

# Vision

Welcome to the May/June/July/August edition of our Stauros newsletter.

Once again, I want to personally take this opportunity to thank you all for reading the latest edition of our newsletter. We pray you are encouraged as you read how your prayers & financial support help us to achieve what God is doing through the ministry of Stauros.

**John 8:36 'So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.'**

John 8:36 is one of the most inspirational phrases in all Scripture. While sin enslaves us true freedom is found only in Christ.

We have had the privilege to see God through His grace heal people's lives and set them free from addiction and other issues in their lives.

*Rog Brown*

## Jean Gordon Testimony

Hello dear readers, I am a bit apprehensive in sharing my story but have spent, too long already wearing the masks, we do pretend to be alright when we're not. If my story can help others, I'm more than glad to share.

The start of my life was pretty normal. I found faith in God at a young age, went into nursing, fell in love, married and had two children. Cracks began to appear soon into my marriage which left me so hurt and angry.

I just wanted to numb the pain, then the problem went really quickly from 2 glasses of wine to one and a half bottles, sober for work drinking when home with horrible drunken behaviour, things that I would never do sober.

I'm as alcoholic as everyone else with this affliction. Whatever the addiction it doesn't matter when or how it starts, it cons us all into believing it makes us feel better, then leads us into a pit of destruction and despair, hurting the people we love most along the way.

In January 2021 I had tried so many times to stop and failed. I had almost lost all hope I'd ever break free this side of Heaven. I was depressed, ashamed, full of guilt and remorse and felt others would be better off without me and I just wanted it to end. I had already tried to end my life twice and saved only by what I see now was God sending people to me. I prayed from the depth of my soul and wow. Picking up a May Nicholson's book "Renewing Broken Lives" within the pages the word Stauros jumped out at me. Now this was in the middle of our pandemic and lock-down and I live in Perth, Scotland, but I emailed anyway and within days there was my first appointment with one of the Stauros workers via zoom and the start of a miraculous, awesome, Holy Spirit filled Recovery journey. At the same time the Stauros worker came alongside me, my local Pastor prayed I'd be set free and it felt instantly like a dark weight was lifted away. I know this is often not the case and my heart goes out to my fellow sufferers that have a daily war to fight. My last wish to drink was over a year ago.

My understanding myself, and learning to lean into God and handling the challenges life throws at us took longer and is ongoing, but God doesn't lose His battles and He is so in this with me.

From my life was changed I have had a real burden to reach out to others who need the Lord's help. I then proceeded to do the unlocking addictions course that Stauros offer to help me learn how to help others who struggle with addiction. This has been very effective and has equipped me to make a difference in other people's lives.

If you're reading this and still actively in addiction, please know God really does break chains and restores the years the locusts have taken from us. If like me you have found freedom Hallelujah. If you are just a dear interested person God Bless and do know your prayers and support can change lives.

Thanks, you for taking the time to read my story and wishing you the happy ending I have found.

Your Sister in Christ Jean xx



## Announcement

10<sup>th</sup> September at 7:30pm - Stauros Rally at Vic-Ryn (Lisburn) Speaker: Val English – All Are Welcome  
3<sup>rd</sup> December at 7:30pm - Stauros Carol Service at Vic-Ryn (Lisburn) – All Are Welcome

# Straidhavern BBQ

Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> August was our annual BBQ. We had approximately 60 people in attendance, generally the people that attend our BBQ would be people from our Stauros meetings along with their friends and family. This is a time of great fun and fellowship.



The day started with rain then more rain, at one point we considered the possibility of having to cancel. There was one guy at the BBQ who kept saying the sun will come out the sun will come out (I wasn't so sure). Then as always God in His provision brought the sunshine. What a lesson of faith for me. We had the pleasure of being able to offer hospitality to three gentlemen from America from



Breakaway ministries who stayed with us for a week at Straidhavern while running a baseball camp along side Living Hope

Church In the Shankill estate Belfast. Two of the guys shared at the BBQ about all the



Lord had done and was doing in the lives of the children who attended the baseball camp. It was exciting to hear how as the week went on God was moving in their lives. We trust the Lord that seeds were planted in those young lives that will make a difference in their future.



After the guys shared with us the grass had dried enough to enable us to start our games. We usually try to make the games team games to get the folk to work together as a team this can usually

spark a little competitiveness among the adults.

We had a bouncy castle, football, swing-ball, badminton and other games for the younger ones who were less competitive and better behaved than the adults.

After the games were over we had lunch, the usual burgers and hot-dogs, were enjoyed by all.

At the end we always finish with a time of fellowship, praise and God's word. Praise was led by our friend Ali Jackson, who would lead our praise at our Stauros meeting at Straidhavern. Pamela closed the meeting with reading and sharing from Psalm 139.

ROY.



*The Winning Team*



## Isle of Man

Hello my name is Gordon Buist and I am the full-time Stauros worker on the Isle of Man. I have been involved with the work of Stauros on the IOM for around 19 years. The work on the Island is going well and I am encouraged to see God in His grace and mercy work in the lives of the people that I am involved with. The bulk of my work is primarily focused on one to one pastoral care coming alongside individuals who suffer with addiction issues. As well as the one-to-one work we would often



organise days out with the guys, these days usually consist of things like walks, swimming, kayaking and occasionally we go out for a nice meal (food is always a winner). There are currently two Stauros support meetings on the island. One is in the capital Douglas and runs every



Thursday night and the other meeting is in Ramsey every Tuesday afternoon.

These meetings are a great form of support for the people who attend them

and great times of fellowship where we enjoy worship and sharing God's word not forgetting the tea/coffee at the end of the meeting.

## Banbridge

The Banbridge Stauros meeting gathers on alternate Thursday nights, it is held in the Drop Inn ministries charity shop in the town centre where Tanya Horner works. Tanya along with her husband Eddie both volunteer with Stauros and we are blessed that they both come along side Woody in the running of the meeting. Between 8 and 12 people attend from people needing help currently with addiction or life dominating issues, to people who have family members who struggle. Some in the meeting are local Christians who have a heart for the work. Of most of the ones who attend I would have some level of pastoral input with them in the community. We have seen a couple of men come to faith in Christ in the past year. Some in the meeting find the gathering a real life-line where they feel safe and understood. Banbridge is a very needy town. Lots of people need help, but not a lot of people want help. Pray that people who need help will want it. During the past year we have enjoyed good fellowship. One night we had pizza, one night we had a testimony via Zoom (we had to improvise a screen from the bit and pieces in the shop to project on), another night in May, my father from America was visiting and he shared how the Lord helped him with an alcohol addiction late in life. Woody Price.

## Shine Girls Day in the Sun ... at Dublin Zoo

I cannot believe Shine has now been going for 4 years and God has helped us so much. This group is a group of around 15-20 ladies (mostly single) who meet every Thursday for a cuppa and chat. (When the kids are at school lol!) We try to do an outing every time the kids are off; Easter, Summer, Half term break and Christmas.



On Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> July we took Shine girls and kids to Dublin Zoo, there were 44 of us in total. We had an amazing day from leaving Shankill at 730am and arriving back at 10pm. A very long day!

God was so good to us in providing a double-decker bus and driver for free!!! Wow! It doesn't stop there.

Apple Green, Subway provided us all with breakfast, coffees, drinks, crisps, cookies, you whispered it, they had it. Juice Jar in City Centre Belfast, provided the whole group with fruit tubs for the journey. God has blessed us so much.



We arrived at the zoo around 11 and had so much fun building relationships, enjoying lunch, eating ice cream and, of course, seeing the monkeys and giraffes too! Kim Cooper.

# Stauros Meetings

## Community support groups called Stauros meetings are held in:

- **Banbridge** on Alternate Thursday evenings at 7:30pm,  
Discipleship Bible study every Friday at 12:15pm  
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
- **Broughshane** 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday morning in a month 10:30am  
Contact *George Macgregor* - 07824485436
- **Nutts Corner, Crumlin** on Alternate Monday evenings at 7-30pm  
Contact *Pamela Brown* – 07824485434
- **Dromore, Co Down** on 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday evenings at 7:30pm  
Contact *Cheryl Eagleson* – 07875391824  
(commencing 12<sup>th</sup> October)
- **Enniskillen** every Wednesday evening at 7:30pm  
Contact *Brendan Jones* – 07798660050
- **Glasgow** every Monday evening at 7:30pm  
Contact *Linda McCredie* – 07824485438
- **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

- 9<sup>th</sup> September - UK Trustee/Board meeting
- 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> September - Staff Prayer and Training
- 2<sup>nd</sup> December - UK Trustee/Board meeting
- 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> December - Staff Prayer and Training

### 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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Telephone: 028 9082 5058 Email: info@stauros.com

[www.stauros.com](http://www.stauros.com)

