowers all failed and the sunshine came not! And God who considers each separate soul, from commonplace lives makes a beautiful whole.

## A HARVEST HOME

During the respite week of the 2nd-9th October 2010, a harvest thanksgiving service was held in Lawnfield House on Sunday morning 3rd October. Guest speaker was Pastor Jim McTernaghan. In the afternoon, most of the residents enjoyed a breath of fresh air on the lovely Newcastle promenade. If



you  
are

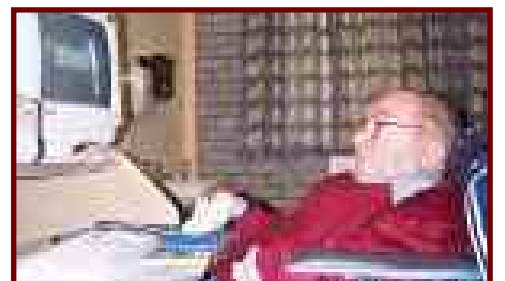
reading this article and have never been to 'Lawnfield House' please consider us as a location for a respite break/private holiday and more details about availability can be obtained by contacting the home (02843726860). Our home is suited to

persons with various disabilities or who are self-caring and indeed most weeks our home welcomes residents in both these categories.

## [www.dcfireland](http://www.dcfireland)



If you are not a computer user or familiar with computer technology, then it may be helpful to know that www is an abbreviation for world wide web the name given to the network of computer users/resources around the world. For a number of years



DCFI has maintained an internet site and the work of creating this site was undertaken by William Stewart, a DCFI member who was called home in August 2010. The photo shows William during one of his work sessions and when you consider the extent of William's disability then it helps to understand the labour of love William put into this service. Thanks to Foyle branch and Andrew Mc Faul for undertaking the job of re-establishing an internet site.

# who cares? GOD CARES

*The author of this article which has been extracted from another publication, is unknown*

A nurse friend was telling me about one of the patients who visited their office. She was a lady in her early sixties who had quite recently suffered a stroke, leaving her considerably disabled. Although the patient was indeed fortunate in having a husband who loved her and did his best to care for her, she was discouraged and depressed. Don't get me wrong, unfortunately I know too well what a blow it is to one's independence to one day be dashing around trying to do six jobs at once and then suddenly being unable to do much of anything for yourself, let alone anyone else. So I understood how easy it was for the lady to feel it just wasn't worth fighting. As her husband wheeled her out of the door of the office, the nurse bade the lady a cheery "take care", to which her disgruntled reply was "what for?" The Christian nurse couldn't get the unhappy woman out of her mind. When she had time, she sat down and wrote the following poem.

***When we said goodbye I said "take care", you answered me "what for?"  
It made me stop and think as I was walking out the door.***

***It's time to count our blessings I began to contemplate  
It's time to live each moment and not procrastinate.***

***As we walk our way along life's road, do we go the extra mile?  
Do we stop and lend a willing hand and give a welcome smile.***

***We seldom go beyond ourselves to learn how others feel  
And realise that their heartaches to them are just as real.***

***So when you think you're worthless and have nothing in life to share  
Just remember God is with us and He'll understand and care.***

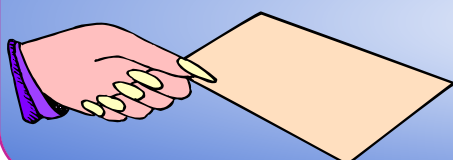
DCFI seeks to minister to those who may sometimes feel discouraged or even depressed, perhaps feeling that no one cares. We try to do this by helping people enjoy fellowship at our monthly rallies and by means of respite breaks/private holidays in our home Lawnfield House.



## *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

## **CARDS WITH A GOSPEL MESSAGE**



Whether you are looking for Christmas cards or cards to suit other occasions then we encourage you to please consider the range available from Gospel Cards. Designed to carry a distinct spiritual truth, Gospel Cards also donate a proportion of their income to nominated causes of which DCFI is one. Thanks to those who do already buy from Gospel Cards.

# KEEP REACHING OUT

The Rev. Jim Rea, a former Methodist Minister, shares the story of Kathie Cowan who for 16 years served the Lord as a medical missionary in South Korea. In her care were badly disabled children some of whom had been written off by society. Upon returning to Northern Ireland, Kathie continued to serve the Lord, working in a Hostel for Homeless, becoming their confidante and friend. On Sunday 9 November 2003, she said a voice told her to pray for Jim Rea, "he needs your prayers, he is in some difficulty". It was only later Kathie discovered it was on that same day Rev. Rea had been admitted to hospital with a heart attack. Rev. Rea describes Kathie as a woman who was in touch with the Lord and continually reaching out. Kathie is an example we in DCFI can readily follow.

## What are they



## among so many

Only 5 loaves and 2 fish to feed 5,000? Yes, Jesus took what was **available** and used it to bless such a large crowd. Perhaps you have been inclined to think "I don't have anything the Lord could use". Many of us forget the Lord will work with whatever we make available. Will you be willing to

make your **time available** to give a few hours on a Saturday afternoon to help in a DCFI rally venue? Will you be willing to make your **hands available** to serve a cup of tea? Will you be willing to make **conversation available** and sit beside a disabled person and befriend them during the rally? These are 3 simple examples of availability, if you are not presently involved in DCFI please consider being available, contact our secretary, Margaret Russell (97533970) for details of a branch in your area, will you say "here I am, wholly available, as for me, I will serve the Lord" (words from the song by Chris Bowater).

## Dates for your Diary

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- ✦ **Week of prayer in September (19th-23rd)**
- ✦ **Carol Service, Lawnfield House, Friday 25th November, 7.30 p.m. guest speaker Pastor Jackie Hughes (Ballykeel Baptist Church) guest singers Eternal Grace (a young family singing group) a freewill offering will be taken for the DCFI development fund.**

# Ye are the SALT of the earth

SALT...is the name by which the Youth Fellowship at Ballee Baptist identify themselves. At Christmas time an internal post box welcomes all the Christmas cards, in turn the youth sort them and stack them in alphabetical order on a long table in the foyer, ready to be collected by the addressee. At the same time a donation is made and each year the proceeds are given to a missionary outreach.



This year the Ballee Church members of DCFI had the privilege of deputation at the opening meeting of SALT on the 9th January, when they were given the generous offering of £1,275.30. Thanks to Andrew Robinson of SALT for thinking about DCFI, to the Youth Fellowship and all who contributed to the work of the Ballymena Branch.

## bookREVIEW

Catherine Campbell, wife of the Reverend Philip Campbell (Coleraine Congregational Church) has become a well known and respected author and inspirational speaker. Catherine's 3rd book 'God knows your name' has been published by Monarch Books. In her prologue to the book, Catherine tells of meeting a very well known person in the world of British entertainment who, although greeting Catherine in a pleasant manner said "I don't recognise your name. Should I know you?" Catherine's book is a tremendous encouragement to reflect on individual lives and about a God who intervenes on their behalf, who knew their name. The stories in this book are 'real' stories from the Bible and today, testimony to a God who knows us by name and wants us to be reconciled to him however helpless or hopeless we may feel. Check out [www.catherine-campbell.com](http://www.catherine-campbell.com)

## *Leaving a Legacy*

**Making a Will is the only way to ensure that on your death, your property and affairs are dealt with in accordance with your wishes. 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**



# Lawnfield House Reflections

*"I have hallowed this house which thou hast built to put my name there forever"*

During the Lawnfield House winter closures in 2008 & 2009 major work had been carried out to add en-suites to 11 bedrooms. These facilities are suitable for disabled or self-caring persons. We say a sincere thank you to those branches and individuals who have made this possible through gifts, loans and faithful financial giving. While it was not financially viable to carry out major work in the winter of 2010, we thank Clem Gilbert for the excellent paint work carried out around the home.

Over the winter of 2010, Sabrena and Matt have been busy with various matters which are a requirement for the home to continue operating in line with its registration. Sabrena and Matt met with branch holiday leaders/organisers to discuss several important issues relating to the 2011 holiday season. They have been involved in the interviewing of new care staff (thanks to William Kerrigan, a member of the home committee, for his able role in this matter) and annual training in preparation for the return of the home staff team. Sabrena and Matt also supported **Margaret Herron** (Newcastle) and **Mabel Creighton** (Lisburn) in 'hosting' the DCFI stand at the missionary convention in Lisburn Congregational Church during the first weekend in February 2011.



Our home is registered to offer 16 respite care places, with additional scope to accommodate those who come to share the break as carers (e.g. family members) and also self-caring persons. While respite places may be limited in June, July and August, our home is best utilised when all places are filled and we welcome enquiries about availability. If you have not visited Newcastle for several years, you will find the town has undergone a major refurbishment, including a very attractive sea-front promenade which is a tremendous asset for wheel chair users. Many of our residents enjoy the spectacular scenery and of course coffee or ice cream from a selection of outlets in the town!!!

It has been encouraging to welcome 'new faces' to our team of host/hostesses and we thank everyone who has been involved in this vital ministry in past seasons and trust you will know God's blessing in the 2011 season.

We are grateful to those who support the ministry of DCFI, faithfully, prayerfully, practically and financially. If you too would like to make a 'one-off' gift and or to consider a more regular/monthly contribution, please complete the slip below (or send a letter) to Wendy at Lawnfield House.

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## I want to support the ministry of DCFI

- ◆ I enclose a 'one-off' gift of £..... (please make cheques payable to DCFI Development Fund)
- ◆ Please send me details about regular/monthly giving including 'gift aid'

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Return this slip or send a letter to:  
**Wendy Campbell, DCFI, Lawnfield House, 5 King Street, Newcastle, BT33 0HD**