

Fire Ministries International

August 2016



Precious family in Jesus,

I have now returned from almost a month of ministry in Ireland. My heart is very full and deeply touched because of Jesus and His beautiful Life that filled us and poured forth so precious during this time. The teams and groups that participated in the different gatherings were simply tremendous. Jesus was truly magnified through His body as together we carried the ark of His Life within us everywhere we went. Because there is



much to share in regards to praise reports from this time in Ireland, I will share about different aspects from the trip over the next several months. It will also take time for me to upload the many videos, audios, children's materials, retreat manual and pictures from this July Ireland trip. Praise the Lord for the fresh manna that is coming your way soon on the web-site! Please check the web-site for the frequent updates that will be continuing throughout the upcoming weeks. I am also still in the process of updating files from the April/May Ireland conference as well!

For this month's theme I have chosen to share from the first part of the July trip that involved the Fire Ministries "Son-shine Outreach Team" and their ministry to young people. Fire Ministries was invited to share Christ with children and teenagers in two different areas of Ireland. Both of these outreaches proved to be straight from the heart of Jesus and were filled with hungry and precious young people that received Jesus in a living way. The Son-shine team was FULL OF JESUS, and poured Him out while shining forth His beautiful heart to the kids! THANK YOU Raphaele, Geraldine, Ed, Alana, Kyle, Kym, Lindsey and Catelyn.



Lindsey Earles was a continual strength in the Lord in regards to helping organize and prepare the bible club skits and materials. Thank you Lindsey for pouring Him out so freely. Lindsey has written a letter to the churches that we ministered to that recaps the bible club we did. I am using her letter in the following pages of this newsletter to bless you with a taste of the children's ministry from this past July.

Your Servant in Christ, Kelly

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Words cannot express how deeply blessed we were to be with the churches in Ireland to minister to the young people. Rarely have we seen Christ living through His body in such sweetness and selflessness as we saw in you all. We want to express our true gratitude, and take a moment to share with those who read the monthly newsletter what all happened during the Bible clubs with the children and the evening sessions with the teenagers.

"He must get bigger but I must get smaller."

(John 3:30)

"Christ in you is our hope of bringing God glory."

(Colossians 1:27)

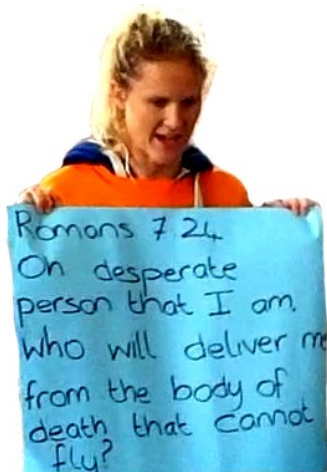
The name of the Bible club is "You Can Be a Butterfly."



The Bible club begins with four caterpillars, played by four of the team members, crawling in singing a downright depressing song about how tired they are of crawling in the mud and dirt and grime of the earth. They lament the fact that, even though they are Christians, they find themselves stuck in the muck and mire of their selfishness. They are miserable and fearful. They are selfish and self-centered. As much as they know it should not be this way, yet they cannot get free. Then suddenly, they see something that changes their lives forever: butterflies! These beautiful creatures have escaped the pull of selfishness and freely shine forth the love of God in their attitudes and reactions. These creatures seemed free from self and filled with God's Love. They must have found a secret to life. "What could it be?" the caterpillars ask themselves. When they finally get a chance to talk to the butterflies, the butterflies inform the caterpillars that they used to be caterpillars but they went through a transformation where Christ was formed in them (Galatians 4:19) and now His nature of love and sacrifice motivates them (Colossians 3:10-13).



But wait! These caterpillars are already Christians! They already have Jesus in them! "What a conundrum," they think to themselves. How can Jesus be the answer when they are already born again? But the butterflies inform them that getting saved is only the beginning. It starts by asking Jesus into our heart, but He must grow bigger in us (John 3:30)! Christ living in us is our only hope of bringing God glory (Colossians 1:27).



That is the first of the three days, and the kids responded with such joy and enthusiasm. Every single child knew the memory verses by day's end, and as we did our crafts we got to talk and share about Jesus with them more on an individual basis. We found these children's hearts full of love for and openness to Jesus.



The children lost none of their vigor on the second day. On this day, the children got to watch our four caterpillar friends attempt to grow wings and fly through their own efforts. The caterpillars worked out, trying to build up their own strength to be able to fly. They read their Bibles and prayed and fasted in order to be able to fly. One caterpillar enters the scene having just been to Flight School, where she learned about aerodynamics, and wind patterns, and wing structures, and witnessed many butterflies taking flight, and because of her accumulation of knowledge and proximity to butterflies she believed she would be able to fly. None of this, of course, availed anything. One by one the caterpillars would get up on a chair, having done what they think is necessary to fly, and would flap their arms as the children yelled out a countdown from 10, and would leap into the air only to come



Larry the Law's Song: "I'm an upright citizen. I keep all the rules. But I forgot this one great thing: Jesus want to live in me!"

crashing down to the earth and their old selfish ways.



As if this was not bad enough, next came Larry Law and Suzy Cleaner. Larry swooped in like a drill sergeant, insisting that the caterpillars just were not trying hard enough. He commanded them to try harder, to redouble their efforts to follow all the rules and be good in order to fly. Pray more, fast more, read the Bible more, focus harder on being good and doing right: that is Larry's idea of how to take flight.

So the caterpillars tried, and of course still failed to fly, remaining as selfish as ever. Enter Suzy Cleaner: she told the caterpillars that they must look and act moral and godly before they can fly. They must clean up their insides and their outside. They must appear as clean and beautiful as butterflies. "Cleanliness is next to godliness," she said. So the cleanest-looking of the caterpillars gave a go at flying, and once again came crashing down in selfishness and pride.



This was, of course, hilarious to the children. Our prayer is that, as they grow, and they feel themselves trying and failing to be "good Christians" who can fly, they will remember those insanely-dressed fully grown adults jumping off chairs, and they will realize that they are doing the same thing.



Finally, the butterflies arrive and supply the true answer: these caterpillars must get into their cocoons. The cocoon represents the end of all of our efforts at having our own righteousness or being good in our own strength, and instead embracing our death with Christ, that when He died on the cross, we died with Him, and now His Lamb life is our only life (Romans 6:3-7, Galatians 2:20, Revelation 21:5). As the caterpillars realize that the answer is not working hard and being better, but embracing their death with Christ and beholding His face until they are changed and His image and nature is formed in them (2 Corinthians 3:18, 4:6-7, Galatians 4:19), they cease all their efforts to fly and get into their cocoons, singing these songs:

Let's Do The Cocoon Dance!

"I'm not getting any better as I wait in my cocoon. But I know that Jesus is growing in me and He's gonna come out soon!"



"The way to become a butterfly is to believe on Christ and Him crucified. I will crawl into my cocoon believing I cannot get better. But there's a new life inside of me: Jesus and He will grow! I will let death work in the old form of the caterpillar, And stay in my cocoon until Christ forms and my new wings grow".



Then, as the caterpillars stand in their cocoons, out comes Heart Man (or Woman). And Heart Man is wearing a special pair of glasses called Father's Eyes. With these glasses, Heart Man is able to see each of the caterpillars as their heavenly Father sees them, as ones in whom Christ is increasing. Heart Man explains to the children that, while in the cocoon, you will have times when you feel that you will never grow wings, but you do not listen to those feelings and leave your cocoon before the changes come as His Life and Nature forms within. Your Father sees Jesus in you and



your heart that wants Him to get bigger and you to get smaller. We must look at ourselves and our brothers and sisters in Christ with the Father's eyes. You are in that cocoon so that Jesus can grow in a real way. Our faith is no longer in ourselves acting better, but Christ being formed in us so that eventually the beautiful Lamb of God will begin appearing in our motivations, attitudes, and reactions. If we look upon that which is seen, we will see an ugly brown cocoon containing a hopeless earth-crawling caterpillar. But faith looks not at that which is seen, but that which is unseen. With Father's Eyes, we see Jesus, the only true butterfly, increasing inside the caterpillars until they are changed into that same image and Christ is living in them.

So for their craft on the second day, the children made Father's Eyes glasses of their own, complete with butterfly wings! We practiced seeing each other in Christ, as the Father sees, and not with our eyes. We practiced covering each other with wings of God's love during the process.



And then, on day three, praise the Lord, our four caterpillars emerged from their cocoons transformed into butterflies! They were no longer selfish, self-centered, and incapable of laying their lives down for others. They no longer tried to be good because the only One who is good is now living His life through them! On this day, the children did the craft before the final installment of the drama: they made wings of their very own, so when the caterpillars came forth from their cocoons with wings, everyone flew around the room together, lifted up from crawling in our old selfish ways by the life and love of Jesus flowing in them! The children raced around the room, singing our theme song as they went:

**You can be a butterfly and fly up in the sky
And let His life shine through you**

**You can let His life grow in you
You can let His light shine through you
And as you let His love flow through you
Other people will see Him living.**



In the evenings with the teenagers, we used the same theme with the same drama, but the Lord gave us wisdom in how to relate it to an older group, and after the drama each teenager received a journal made by one of our team members that went along with the theme, and they all got the opportunity to write down their thoughts concerning what the Lord was sharing through the drama. We got lots of time to talk with all the teens on a one-on-one basis, and in them we found an openness to Christ, not just as their Savior but as their Life, that is rare and precious in anyone, but especially in their age group. Again, we were surprised and deeply blessed.

We cannot express how happy we were to get to come and be with such a precious group of fellow-believers, our brothers and sisters in Ireland. They will continually be in our prayers, and we ask you to pray for us also, as we all continue on our journey with Jesus, abiding in His death, beholding His face, being changed into His image, that His life might be manifested in and through us. We love you dearly, and pray we see you again soon.

Together with you in Him, **The FIRE Ministries team**

A Note from Kelly Concerning "You Can Be A Butterfly"

Teams from Fire Ministries have been sharing "You Can Be A Butterfly" with children for over 15 years. Over that time the Lord has continued to minister His reality and heart to us concerning the true spirit of wings and flying, the nature of the Life that

transforms us from the inside out, and what the cocoon really represents. The teams are always amazed at how much the Lord shares with us personally as we minister to the children! It amazes us how easy it can be to interpret deliverance from selfish crawling in terms that are equally as selfish.

Crawling can be misunderstood as simply bad feelings and hard circumstances rather than the wretched nature of selfishness that will never lay its life down for others because it seeks only its own (Romans chapter 7).

Deliverance from that wretched nature of sin and death comes only through being crucified with Christ and not counseling from butterflies, emotional or circumstantial changes, or any other method apart from the slain Lamb of God (Roman chapter 6). We are not seeking CHANGE we are seeking CHRIST IN US. HE is the change. If it is only a change we want, then our pursuit is not for Jesus but something for self.

Butterflies can be misunderstood to be powerful overcoming people who never go through hard times, never suffer pain, and use their wings to escape it all by flying above it; when the true Butterfly Himself spread His wings on Calvary, died for selfish sinful mankind as they crucified Him, and manifested the real way butterflies use their wings (Philippians chapter 2, Romans 15:1-3).

Wings can be misunderstood to be freedom from Jesus, the Lamb of God, rather than union into His glorious self-giving Lamb nature that lifts us from the confines of self-preservation and frees us to lay our lives down for others, even our enemies (Galatians 5:13-14).

And then there is the Cocoon... Oh how we have cried out to God to understand the cocoon from His heart and view. We continue to cry out and we continue to press in. We have discovered that the cocoon is not escapism from confrontation with our wretchedness by leaving everyone and everything that we react to and moving into a hut in the wilderness to seek God in solitude. The cocoon is not immersion into doctrines of the Cross and our death with Christ until we can teach, sing and write about it all day. The cocoon represents a true heart separation into the slain Lamb and His Cross wherein we lay ourselves into His death and seek no other answer than to be overcome in our being with the reality that we are crucified with Christ and Who this crucified One is in us as our Life. In this separation unto knowing Him in this way we seek not just to know the death that put away the old man, but the SPIRIT and NATURE of that Lamb who gave Himself for us to BE IN US and TRANSFORM us (Galatians 2:20). It is easy to think that the answer to our wretched and low condition as caterpillars is to somehow get higher, but the cocoon shows us that the true answer is to get lower. We need to go deeper into His death. We need a greater immersion into the Crucified. We need to continue to press into Him beyond even knowing our death with Him into bearing His image; the image which is defined most clearly in the book of Revelation as a slain Lamb (Revelation 5:6, Philippians 3:10, I Corinthians 2:2).

May this slain Lamb make all things New in us (II Corinthians 5:17, Revelation 21:5, Colossians 1:17-19). May His Light shine out of us (Revelation 21:23). May He love through us. May He daily lay His life down in us so that others may receive life (II Corinthians 4:10). May the true Butterflies die through His nature!

"And He that sat upon the throne (*the slain Lamb*) said,
Behold, I make all things new." Revelation 21:5

A Butterfly Does Fly

(lyrics by R.T. Nusbaum from his song "A Butterfly Does Fly")

Well I met one like me, one bright and shining day,
crawling along the road, in our caterpillar way.
"Lift up your head!" he said to me. "Confident and strong is how we caterpillars should be".
So I looked up from the dust, and I set my course to try.
I was sick of eating all this dust, I just wanted to fly.

But after a few weeks of giving it my best,
I fell back in with the ways of the caterpillar nest.
We were so open and listening. But we all knew that something was missing.
We all were so sincere, but we all wondered why...

But while we were all polite, with our ways and with our greetings,
we never let butterflies into our caterpillar meetings.
Their words just talked how we're a mess, and the only answer they gave had to do with death.
Our answer was to have some joy, and sing God's tune,
their answer was about the cross . . . wrapped up in a cocoon.

One day through circumstance, my life came crashing down.
Though taught so much about God, no answer was there found.
My problem was not what I do, but the ugliness of self kept pushing its way through.

For the first time I understood a butterfly.
I didn't need to try to improve, I just needed to die.

Blackbird Revisited

(lyrics by R.T. Nusbaum from his song "Blackbird Revisited")

Born into the Lord one day, you began to make your way. Seeking for a higher plane,
you looked above unto . . . Him, wanting to get to . . . Him.
As a young and tender one, you spread your wings toward the Son.
Pulled to earth, you don't know why, like a bird torn from the sky.
Oh the cost of freedom lost, you flounder here in earth . . . Oh,
drowning in the hurts . . . so,
Left for dead you lay your head on Jesus' precious faithfulness.
Days gone by, your heart was free, now you lay before the tree,
looking at the Son of God, He's beat and crucified . . . so,
you could take your flight . . . though,
Now you look into His heart, and join Him as you take His part.
Life was once about your sight, now you reach to those in flight,
Getting low you push them fro,
So, they might find their wings . . . so, they might take their flight, you . . .
Count the cost, that by your loss, that they might soar with Him above.

*A special thanks to Sarah Jensen for writing and sharing the song
"The Way To Become A Butterfly!"*