

THE UNTAKEN CITY

After having had a passion for mission in Ireland firmly planted in our hearts through summer outreach teams, we felt God's call to give ourselves fully to this and our journey began in 2005. This led to stepping out of our jobs and into study at Belfast Bible College, in 2007, knowing how Abraham felt when he, "...went out, not knowing where he was going." (Heb 11: 8). Yet God showed us what he had in store for us piece by piece. Church-planting, as part of a team was at the heart of this, with an emphasis on evangelism; living and working in the community, being keen to share "...not only the gospel of God but our lives as well." (1 Thess 2:8).

Our first experience of Waterford was when Ally spent five weeks with ECM in the city and nearby Tramore where we saw many of these values fleshed out. It was frustrating at the time, feeling a longing to stay and get stuck in, but knowing the necessity of returning to further studies. Last January provided the chance to step off the fast-moving train of study and while fasting and praying about our future, we became aware of a double-call, not only to ECM, but also to Waterford.

As we looked at the city we were struck by its motto which proudly asserts, "Waterford remains the untaken city." This stirred our hearts. Although this cry of resistance finds its roots as far back as the 15th century, there are still many today who resist God's call on their lives. We were reminded that, "Jesus is Lord," of all people and every place. As Abraham Kuyper once said, "'There is not a square inch in the whole domain of our human existence over which Christ, who is sovereign over all, does not cry 'Mine!'".

We hope to join others serving Him in Waterford, knowing that the key to winning people to Christ lies not in any of our bright ideas, but in Him. As Paul asserted, "We do not preach ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves your servants for His sake." (2 Cor 4:5). We are excited about what lies ahead and look forward to seeing God call people to submit and follow him in, 'the untaken city.'

COLIN & ALISON HOLMES

Colin & Alison have just been accepted as new candidates with ECM Ireland to serve as missionaries in Co Waterford.

Article by ECM 23/09/09