



# CAMP SHAMROCK

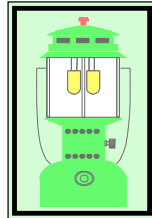
## Newsletter

Issue 17  
April 2004

Not too long ago, our group from Dublin spent the weekend out on the Aran Islands. Eleven of us took the journey out West for a weekend get away. Leaving on a Friday evening, we spent the night along the way and drove to the coast on Saturday morning. We were greeted by a nice, rainy April morning as we boarded the ferryboat to take us to Inishmor. The journey across the water left a few of us seasick but thankfully it wasn't too long of a trip. After finding our hostel and warm place to eat and dry off, we decided our day would be best spent looking around and exploring the island. Eight of us decided the best way to do that would be to take a tour of the island by bicycle. We hired our bikes and set out in the bleak weather.

We all had different speeds on the path. Four of the younger lads took off down the road and didn't look back. Others of us took a slow and scenic speed of travel. We eventually all had to stop for a breath along the way. I rode with several different people as we travelled that afternoon, but one particular conversation I had really

made me think. As Adam Grant and I cycled along that coastline, Adam made a statement that I've thought a lot about these past several days. As we cycled, we came to a pretty steep hill. He, of course, flew up the hill as I struggled to keep up. But as we approached the top, Adam



seems to be another one right after it and it's usually bigger!"

I could not help but think of our lives as Christians. No matter how many struggles we face, there always seems to be another one just ahead. No matter how hard the "hill" we just came over was, there always seems to be another hill waiting. As Adam and I talked, we realized we had eventually overcome the hill and we could then enjoy coasting down the other side. It hit me then, that it was when I wasn't focused on the difficulty ahead but instead who I was with and our goal, I realized I had overcome that hill. Often we try to take on the hills of life by ourselves like we have something to

prove. We shrug off help and assistance from others or maybe we are afraid to ask for a helping hand. But imagine how difficult life would be without friends alongside us. Imagine having no one to share your good times with and listen when you are hurting.

As we rode along that coastline, and the sun came out like a summer day, I thanked God for my friendships. I thanked God for always listening to me when I was hurting and alone and always celebrating with me when I was excited and joyful. I want to encourage you to thank God for the friends in your life. Thank God for the special people he has blessed you with. Ecclesiastes 4:10 says "If one falls down, his friend can help him up." I am thankful that I have friends like you that can help pick me up when I fall. I am grateful that we worship a God that loves us unconditionally. But I am even more thankful that we serve a Lord that went up the most difficult hill we could have ever faced and defeated death for us.

In Him,  
Beau

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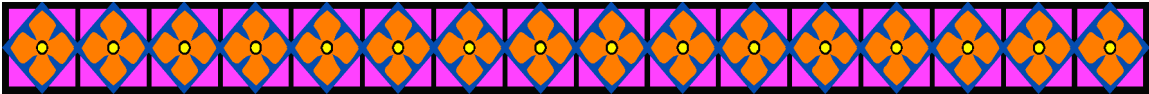
A little boy visited his grandparents on their farm. He was given a slingshot to play with in the woods. He practiced, but couldn't hit the target. Getting discouraged, he headed back to dinner. As he walked back, he saw Grandma's pet duck. Out of impulse, he let the slingshot fly, hit the duck square in the head, and killed it. He was shocked and grieved. In a

panic, he hid the dead duck in the woodpile, only to see his sister watching. Sally had seen it all, but she said nothing.

After lunch that day Grandma said, "Sally, let's wash the dishes." But Sally said, "Grandma, Johnny told me he wanted to help in the kitchen." Then she whispered to him, "Remember the duck?" So Johnny did the dishes.

Later that day, Grandpa asked if the children wanted to go fishing. Grandma said, "I'm sorry but I need Sally to help make supper." Sally smiled and said, "Well that's all right because Johnny told me he wanted to help." She whispered again, "Remember the duck?" So Sally went fishing & Johnny stayed to help.

After several days of Johnny doing his chores and Sally's, he could stand it no longer. He came to Grandma and confessed that he had killed the duck. Grandma knelt beside Johnny and said, "I know. I was standing at the window and I saw the whole thing. Because I love you, I forgave you. I was just wondering how long you would let Sally make a slave of you."



Whatever is in your past, whatever you have done that the enemy throws in your face, (lying, debt, fear, hatred, anger, unforgiveness, bitterness, etc.), whatever it is, Jesus Christ was standing at the window and saw the whole thing. He wants you to know that you are forgiven. He wonders how long you will let the enemy make a slave of you.

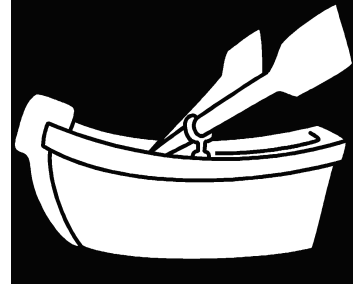
Remember, God not only forgives you, He forgets.



**Congratulations to  
Kristy Nystrom  
on her recent  
engagement!!**

May this be a beautiful  
beginning

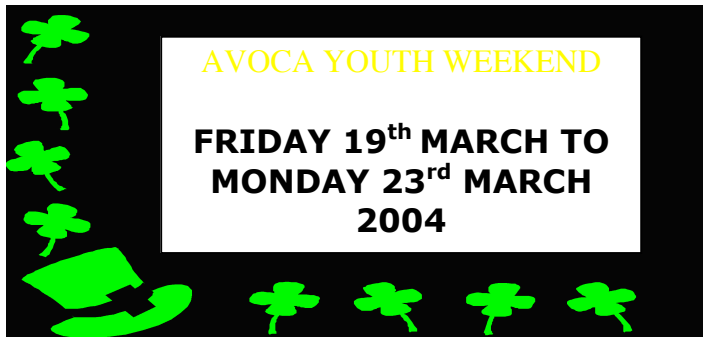
**Stepping out of the boat** was the theme for our recent Youth Weekend in Avoca Manor. Lots of fun was had by all at this weekend, and those who didn't go really missed out big time! It was quite late by the time everybody arrived on the Friday night but we still had plenty of time to go over the weekend's activities and to have some great icebreaker games! After that we had some supper and free time so that everyone could catch up on each other's lives. Unfortunately this kept going to the wee small hours!



On Saturday morning Luke Brewer gave us the first lesson of the youth weekend. Luke is from USA and is working with the church in England. He encouraged us to step out of our comfort zones and overcome any fears we may have in life because God will always be with us to see us through.

After lunch we all had a go at the big slide that was in the grounds of the manor. This was great fun even though it meant stepping out of *my* comfort zone! It was quite a steep drop which you only found out when you were in it! It taught me though not to give up on something until you try it! Unfortunately it started to rain so we continued to have some more fun inside.

David Pollock from Belfast who is a student from the Bible School in Corby then spoke to us later in the afternoon about actually stepping out of the boat – and again how hard you may think it is but like me with the slide, it's only when you



actually try it, you wonder what the fear was all about!

The kids (and adults) then passed the afternoon by having a go at the zip wire and the two assault courses which were also in the grounds.

After tea, Beau Bailey from USA and currently working with the church in Dublin spoke to us about what can happen when you do step out of the boat and how there may be storms – just like Peter experienced when he walked on the water – and how best to handle them.

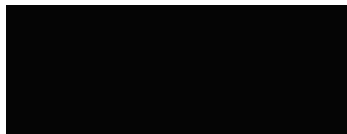
On Saturday night we had more fun and games down at the sports hall playing football, basketball and a few other weird and wacky games then off to bed. On Sunday after breakfast we had a very encouraging and uplifting service. Clark rounded off the youth weekend by giving us a story about when he was a kid and nearly drowned in Bangor Leisure Centre (!) eventually getting across the

point of what can happen when you do actually take the step out of the boat. He told us about how we need to keep our eyes fixed on Jesus and He will help us through any storms we may encounter and he reminded us that God will not give us anything we cannot handle.

All the lessons throughout the weekend were excellent, the singing was wonderful too and to top off the success of the weekend we were all chuffed to hear that two kids wanted to be baptised! (see below for more details)

Thanks to Pat and Tony Murphy and Hillary McIlroy who did an excellent job with the cooking and of course to all those who took the time and effort to prepare the lessons for us.

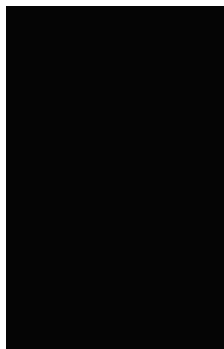
Of course a very special thanks also needs to go to the Clark and the team in Dublin – without whom the weekend wouldn't have taken place.



“And I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more”

Jeremiah 31:34

**4 GIVEN  
4 GOTTEN  
4 EVER**



It's always an encouragement to see more lives being given to the Lord and even more so when we get to be witnesses of this special event. We had great pleasure in witnessing the baptisms of Gary Crowe and Rachel Garrett who were both baptised during our Youth Weekend at Avoca Manor. Gary is 14 and plans to attend the church in Dublin and Rachel who is 13 will join us here in Coleraine.

We hope that the respective congregations will be an encouragement to them in their new life with God.

We rejoice with both Gary and Rachel and pray that God will bless them richly as they continue to be godly examples to their peers.

Mum got up early Sunday morning and got the kids ready for church. Dad sat in the living room, reading his newspaper and looking out at the snow.

They'd had the conversation before, but nothing had changed. "Why don't you go with us this week?" she asked. He didn't look up from his paper.

"You know why," he said out loud and then in his own mind finished the answer with "A truly great God wouldn't care about puny humans anyway."

The man replayed the argument in his mind: "If God is so perfect and great, why would he care about helping us? If God is so powerful, why would he make his son become a human being? Why would he stoop so low to help us.... if God is really so great."

A bird's

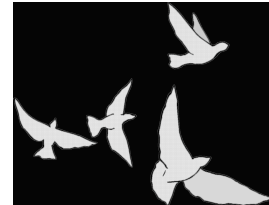
eye view

The house was silent except for the sound of the logs crackling in the fireplace. From the other end of the house came a strange thump.

The man put down his paper and walked down the hall. Outside the window huddled a group of birds. In confusion and fear, they had flown into the window pane and fallen to the ground. They huddled together in the snow trying to figure out what to do next. The man felt sorry for the birds. He thought to himself, "The birds could go in our barn and they'd be warm there." So he went outside and opened the door to the barn. Then he waited in the cold. The birds didn't move.

"I know, I'll shoe them over to the barn door," the man thought. But as he tried to herd the birds to the barn they simply scattered. Only after he left them alone did they come back to their spot in the snow.

The man had one last plan. He went back in the house and got a loaf of bread. Carefully, he tore off pieces of bread and made a path to the barn door. But the birds just huddled closer together, ignoring the gift of life which the man was offering.



Stumped, the man stood looking at the birds, wondering just what it would take to get them to safety. He thought to himself, "If only I could become a bird and lead them to safety, then they wouldn't have to die."

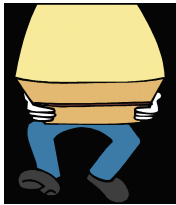
He stopped and thought about it again.

And he finally understood.

This is a story to remind you that no matter how small you may think we are in Gods eyes, we're not! God MADE us and he LOVES us, even when we sin! He knows that we will sin but he forgives us anyway! We are so important that he made us in his image and put us above all things on earth. He even DIED for us! Just like the story, no matter how much we try to turn away from God, he will still search for us and only be happy when we return home to be with him forever.

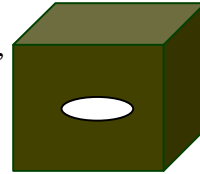
# God's Boxes

I have in my hands two boxes,  
Which God gave me to hold.  
He said, "Put all your sorrows in the black box,  
And all your joys in the gold."



I heeded His words, and in the two boxes,  
Both my joys and sorrows I stored,  
But though the gold became heavier each day,  
The black was as light as before.

With curiosity, I opened the black,  
I wanted to find out why,  
And I saw, in the base of the box, a hole,  
Which my sorrows had fallen out by.



I showed the hole to God, and mused,  
"I wonder where my sorrows could be!"  
He smiled a gentle smile and said,  
"My child, they're all here with me."

I asked God, why He gave me the boxes,  
Why the gold and the black with the hole?  
"My child, the gold is for you to count your blessings,  
The black is for you to let go."



Jesus said:  
"Come unto me all ye who are weary and I will  
give you rest"  
Matthew 11:28

**We're on the WEB!!**  
A special thanks to Brad  
Ward and Claire Wilson  
who have set up our new  
website for **CAMP  
SHAMROCK!**

**BUILDING A BETTER FUTURE**

- ♣ Protecting our children
- ♣ Setting good standards
- ♣ Implementing good practice

**CAMP SHAMROCK**



The dates for **CAMP SHAMROCK 2004** are as follows:

**BOYS CAMP** ~ Monday 12<sup>th</sup> July to Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> July

**GIRLS CAMP** ~ Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> July to Friday 30<sup>th</sup> July

The cost for the camp is £55 and as always, don't forget your sleeping bag, wellies, raincoats etc. Full details about the camp can be found in our application form (see below.) As always, we will be having counselors from Belfast, Ireland, USA and possibly a few other countries. This year looks to be a great camp, so don't miss out!

We can only take limited numbers so please make sure you contact Bert or get your application form in as soon as possible. An application must be completed by your parents and sent to Bert **BEFORE** the camp begins. Please let us know if transport is required within Ireland.

**For further information  
regarding this Newsletter or  
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You can now get your application form for **CAMP SHAMROCK** online. Check out the website for this year's form or if you want one posted, please contact

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WEBSITE AT  
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