

# Vision

Dear friends,

Thank you for taking the time to read our latest newsletter, and for your interest in our ministry.

**John 10 v 10**

**The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.**

What a year this has been for us all at Stauros, so many ups, downs and hindrances to all of our lives, never could we have imagined that the whole world would come to a standstill. God is so faithful and we are so glad that He is in control and with us in every step that we take. Like a lot of ministries and churches we have had to think on our feet and find ways of being creative in continuing to minister the gospel to the folk we work with.

Stauros as an agency have had the privilege of befriending and coming alongside many contacts who would struggle with addiction and other issues in their lives. We have been able to journey with them through difficult times as they have processed and journeyed through deep core issues. We not only offer help to the individual, but we also offer help to the families. We have had privilege to see people not only stop their addiction, but more importantly we have seen them set free from their bondage of addiction through faith in Jesus Christ.

**Psalms 126 v 3**

**The Lord has done great things for us; we are glad.**

*Roy Brown*

## Exodus Visit

In July we had a visit from the Lisburn Exodus team. We had an amazing day of fellowship and it was a wonderful opportunity to hear and see first-hand the work Exodus do with young people. Ricky Wallace (Stauros) also shared testimony of what the Lord has done in his life and in the life of his family. We then had lunch together followed by the big task of painting the fence in the driveway, not an easy job, but the team from Exodus did an amazing job. We were so blessed.



## Stauros Meetings

March 2020 was the beginning of the Covid pandemic which brought the first lock-down. At that time, we had to put on hold our Stauros meetings, this grieved our hearts as we knew they were a support to many people struggling in their addiction. We are delighted to say that we have been able to restart our meetings. We have had to change the venues of some of our meetings from people's homes to public places. There are currently nine Stauros meetings running with approximately 150 people attending.

The meetings are held in, Banbridge, South Belfast, West Belfast, Crumlin, Enniskillen, Glasgow, England and two in Isle of Man.

Through our meetings we have promoted the gospel of Jesus Christ and taught Christian principles and Biblical truths. Please pray for these meetings that God would work in the people's lives who attend.

# Staff Retreat

Roy and Pamela organised a weekend retreat for our staff, trustees and their families to Ballinamallard, Co. Fermanagh, for the weekend 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> September 2021, (24 adults & 9 young ones in total). They booked a beautiful house with self-catering facilities. A friend of Pamela's, Denise, who lives nearby, was a great help and our thanks go to her for this. Everyone assembled by late Friday afternoon and after figuring out how the oven worked, we sat down to our meal (chicken broccoli bake) this was delicious. After this we had tray bakes, tea or coffee.

We were blessed to have Joanne with us, a friend of Kim. She worked with the young people while Mike was speaking. Mike and Rose were our guests for the weekend and Rachel and Graham Todd led us in worship. This was a really blessed time.

Mike's theme for the weekend was based on the life of David taken from 1 Samuel 23.

And the overall challenge was to:

## **Continue in the faith, steady and steadfast**

His first question:

### **What uproots us?**

Had everyone thinking. Graham and Rachel had organised a quiz, so after supper we put our brains to some use.

Mikes teaching continued on Saturday morning with,

### **The different ways in which our mood can affect us**

We all could identify with this. The rest of the afternoon was free time. Some slept, some ate, and some went into Enniskillen. After our evening meal,

Mikes teaching was:

### **How a crisis can uproot us**

This was good practical teaching. After supper we had the second part of our quiz. It was so good to have the young people join us. Team rivalry certainly came to the fore and there was much shouting and laughter. All for a box of sweets!!

Our weekend concluded with the last teaching session;

### **Gratitude is the beginning of recovery**

Perhaps the highlight of our weekend was when we all partook of communion together. This was particularly special as it was the first time we had met as the Stauros family for such a long time. We returned home strengthened, ready to meet the new year's work with its many challenges.



## New Staff



### Kim Cooper

Kim volunteered for Stauros for a time before joining the staff team in June 2021. Kim has a 4-year-old daughter named Beth (who keeps her very busy). Kim was brought up on the Shankill Road Belfast in a none Christian home. Her next-door neighbour got saved when Kim was seven years old and started taking her to church. Kim heard the gospel through her neighbour and believed. But it wasn't until she was fifteen and someone discipled her that she started to understand and count the cost. Kim has always loved people and has had a desire to help them know Christ as their saviour. Kim has been in full time ministry for fourteen years. Nine with Baptist missions and the last five with East Belfast mission. Kim is already working with a lot of people who currently have addiction issues. She feels the time is right for her to join the team of Stauros and continue to minister to people with addiction issues. Like all our staff we are blessed to have Kim on-board.



### Ricky Wallace

Ricky is married to Margaret and they have two daughters. In January 2013 Ricky made the best decision of his life, and that was to ask Christ into his life as his personal saviour. He would love to say from that day his life was great, but it wasn't there were issues in his life that he needed to work through from his past and that is where Stauros, through meeting with Arthur Williams, was able to help him. From meeting with Arthur, he was able to personally benefit from the one-to-one ministry offered by Stauros, this helped him to see the importance of meeting on a one-to-one basis.

Ricky believes the Lord give him a heart for hurting people and came on board as a volunteer for Stauros in December 2017 and later joined the full-time staff in February 2020, just before pandemic. The focus of Ricky's ministry would be to come along side men in the community sharing the love of Christ. Like all our staff we are blessed to have Ricky on-board.

## 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.**



# Training

During the year Pamela & Roy have had the opportunity to deliver Stauros training course called 'Unlocking Addictions' to a group of volunteers at our headquarters. Stauros were also invited by International Theological & Leadership College Portugal (ITLC) to include our course in their academic year 2020-21. Pamela & Roy were invited to Portugal back in March, but because of Covid restrictions they weren't able to travel, but were still able to deliver the training through Zoom. Needless to say, this was something they had never done before. It took a lot of time and preparation to adapt the course in a way that would work with them not actually being in the classroom with the students.

One of the things that was decided was that each evening the students would journal what they felt had impacted them that day and how they could use that in their everyday lives. The journals were very telling and very encouraging. It was clear that God was working in the lives of these young people and equipping them to serve Him in helping others. It was lovely to see that the course was helping the students in their relationships not only in the college, but with some of their friends who were struggling with issues in their lives.

The journals also helped develop relationships between Pamela, Roy and the students.

This is a quote from one of the students..



"I think after this whole week if I ever came across a situation like this, I would know how to handle it and deal with it a lot better. I would be very cautious about the conversations I have and ensure I go about them in the right way. I would use the skills shown to us and I would also know what not to do when I come across a situation like that. I understand the addict has a lot going on in their head and I would try and understand where they are before I can work with them. it has helped me grasp the bigger picture of everything going on"

Stauros have been invited back to Portugal next year to do the course as they have included it in their academic year 2021-22; we are trusting God that Pamela & Maggie will be able to go to Portugal in person.

## Coming Events at Straidhavern Road

- **1<sup>st</sup> -2<sup>nd</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup> Oct 13<sup>th</sup> Nov:** Unlocking Addiction Course
- **4<sup>th</sup> Dec:** UK Trustee/Board meeting
- **4<sup>th</sup> Dec:** Carol Service
- **5<sup>th</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> Dec:** Staff Fellowship days
- **6<sup>th</sup> Dec:** Staff Christmas dinner
- **9<sup>th</sup> Dec:** Christmas Dinner (outreach)
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## 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 our ongoing work.
- Pray for wisdom and Gods leading for our trustee's & board members: UK, USA And IOM.



## Want to know more? Please contact us:

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