

Free Presbyterian Youth Council



'Remember now thy creator in the days of thy youth' - Ecclesiastes 12:1

REPORT ON 2009 SUMMER OUTREACH TO STRANRAER

By Kyle Graham

On the 10th of August a group of nine young people travelled to Stranraer, led by Rev Gardiner, accompanied by his wife Cherith and their daughter Anna. Having looked at a gloomy weather forecast prior to setting off (rain, rain, and more rain), things perhaps did not look too promising, however as Paul wrote to the Philippians, "my God shall supply all your need". Throughout the week, we were blessed with good weather and good opportunity to work for the Lord.

The group spent the majority of time knocking on doors to give a personal invitation to the church and, more importantly, giving an invitation to the cross, and to a right relationship with the Lord. In Stranraer, the vast majority of people are cold and apathetic toward the Gospel. They have little care for the things of God and are uninterested in the message of Christ. Despite this coldness, the Lord did open up conversations and grant opportunities to witness to the glory of his name.

Throughout the week, we conducted three open airs. During these open airs, three of the young people, along with Rev Gardiner, preached the Gospel of Christ which is "the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth" (Romans 1:16). The Lord promised his people in Psalm 81:10, "I am the LORD thy God, which brought thee out of the land of Egypt: open thy mouth wide, and I will fill it." We can testify to the faithfulness of the Lord that he did fill our mouths. The Lord gave wisdom and ability for the preaching of his Word. It was a great encouragement to see people stop, to see car windows being rolled down, and to see shop assistants standing in their doorways to hear the preaching of the Gospel.

Thanks must be given to the congregation in Stranraer for their warm welcome and hospitality, especially in the provision of many of our lunches throughout the week. Special thanks are owed to the Jordan family who invited us into their home one evening for fellowship together.

It is important to acknowledge that the entirety of the work is the Lord's; without the Lord's blessing, even the most persuasive words of man are to no avail; with the Lord's blessing even the inexperienced and untrained tongue of a young person can be used to accomplish mighty works for the Lord. Please pray for the church in Stranraer that the Lord would build his work; that the name of Christ may be honoured in that town.

"For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater: So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it." Isaiah 55:10-11



Stranraer Outreach Team

Front Row from left: Emma Stirling, Judith Crow, Heather Johnston, Lydia Harris, Mrs Gardiner (Baby: Anna Gardiner)

Back Row from left: James Magill, Paul Smith, Kyle Graham, Philip Murray, Rev Gardiner, Andrew Fitton