

# pipeline



transforming lives and communities • Spring/Summer 2019

LACKEN HOUSE



From

# Lacken House

to the Least Reached





## Our Vision

To see vibrant communities of Jesus followers among the least reached.

## Reaching the Lost

Through personal relationships, direct evangelism, and a range of creative ministry programmes, we seek to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ in Ireland

## Equipping and Mobilising the Church

OM Ireland seeks to equip and resource the local church so that together, in partnership, we can reach the lost through the proclamation of the Gospel. We also seek to create and promote opportunities for Christians to put their faith into action, locally and globally, through prayer, finance, and service.

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# Editorial



One of the great benefits of being in a place for a good length of time is that, down through the years, you are privileged to see the incredible faithfulness of God! One such blessing was when OM Ireland moved into Rahara, Co. Roscommon in 2008! That immediate impact on local churches and their ministries has been increasing significantly year by year through outreach teams, Big Red Bus, MDT Immersion Teams, Philippiian Project workers, and now into church planting roles. Praise You, Lord!

The behind-the-scenes work going on in Lacken House has also been no less significant with the operations team remodelling and upgrading the facilities to increase the whole site's effectiveness and potential. In the not-too-distant future, the capabilities at Lacken House will be wide ranging and extensive, benefitting churches and ministries through helping their people to come, develop their gifts, learn new skills, and train for service here and abroad. This was always the vision and goal for Lacken House. Through OM Ireland's ministries and interaction with its international staff and teams, whether short-term or long-term, the Irish church gets a window on the world and a challenge for global service!

2018 and into 2019 brought its share of problems and recent visa cancellations meant having to rethink plans and programmes but the faithfulness of God in response to the prayers of His people has been readily seen at every turn. The Lord clearly wants Lacken House, its leadership and team to be here to both benefit and challenge the Irish Church.

"To God be the glory, great things He has done..."

Pastor Dominic Montgomery  
Cherith Baptist Church  
OM Ireland Board Member





# The Story of Lacken House

## OUT OF THE ASHES

“What brought us down to Lacken House?” Alastair Kerr, field leader of OM Ireland, questioned. “The simple answer: God.”

When a fire destroyed the OM Ireland office in Donegal in 2006, the team began exploring options for a place near Dublin, a logical location given the high concentration of people there.

“We were quite far along in the process when we first heard about Lacken House,” Alastair said. “The day we drew up plans for the new office, we got a phone call about this property owner in the centre of Ireland who wanted to sell to a Christian organisation.”

The 2008 purchase of Lacken House for €1.1 million was a step of faith, but the relocation proved to be a strategic move. Alastair shared how God’s direction held a deeper purpose for OM Ireland’s ministry.

“God was directing us to areas where others had not focused on very much and giving us an oppor-

tunity to minister where the need was the greatest.” Lacken House’s central location allows it to be a Gospel presence to the surrounding communities. Ireland’s population is about 1% evangelical, and many towns have no Gospel presence at all.

“Looking at this year’s St. Patrick’s outreach,” Cornel (OM leadership) said, “we were scattered



over the whole of Ireland. Being central for that is important because we can bring participants here first for training, and then send them to places like Letterkenny and Newcastle West. It's also key for staff visiting other teams (like the MDT programme or the Philippian Project) because they can go out and back in a day. It's important for us to be centrally located, because now we can reach more places more easily."

### **A HAVEN AWAY**

In its ten years in Rahara, Co. Roscommon, Lacken House has been a home away from home for hosting as well as training to equip volunteers, church workers, and short-term teams to reach Ireland and the world.

"It's safe to say that thousands have stayed here since we bought it," Alastair said. "Our hope is that each person who's stayed here better understands the spiritual needs of the nation and would leave knowing something of what God is doing here in Ireland."

Lacken House can easily accommodate large groups (up to 30 people) and is tucked away in a peaceful and rural setting.

"We are remote enough that folks can focus on the preparation and training and learn something of the needs here. Lacken House brings a certain tranquillity, a chance for people to get away and actually spend time with God."

Lacken House is available for local use, a place to rest for anyone who may need to step away for a time.

"We wanted Lacken House to be a bit of a haven away from all the busyness of life," Alastair said,

"somewhere people can come to get refreshed but also mobilised to go back and make a difference in their situations. I would love to see more local believers and pastors come here and spend time being refreshed. It's so much more than a good experience. There is a certain peace that comes from connecting with God in the beauty of nature around our site."

### **RELEASE TO REACH**

Since the beginning of OM Ireland, we've had the heart to mobilise more Irish believers. We acknowledge that one of the greatest restrictions at times has been finances, particularly the payment of Lacken House. Over the past ten years, God has provided for 80% of the cost. We want to be good stewards of what He has given us, so we are hoping to pay the remaining balance with one final campaign.

As we are freed in our finances at Lacken House, that will enable us to release more funds to reach others through various ministries. One dream we have is to be able to facilitate more Irish involvement in missions. Would you pray and consider joining with us to finish the last 20% in order that we may be "Released to Reach"?







## NEW FAMILY BASE: BALLINASLOE

For one family, God brought them home to Ireland to be trained, equipped, and mobilised to reach the community. David and Cheryl have found their place in a local church while following God's direction for their lives.

"We'd been working in Australia [for awhile], so we were praying about how we'd return to Ireland," David recalled.

Cheryl suggested looking at roles with OM. "We were open to whatever, although we were looking for roles specifically suited to us. At the time, [OM Ireland] was looking for a youth coordinator and an operations worker with gardening experience. These were the specific jobs we'd been looking for."

Starting in January 2012, David and Cheryl served with the team and were initially at Lacken House. During the next three years, God was training and preparing them for a big step in their future ministry.



“By May 2015, the Lord was putting church planting in Ireland on our hearts,” Cheryl said. “Alastair [OM Ireland’s national director] approached us about the Philippian Project, which was hot off the press at the time. David kept saying ‘It’s going to be horrible to leave the church we’re attending.’ Then in January 2016, he came home from church one day and said ‘I actually believe it’s [our church in Ballinasloe] we’re meant to work with.’ David then contacted our pastor, who’d been praying that we would want to come work alongside the church.”

David and Cheryl transitioned into the Philippian Project with their local church at the end of February 2016 and began serving full-time, an Irish witness to the community.

“My heart was there,” David shared. “I knew that the Lord was asking me to get to know these people. I was trying to meet people who were living in the town or connected with the church. I have gotten to know them and work with them in the community. Then they get to know who I am. Through that witness, I can talk to them about the church and about the Lord.”

“In the past couple years,” Cheryl added, “we’ve seen a vulnerability in folks in conversations that we wouldn’t have seen [without being based in the town]. We love that you have one Gospel conversation at a Horse Fair, see that guy later, and are able to invite him over for a cuppa to answer his questions.”

The church recently moved to a new building in the town centre which means an opportunity for more interaction with and impact in the community.

“Key people who are known throughout the town have been dropping in,” David said. “The Lord is bringing people in and weaving this thing together for us. We’ve got a new building and a few new believers. We want to see families transformed in our town and Jesus being lifted high.”

“The more concentrated time we spend in a community,” Cheryl noted, “the more you realise that the fields are ripe. There’s a real beauty in the local church, in knowing that He’s going to work through you. It’s the Lord’s work, church, body, all these various little pockets. Everyone [in Ballinasloe] is feeling a bubbling that God is going to work through His Spirit.”







## LARGEST ST. PATRICK'S CHALLENGE

Every year, OM Ireland hosts the St. Patrick's Challenge, a one-week outreach centred around the Irish national holiday. This year, we set a new record with 30+ participants coming from the USA, Canada, Scotland, Wales, Germany, England, and Ireland.

"We had such a large age range too," Helen, OM office administrator, said. "We had people from 16-71 years old!"

"I'm thankful that God is still burdening and calling people to serve in Ireland," Irene (OM Human Resource Director) said, "and that they're willing to give up time and money to come serve."

With the guest house and chalets of Lacken House, we were blessed to be able to house everyone onsite. For some, this was their first visit to Ireland. For others, this would be their first time doing street ministry. Trained at Lacken House, the participants were sent to five different church partners around Ireland: Letterkenny, Cootehill,

Longford, Athlone, and Newcastle West.

Each team's ministry was a little different, based on the needs or plans of the hosting church. Everyone participated in their local St. Patrick's parade in some capacity. The Big Red Bus was also able to be a part in a couple parades. Teams were handing out Gospel tracts as well doing street evangelism.

Letterkenny. "We got to Letterkenny and joined the youth group that night, Benjamin—the youngest member of our group—was asked to share his testimony on the spot. It was his first time sharing his testimony. It was amazing to see." -Danny (USA)

Cootehill. "During our time doing street evangelism, I was able to share the Gospel with an older lady who brought up the apparent brokenness of politics in the region. I spoke about God's design for the world and the way that Christ's death and resurrection makes it possible for God to hear the brokenness in our hearts." -Rebecca (USA)



Longford. "As my husband and I went door to door, God allowed us to encounter a young man who had been dealing with bigger questions: How can there be goodness without a God? How can one maintain an atheistic viewpoint when it is unreasonable? We were so excited that God had already started working in his heart and mind." -Wendy (Canada)

Athlone. "It's amazing to see how we've never been out [for street evangelism] before, but we connected with these teens. The second day they were so excited to see us that they introduced us to their friends. I can't tell you how excited I am to have been part of OM's mission ministering out on the streets." -Gene (USA)

Newcastle West. "During our mall outreach, myself and Monja were able to share the Gospel with two guys. It was cool watching their faces as we shared. They seemed like they were really listening and considering what we said." -Lela (USA)

"It was a joy to see Lacken House full with St. Patrick's Challenge participants," Alastair (OM Ireland national director) shared afterwards, "being trained onsite and how they are passionate about going out and sharing their faith. I would love to see more Irish initially equipped here at OM Ireland for something like St. Patrick's Challenge and then sent out."







**H**ow do most secondary school students spend their Easter holiday? Probably not taking part in a short-term trip! However, thirteen teens and four adults from a local area church in Roscommon are doing just that, spending their holiday volunteering with OM in Moldova.

“We wanted to make faith real,” Daniel (youth group leader and OM staff member) said. “We wanted to get them out to see the world, to see what it actually means to live and strengthen their faith so they would be bolder in Ireland, in school, in life. The Irish teens in the group especially haven’t experienced a whole lot outside of this country.”

Jesse (youth leader and OM staff member) planned the trip as a missional starting point for young lives. “Creating a culture of missions within our young people is something that I thought was fairly important. If we want to get people in the mindset that missions is a part of life (if not completely life), then it needs to start at a young age... which means now.”

“They have a very small bubble that they comfortably live in,” Daniel shared, “and never get pushed outside of that bubble. We’d like to burst—or at least expand—that bubble...”

So why Moldova? As Jesse phrased it, “[In Europe] you can experience a vastly different world within a

few hours [of travel]. Moldova is currently the poorest country in Europe. I think having them serve and not have the world revolve around them for a time [will be an experience].”

“I think the students will get out of their comfort zone,” Daniel shared, “to see people who live on so much less but are still happy—or possibly happier—and then hopefully take on that same mentality.”

“They’ll have to look at themselves and what they believe (because they’re going to talk about Jesus),” Jesse agreed. “They’ll have to ask, ‘Do I believe this enough to tell someone else about it?’ In the end, it’s how the experience affects them, not necessarily what they’re doing. It’s more the culture affecting them than them affecting the culture.”

Daniel hopes for greater potential beyond this one-week trip. “If we can teach them missions as a lifestyle where they are constantly making disciples and pursuing that, we [as leaders] will have a greater impact than just teaching them.”

**Email us at [communications.ie@om.org](mailto:communications.ie@om.org) to receive our electronic newsletter and hear about the trip when they return!**





## FROM THE EMERALD ISLE TO THE SHIP THE IRISHMAN ON THE LOGOS HOPE

**D**id you know that OM has a ship? The Logos Hope sails from port to port bringing the message of the Gospel to some of the least-reached people and places. We are excited to have Cork native Isaac serving on board in the book fair for a second term.

“I was thinking of doing a short-term missions trip,” Isaac remembered, “so I talked to a friend who gave me a long list of options. I narrowed it down to OM as they had so many different options.”

Where would someone who lives on an island go for a short-term mission trip? Having recently finished school, Isaac’s options and possibilities were wide open. He could have done anything, gone anywhere. Yet, he wanted something to challenge himself. Why not a ship... or more specifically, the world’s largest floating bookstore called the Logos Hope?

“[Serving in missions] was exciting [to think about]. It was something very much out of my comfort zone. I especially looked forward to the opportunity of combining work with ministry on the ship.”

Once he’d applied and been accepted to join the crew on the Logos Hope, he spent three months onboard as part of the STEP (Short Term Exposure Programme) team. Working in the book fair, Isaac got a glimpse into a greater missional opportunity.

The ship’s time in Latin America provided an inspiring comparison to Ireland and encouraged Isaac to keep serving and learning.

“OM’s mission in Latin America [includes the goal] of sending Latin Americans into missions among the least reached. Being on the presentations team was a reminder for me of how Ireland is also a least reached country. This is a unique opportunity to learn things that I can use to reach people in my community in Ireland. I’ve learned about the least reached and the need for missionaries amongst them. It’s helped to train me not only in evangelism, but I’ve learned a lot through working with and leading people in the book fair too.”

Isaac is on the ship representing Ireland, serving the Lord, growing, and loving every minute of the adventure. We look forward to hearing more from Isaac and seeing where God leads him next.

We’re also very excited to announce that the Logos Hope is coming to Europe in 2020, and Ireland is on the list of potential ports to visit!





TEENSTREET'19

A MINISTRY OF OM

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# INSPIRED

## SUMMER OUTREACH



SHORT TERM

Interested in serving on a short-term outreach this summer? We're offering three different one-week opportunities for you and your church to partner with us!

- 10-18 Jul (General Summer outreach)
- 9 - 19 Aug (Fleadh Cheoil outreach)
- 22-29 Aug (General Summer outreach)

## COMMUNICATIONS TEAM



LONG TERM

Do you love sharing the stories of what God is doing? Join our Communications Team to help share the incredible stories of how God is working in Ireland!

- Journalist
- Graphic Designer
- Social Media manager

Continue to pray for  
**Logos Hope**



facebook.com/LogosHope  
Instagram:@LogosHope

## PORT SCHEDULE

Rosario, Argentina .....	April 3rd, 2019	April 21st, 2019
Buenos Aires, Argentina .....	May 31st, 2019	June 25th, 2019
Mar Del Plata, Argentina .....	July 24th, 2019	August 19th, 2019
Santos, Brazil .....	August 23rd, 2019	Sept. 17th, 2019
Rio De Janeiro, Brazil .....	Sept. 18th, 2019	October 8th, 2019
Puerto Quetzal, Guatemala .....	October 9th, 2019	October 22nd, 2019



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