

# ICE WALES

Initiatives in Christian Education

## Serving schools and churches throughout Wales

**Jabez cried out to the God of Israel “O that You would bless me and enlarge my territory”**

1 Chronicles 4 v 10

This has been my constant prayer for ICE Wales so that more children can be reached with the truths of the Bible. In recent days God has answered in very special ways. He has shown that this work is essential in our present climate and will continue by His grace to expand.

Through connections made in the past we have been contacted with an offer to use the GSUS Live bus in September. This is a mobile classroom which spends a week in secondary schools exploring the themes of Fear, Rejection and Forgiveness from a Christian perspective. It seemed unlikely that in the last week of term we would be able to arrange any visits but I must say it has been the easiest event I have ever organised. Three schools were contacted and two accepted immediately. Only God could lead schools to agree to such an event so early in the next school year. This I believe is the answer to much prayer that has been made during the past for an entry into secondary schools. Please pray over the summer and in September that we will be able to staff the sessions and that doors opened will remain so for the rest of the academic year.

Other answered prayer in recent days has been a school in Newport opening its doors to us for the first time with a request for assemblies, Bible Explorer and Discovery Club. Please pray we will have enough workers to meet this commitment. Ann Ford from Tredegar has for many years been working at Ebbw Fawr and Cwm schools. She has been supported by school staff as we had no one to work with her. That prayer has now been answered. Please pray for Kathleen Phillips as she joins Ann in September.

This year we have appointed three new trustees, Laura Toomer, John Hobbs and Stuart Linton. We have already benefitted from their ideas and commitment to the work. Another change is that Alan Petersen and Sheila Kelly will be stepping down at the end of this year. Both Alan and Sheila are the last of the original trustees. Alan was instrumental in setting up the Trust and has been chairman of the Trustees for 16 years. We thank Alan for his expertise, help and guidance over the years and pray that God will guide him into new fields of work. Although no longer a trustee Sheila will continue leading the work in Merthyr. We are grateful to her for her commitment to the work in the schools there.



I have spent some time analysing the work done by ICE Wales this year. As trustees this gives us an idea of our strengths and weaknesses as we consider, under God, the future of the work.

Sessions vary in length. Bible Explorer Sessions are 1 hour. Discovery Clubs and assemblies 30 - 45 minutes. 943 sessions put in by the ICE workers is a testimony to the commitment of the team. For a school taking advantage of Bible Explorer, assemblies and Discovery club it is possible for children to be presented with the Gospel on 40 occasions during the school year.

The Discovery clubs held weekly throughout the year enable a deeper relationship to grow between child and worker. These clubs often lead to deeper questions about the Faith. If we had more volunteers we could hold more Discovery Clubs. **Is God calling you to become a part of this ministry?**

The assemblies reach a large number of children on one visit. Could God be calling you to become a member of one of our assembly teams visiting schools either monthly or fortnightly?

Bible Explorer gives opportunity for 5 hours contact over 5 weeks with years 5 and 6 children. Could you train to present this and join a large team of international presenters?



ACTIVITY	Number of Schools	Number of Children	Number of Sessions
Bible Explorer			
Assemblies	12	600	
Discovery Clubs	23	6694	60
Events	18	338	104
Life Exhibition	17	1330	558
It's Your Move	30	800	30
Lessons	17	572	30
Totals	4	400	17
	121	10734	144
			943



Hi All

As I consider my last prayer letter contribution as Chair of ICE, I can't help but reflect on the last fifteen years or so and in particular reflect on the extraordinary faithful God whom we serve. When I think back to those unsure initial months before we were even a trust, we wondered how this venture, that we felt God had called us to, would work out. In particular the day we opened a bank account I wondered if there would ever be any money in it. I can't help but be amazed, not just at the faithfulness of God's people in working, praying for and giving to the work but at God himself. 1 Corinthians 1:9 tells us that...

**"God is faithful by whom you were called into the fellowship of His Son".**

There have been ups and downs over those years. There have been times when we have wondered if the work would continue. There have been times when we've wondered if our resources would stretch but at every turn we have found Him more than sufficient. We are still here, the Word is still going forth and we are ever grateful for the tens, even hundreds of thousands of young lives that have been spoken to by His Word through the work of ICE.

**From Alan Petersen**

I pray that God would continue to show His faithfulness and blessing to the work as His Word still goes out to the schools day in and day out and that those who take the work forward would be faithful to Him and trust in His unfailing love and power.

**"We will tell the next generation the trust worthy deeds of the Lord and the wonders he has done"**

**Psalm 78:4**

## Reports from the areas

The following report from St Woolos School Newport is very encouraging. St Woolos has a large proportion of Muslims. This school has been open to us since 2003 and it has been a tremendous privilege to work with so many of the children there.

### Kath reports.

Once again the Lord has blessed the Bible club at St Woolos. We end the year with around 25 very enthusiastic children attending each week. We may have to rethink the age policy as the number can at times produce a pleasant problem. Please pray that we make the right decision. We are always amazed at the interesting conversations we meet each week. The Head teacher and staff continue to be a strong support, especially the office staff who are always willing to send out letters or photocopy.

For many years Caersalem Church in Gorseinon has supported Ice Wales. Janet Price has excellent links with the schools there and sends the following report. My schools' work during this school year has been mainly confined to early morning Assemblies and to telling Bible stories to Infant children at the end of the school day.

I give thanks for and seek to use to His glory every opportunity that comes my way, remembering always that we have the privilege of planting precious seeds of God's Word in impressionable young minds. We know that God's perfect Work is to enable those seeds to grow in His own equally perfect time and way!

This year I have worked with small groups of Year 3/4 children at Gorseinon Junior School each week. We have been able to remind ourselves of familiar Bible stories and then to discuss them at a slightly 'deeper' level. Despite their high spirits they asked some very searching questions about Jesus' true identity, the reason for His coming into the world and why He had to die. These sessions took place in a corridor with the doors of the Secretary and Headmistress open! They often commented on the children's questions and responses. So in spite of themselves they were listening too! So please pray on that we will wisely make the most of every opportunity given to us - Ephesians 5:16.

### Jonathan Greaves writes

Since taking over the ICE Wales schools work from Laura Toomer in January, the work has continued to build on her ministry, reaching children with the truth of God's Word and the Good News of Jesus. Through clubs and assemblies, nearly every child in school in Monmouth hears something about Jesus from God's Word over the year. This is approximately 4000 children in 10-12 different schools.

### Secondary schools.

I usually take end of term assemblies at the Comprehensive School and also I have led Chapel services at both the boys and girls Haberdashers' Independent Schools. I have been able to support some RE input especially with A level philosophy. I have also taken two lessons sharing Christian beliefs about the resurrection of Jesus.

I also participated in the Comprehensive School Inter-faith 6th form conference, representing the Christian faith and presenting to young people our key beliefs and our motivation for helping refugees. I also participated in the panel question time.

HAM. (Hanging around Ministry). This is an opportunity to visit the Comprehensive School once a week at lunchtime. The School now has a short and staggered lunchtime which makes it impossible to run a CU in a traditional way. Instead, they actively encourage me to walk around the school and talk to the students and staff. This has resulted in some helpful and supportive conversations, and the fact that it has been publicised to staff, has been a witness in itself. Part of this setup is an agreement that if a student needs to speak to someone un-officially they would be directed to me, and also that I could go in at the last minute if there is a national crisis or something similar. Next term I hope to make the conversations a little more helpful by using a simple social/spiritual questionnaire, the anonymous results of which I can make available to the school.

For this work I am accompanied by Dani Hoskin the youth worker from Wyesham Christian Fellowship.

Roots. This is an after-school off premises Bible-study group for secondary age children at the local ice-cream shop. It is an alternative for CU for some students and a great place to grow in discipleship. It's also useful for referring seeking young people.

Over the course of the year about 8-10 have attended, from all 3 secondary schools, with a new intake expected this year.

### Primary schools

There are three clubs running either at lunchtime or after school. At the local Church of Wales School the XtB (Explore the Bible) club is attended by between 20 - 40 children each week. Another club uses the computer game Guardians of Ancora. It is very popular with the children and has led to some children using it on their own computers at home. We use "Open the Book" at monthly assemblies in three primary schools and I also use puppets on special occasions such as Christmas and Easter at other schools in the area. The Baptist Church offers a Victorian Sunday school when the children are studying this period in history.

### Teamwork.

In the coming year I hope to continue consolidating the work and develop new opportunities. We have good teams working with "Open the Book", and look forward to a new team member to widen the work of XtB and Ancora.

### The Games.

This is a School-day activity, offered by Scripture Union, based around a sport event. In September the Commonwealth Baton relay is coming to Monmouth in the first week of term. As a result, we asked the largest local primary school if they would like us to come and run "The games". They jumped at the chance so we will be doing this as a day in school with years 4, 5 and 6. The children will play sports, write songs, and learn about the Good Samaritan.



## Special Thanks

We are grateful to people who help with our special events at Christmas and Easter. Would you like to be a part of this outreach?

Some churches financially support the **"It's Your Move"** outreach to year 6 children about to go to secondary school. These books are published by Scripture Union and presented in an assembly and are used by some schools to promote discussion about the transition from one school to another. Bible stories are used to illustrate that God can be relied on to go with us whatever situation we face. Can you or your church help to finance more children receiving this book?

## Dates for your diary

### Monthly ICE Prayer Meetings

These will take place at Bethesda Rogerstone the first Thursday of each month.

**Thursday September 7th** will be a special prayer meeting to launch the academic year 2017/2018. Please make every effort to attend this and re-dedicate yourself to the work.



The **GSUS LIVE** bus will be at Risca comprehensive school from September 25th to 29th and at Newport High from October 18th to 22th. If you would like to be involved please contact Chris using the links below.

Please note the training morning for the **GSUS Bus** will probably be Saturday **September 23rd** at Risca Comprehensive.

Visit [www.gsuslive.co.uk](http://www.gsuslive.co.uk) for more information about the GSUS Live Bus.



**The ICE Wales Trust**  
91 Ruskin Avenue  
Rogerstone  
NP10 0BD

01633 662997  
[info@icewales.co.uk](mailto:info@icewales.co.uk)  
[www.icewales.co.uk](http://www.icewales.co.uk)

Twitter: @ICEWales  
Facebook search: 'ICE Wales Trust'

**Director of School Work**  
Christine Thomas

**Trustees**  
Sheila Kelly  
Alan Petersen  
Kathryn Kemp  
John Hobbs  
Stuart Linton  
Laura Toomer

Registered Charity: 110897