

D10 Camp Finally arrives.

At last it was time for our very first D10 Camp at Drewstown House, Co. Meath. The families arrived Sunday afternoon full of excitement and energy for the week. After a brief meeting in the dining hall, the families were introduced to the team leaders with whom they had been matched. Soon, the mountain of bags began to be unloaded, suitcases, bag upon bag of blankets and pillows, bikes, toys, fishing rods, and of course loads of bags of snacks for the week, were quickly unloaded from the cars, minibus and trailers. The team leaders each helped their families get moved in to their room for the week in the, "mansion". The team came together from N. Ireland, California, New York and Dublin, all with the desire to serve these families from inner city Dublin.

The week was full to the brim with times of praise and worship, family worship time each morning and separate evening bible studies for each age group, arts and crafts, activities and daily outings to local sites. One big favourite was Causey Farm where everyone enjoyed milking the cow, working the sheep dog, learning to play the bodhrán and jumping the peat bog.

Morning sessions were time for us all to gather together. Many of the teens in the group happily sat right up front for the sessions each morning. What a blessing it was to hear the voices of everyone singing praises each day. We sang a few songs that were already known to the families and the team taught a few new ones. The great hit of the week was "I'll fly Away". After that song was taught you would hear campers throughout the day just humming it or singing it everywhere.

In the evening everyone had the opportunity to go to separate age level studies. This was an especially significant time for the adults and teens. Here they had the chance to learn about one of the "heroes" of the Bible, but that these men and women weren't superhuman or perfect. They were quite imperfect but God had used them anyway. This led to good discussion during study time but even more so led to some very personal discussions afterward, particularly with some of the dads attending. Two of the men spoke with one of the leaders later in the week and asked, "Why hadn't we ever heard those sides of the stories before? We are going to start reading the Bible on our own, we want to know more." For maybe the first time these men realized the word of God was meant for them personally and they were able to relate to it. The teen group was quite a large group and often could be hard to focus throughout the week during session time, but they too were listening and impacted by their time at camp. One evening the group divided into guys and girls. Both groups included teenage leaders from the US. These younger leaders shared their personal faith journey and talked about how faith grows in relationship with Christ. Another late evening a few teens randomly gathered together with leaders in one of the meeting rooms and more kept coming. These random opportunities would become one of the most significant times of camp where you could hear a pin drop in the room. At the end of this time together several of the teens prayed to accept Christ.

Afternoon activities and outings were a treat for everyone, but especially the children on the camp. The families on camp would not have been able to do most of the things at camp on their own due to finances but camp gave them a chance to have several special outings as a family. Swimming, Causey Farm, Fore Abbey and a dinner out for the Mom's and Dad's one evening were all special times where great memories were made.

D10 Camp was a time for families to come and have a break from their normal lives in Ballyfermot, spending time with one another and learning more about the difference Christ can make in their lives. Many seeds were planted and some harvesting began from the work that has already been done in the weeks, months and years before. Parents are already meeting again on a weekly basis and we are talking about how best to meet with the teens back home in Ballyfermot.