

Vision

Dear friends,

I can't believe this is our last newsletter of 2021 where does time go..... Looking back 2021 has been an interesting year. As I consider our response as a ministry to the challenges of this year there is one thing that stands out above everything else and that is God has once again proved Himself faithful as we have navigated the challenges of this year. Every month this year Stauros had the privilege of reaching out to people with addiction issues, as well as their families. We feel blessed that God has been at work among us. People have made professions of faith in Christ and have taken significant steps in breaking free from addictive life styles. God has answered prayers of healing, restoration and renewal in lives and relationships, and we want to give all the glory to Him. I pray you will be encouraged to read how God has been using the ministry of Stauros for His kingdom.

Roy Blown

STAUROS
MINISTRIES

Update on USA

We are always thankful for the opportunities we have to visit our partner churches—and to provide updates regarding our ministry. 2021 was a difficult year, as all of us are aware, but we were able to share testimonies, preach & provide music at a few of our partner churches!

As well as speaking at White Marsh Baptist, North Point Baptist, Brooklyn Bible Chapel & The Gates Church, we had opportunity of presenting a seminar at Forge Road Bible Chapel, entitled 'Loving the Addict' - we thank them for their continued support!

We were also excited to be able to visit with two of our partner churches, in West Virginia, we give a ministry update at Westview Baptist in the morning and presented our seminar on 'Loving the Addict' at central Chapel in the evening of Sunday 7th November.

From John Burghauer our Staff Member Baltimore, Maryland USA

Isle of Man Visit

On Monday 20th September Roy, Pamela and Beth travelled over to the Isle of Man. During their time on the Island Roy and Pamela attended the IOM board meeting. Roy also did some pastoral care visits with Gordon Buist who is our Stauros staff member on the IOM. Gordon continues to do a great work on the island visiting one-to-one with his contacts, partnering with different

Churches and groups on the Island and also running two Stauros meetings, one in Douglas which is the capital and



largest town on the Isle of Man, with a population of 27,938, and lies on the East coast and one in Ramsey which is a coastal town in the North of the Island with a population of around 7,845. On Wednesday the 22nd September we had the privilege of attending the Stauros IOM annual celebration in Broadway Baptist Church. We had an amazing night of worship, and the large number of people in attendance listened to various reports of the work on the Island and Jonny Williams a contact of Gordons shared an amazing testimony of God's grace, mercy and



saving power in his life. It was a great encouragement listening to all that God is doing through the ministry of Stauros on the IOM. The night finished with Val English an ex-pastor of Broadway Baptist and dear friend of Stauros

over many years preaching God's word, we came away feeling blessed, challenged and encouraged.

Annual BBQ

Back in September as lock-down restrictions began to ease and the number of people allowed to gather outdoors increased, we were able to have our annual BBQ at Straidhavern. Even though it was later in the year than we would normally have held it, God really blessed us on the day with sunshine.

It was an amazing day with 60 + people from our five Stauros meetings in Northern Ireland in attendance. The day started with the challenge of splitting into three teams, to compete in the activities planned for the day, not an easy task ha ha.

We had various games that weren't too difficult which enabled all ages to participate. We had archery and our own version of Bucketball that tested the individual's skill, and also had team games like minefield and plank-walk to encourage the teams to work together which at times was a challenge as the competitive spirit of some of the participants raised its head on a few occasions, (no names mentioned 😊) but the fun and banter was good. One team's skill and ability shone through and they were crowned champions on the day.

A BBQ is not a BBQ without healthy food 😊

We ended the day giving God thanks with praise and worship led by Peter Ginn, and Pastor Robert Ginn from Larne Elim who is one of Stauros UK trustees brought us a challenge from God's word on how to love one another.



Coffee Morning

On the 30th September 2021 we had a group of ladies that Kim Cooper would be involved with called 'The shine girls' attend Stauros headquarters for a coffee morning. We had a lovely time of fellowship and Ricky Wallace (Stauros) shared testimony, afterwards the girls asked a lot of interesting questions about how God by His mercy and grace could change a life, an amazing opportunity to witness to these ladies. Of course, we had the usual scones, buns, cakes etc. A great day was had by all. In their words, "we love this place, can we stay here?", "I would like to thank Stauros for all they do for our group, Shine", "we feel our 'Shine' group is a place of safety and belonging and we feel accepted not judged" Stauros are really excited for the New Year to see what God is doing and will continue to do in the lives of these girls and their families.



14 girls + their kids over 30 in total came to Straidhavern 9th December to enjoy their Christmas dinner. We all enjoyed our turkey, ham and dessert. We had so much fun with the games afterwards. Santa also made a surprise visit and gave everyone presents. To finish the evening of we had another surprise visit this time from two elves who give out more presents and shared God's kindness and goodness with the girls and their kids.

Our God is good and gives us more than we deserve or imagine.

Friday Bible Study

From the outset of lock-down in 2020 some of our people felt isolated very quickly. The Friday Stauros Bible Study was a regular feature for a handful of people on a Friday afternoon. These dear people found teaching and fellowship very important. Lock-down potentially was going to stop it altogether. The invention of Zoom was a great help. It even opened a door for more people to get involved due to remote access being available. Recording was possible too with Zoom.

So, we got a handle on Zoom and its workings. During the early lock-down we had two studies per week: Tuesday and Friday, with all of them being recorded and uploaded to YouTube so others could review or catchup. The studies covered sections of the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus' parables, studies in the Psalms, Titus, Old Testament studies in 1 and 2 Chronicles. All the studies tried to bring out practical applications for living. At times we had 20 people online. We had a bit of fellowship and fun beforehand while others were joining the meeting, 45 minutes of study, then questions and answers afterwards. People found it helpful to see other faces with no masks. The furthest logon was from my father in Indianapolis, Indiana USA. He has to get up at 7am to login. We had others from Belfast and Bangor login as well. God's Word is God's way of speaking to us about how to trust Him, obey Him, and help and encourage others, especially those that are struggling.

Currently, we are back in the Banbridge Baptist church hall running the Bible study both on Zoom and in person. We are making use of a large projector, laptop camera and loud speakers for the Zoom folks to interact with the people in the hall. Unfortunately, we can't serve coffee and buns to the online community, but it is worthwhile getting together for fellowship and studying God's precious Word. Get in touch with Woody Price at woody@stauros.com if you want to join either in person or on Zoom.



Training Opportunities

It has often been said in Stauros that the work of promoting the gospel of Christ to people with addiction problems, is a task the church should be engaged in more directly. It is no surprise therefore, that Stauros has taken opportunities to train others in its work.

Training is something that has been on-going in Stauros for many years. It became more formal when Stauros produced a programme called 'Unlocking Addictions' A practical, introduction to caring for people with alcohol dependence issues.

Pamela and Maggie have been invited to many church groups to deliver this training, the latest being a group from Calvary Pentecostal Church in Newtownabbey back in October, November. There was a lovely group of 14 people in attendance, all with big hearts and an excitement to reach into their local community to help those who suffer from addiction issues. We are really excited to see what the Lord will do with this group in the future for His kingdom.



Christmas Dinner

On the 6th of December some of the staff, UK board members and their families enjoyed a Christmas dinner at Straidhavern. There was some craic over food, fun and fellowship. The family of Stauros is just that, a family. We are not just colleagues and team workers. The Lord has called us to this work and we rejoice and count it a great privilege to be in it. Rachel and Graham organised the games, Tommy and Gillian's daughter Beth baked some great desserts, and Kathy and Jenny provided a wonderful dinner.



Stauros Meetings

Community support groups called Stauros meetings are held in:

- **Banbridge** on Alternate Thursday evenings at 7:30pm
Contact *Woody Price* – 07824485435
- **South Belfast** on Alternate Thursday evenings at 7:30pm
Contact *Ricky Wallace* - 07714736630 or *Maggie Wallace* - 07714736619
- **West Belfast** every Tuesday morning 10:30am
Contact *Kim Cooper* - 07971633978
- **Nutts Corner Crumlin** on Alternate Monday evenings at 7-30pm
Contact *Pamela Brown* – 07824485434
- **Enniskillen** every Wednesday evening at 7:30pm
Contact *Brendan Jones* – 07798660050
- **Glasgow** every Monday evening at 7:30pm
Contact *Linda McCredie* – 07824485438
- **England** on Alternate Wednesday evenings at 7:30pm
Contact *Paul Murphy* – 07824485437
- **Isle of Man** every Tuesday at 4pm and every Thursday at 6:30pm
Contact *Gordon Buist* - 07624453731



The Aims of the Stauros Foundation

1. To promote the gospel of Jesus Christ
2. To evangelise, help and offer fellowship to those suffering and recovering from addiction, to their families and to anyone else who feels they could benefit from our straightforward and practical approach
3. To educate society in general, and the Christian church in particular, about the dangers of all drugs used in a social or recreational way
4. To encourage a witness of abstinence from the social or recreational use of all drugs, including alcohol
5. To promote a society free from drug dependence

Stauros, with Gods help, seeks to befriend the individual and to identify the areas which keep him or her in bondage to their substance of choice.

Coming Events at Straidhavern Road

- 5th March: UK Trustee/Board meeting
- 7th – 8th March: Staff Fellowship days

General prayer requests:

- Please pray that the Lord would continue to be the centre of the work of the Stauros Foundation.
- Pray that God would raise up either a person or a couple to take over the work in Scotland.
- Please continue to pray for staff and their ongoing work in the community.
- Pray for Gods wisdom and leading for our trustee's & board members: UK, USA and IOM.

Thank you

We are so thankful to God in His provision that has allowed us to continue to fulfil our ministry through these difficult days, 'He is the same yesterday, today and forever'

We want to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to you. Without your prayerful and financial support, we could not do what we do. May God richly bless you as you serve Him.



Want to know more? Please contact us:

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