

How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: **“How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!”**

A photograph of a beach at sunset. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a warm, golden glow over the scene. The sky is filled with soft, orange and yellow clouds. The beach is wide and sandy, with several footprints visible in the foreground. The trees on the left and right sides of the beach are silhouetted against the bright sky. The overall mood is peaceful and contemplative.

How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!

rhm⁺

Dear friends,

What does it look like to carry the Good News of Jesus into our communities?

The Methodist people in Ireland are committed to mission. We are warm-hearted, rejoicing and confident in the gospel. We are developing tough hands as we help each other to be more like Jesus. We are getting our feet wet as we step out into our communities.

We made these Commitments at Conference 2018 and are grappling with how to put them in to practice in our local context, taking small steps to live out the good news of Jesus in our world. These 'beautiful steps' are part of the wonderful sight of "Grand processions of people telling all the good things of God"

Romans 10:14-15 (The Message).

This leaflet describes three different contexts where people have taken small steps to get their feet wet. We hope that these stories will both spark imagination and inspire action. You can visit the Home Mission section on the Irish Methodist website to hear more from Dave and Alison, Rachel and James, and Ken who have all felt prompted by God to get their feet wet.

At the back of this leaflet we have intentionally left space for you to reflect on your small steps and respond to what God has been saying to you today. There is also an invitation to respond through prayer, giving and sharing your story with others.

Thank you for your support which enables God's people to carry the Good News into communities across Ireland.

Blessings,

Methodist Home Mission Ireland

“My advice for anyone that is thinking of stepping out is just do it!”



Alison has been volunteering with the homeless ministry at Dublin Central Mission (DCM).

For the last 5 years, I have been part of a mobile soup run that reaches out to those living on the streets in Dublin city centre.

It began when I came to Dublin for college, it really struck me how many people were in awful situations, with nowhere to sleep.

I remember hearing about it and thinking that I'd never be able to do it. I felt really scared, but I was encouraged to step out. The first night I went out I was really afraid and I didn't know what to expect, but that's when I realised that I had a heart for the homeless. Any of us could end up in these situations due to financial difficulties, poor mental health or addiction problems.

The first step was the toughest, but once you take that first step you almost go in fearless because you know that God is with you and that he is in it. It has strengthened my relationship with God and I can see God at work in Dublin and in the lives of volunteers that serve on the team.

My advice for anyone that is thinking of stepping out is just do it! If the nudge is from God he'll go with you, he'll guide you, he'll direct you and he'll work through you too.

Reflection:

Alison talks about overcoming her fears. What fears might hold you back from taking a small step?



Rachel and James are a part of a new faith community in Belfast City Centre.

We are a part of the staff team here at The Hub Belfast, a chaplaincy partnership between the Church of Ireland and Methodist Church, located beside Queens university. New university accommodation was being built in the city centre and we wanted to find ways of reaching the students moving in, starting with free lunches. In the first week we had a handful of students come.

The second week we had less, and within four or five weeks there was no one. That was pretty discouraging. We stopped and began to meet for "campus prayer" once a month. We gathered to worship, pray and seek God's direction for the ministry, the city and what we were being called to do.

After 9 months of prayer we relaunched with a barbeque and it just completely took off! We had students letting people know

there was a free lunch and we just saw crowds saying, "ok, free lunch - why not!" I don't think we had enough burgers or hot dogs for everyone! Now we have 60-70 students pouring in for church on a Sunday night. We don't do a gospel message at the front, but we are blown away from the conversations. Last week we got to pray for a Muslim student who is curious about faith and looking for something real. He is hoping to join us at church on Sunday. We're just excited to see what God has in store.

Reflection:

When the staff and students at the Hub were discouraged, they stopped and took time to pray. What difference could prayer make in your situation?



“ok, free lunch - why not!”

“We believe that God guides, & we’ll follow him.”



Ken is a retired minister who is part of Movilla Abbey church where he and his wife lead a Life Group.

In our Life Group we have four values: we’re family, learners, servants and missionaries. We’re family who walk together and are there for each other. We’re learners who learn together. We are servants who serve one another, the church and those around us. And we are missionaries. I have a strong conviction that groups and churches need to go outside of the walls of the church - whether that’s 200 yards or 200 miles away.

We felt God guiding us to go out and into a paramilitary estate. God was telling us that we weren’t going to offer a prepackaged ministry, but we were to listen to the folk we were reaching and that doors would open. We don’t expect them to come to our church on Sunday because we know there are social barriers, but we believe

that God guides, and we’ll follow him. We’ve met with people in community houses and we’ve just asked how we can pray for them. A year from now, I don’t know where we will be. Not everyone in the group feels comfortable going out and that’s ok but they pray for us as we go out. When we pray for Newtownards, we call it “the city on a hill” and we believe that God will bless the city and that God’s light will shine from it.

Reflection:

Ken’s Life Group took time to listen to God and to listen to people. What would it look for you to listen to the people outside your walls.



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What's your next step?

Pray:

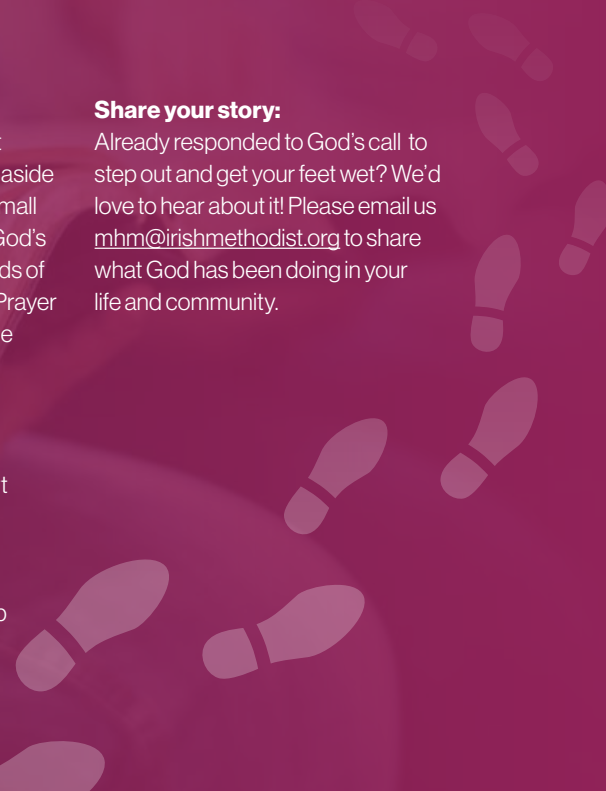
Small steps start with prayer! Why not commit to a weekly prayer walk or set aside time daily to ask God to highlight the small step that you could take to be part of God's mission. You can also join with hundreds of other Methodists who pray using our Prayer Focus Resource. Sign up to receive the daily Prayer Focus Digest e-mails at www.irishmethodist.org/prayer.

Giving:

Donations go towards helping support smaller churches and new initiatives to bring the good news to those around them. You can give a one-off donation or give regularly by setting up a standing order on the next page.

Share your story:

Already responded to God's call to step out and get your feet wet? We'd love to hear about it! Please email us mhm@irishmethodist.org to share what God has been doing in your life and community.



Take a moment to pray and ask God to show you a person that needs to hear the Good News of Jesus. Who comes to mind?

What small steps could you or your church family take next?

How can the Home Mission department help you?



Discover inspiring stories from across the island: www.irishmethodist.org/homemissionsunday

Methodist Home Mission Ireland is passionate about journeying with you as you and/or your church take your small step. We do this by offering support through finance, training, resources and Prayer Focus. Some churches or individuals may find it helpful to invite us to journey with them over a longer period of time through coaching or ongoing facilitation. Please get in touch so that we can discern together what could help you move forward.

Email: mhm@irishmethodist.org **Phone:** 028 9076 7969

Address: 9 Lennoxvale, Belfast, Co. Antrim, BT9 5BY



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To The Manager (your bank/building society name)

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Complete the green boxes and your personal details.

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Beneficiary's name	A/C Number
Methodist Home Mission Fund	22381049

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Part 2

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Methodist Church

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I confirm I have paid or will pay an amount of Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax for each tax year (6th April to 5th April) that is at least equal to the amount of tax that **all** the charities that I donate to will reclaim on my gifts for that tax year. I understand that other taxes such as VAT and Council Tax do not qualify.

£	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	per month
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Starting (Date of first payment)	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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Signature 1

Signature 2

Date

Methodist Church

When completed, return to: Home Mission Department, Edgehill House, 9 Lennoxvale, Belfast, BT9 5BY. **Any queries please contact the office at:** mhm@irishmethodist.org or (01) 5580978