

## CDYC: SUMMER MADNESS 2007

# SBST SM2007

STAND BY OR STAND UP - JUNE 29TH - JULY 7TH 2007



*Maybe it is the mud, the rain or the squashed tenting conditions that appeal to the Cork Youth. Or maybe it is the engaging worship sessions, the challenging seminars, the live entertainment, the many bands, the off-site activities or the opportunity to see old friends and make new ones. Whatever the reason, they keep coming back for more! Each year since we first made the trip up North (2004), our group from Cork has increased in number: this year, twenty-two teenagers and leaders headed off to Ireland's biggest Christian festival.*

*In essence, the name sums up what the five-day weekend entails: SUMMER MADNESS! One might imagine that tenting in the rain, on sand, with the need for internal trench-digging, would be anything but fun. However, each night in the Cork Cook Tent, good times and plenty of laughter was shared by crowded campers, along with the culinary delights of the evening.*

*On Friday night, with tents up and well fed, the next step for us was the opening Worship Session in King's Hall, aka *SM Mainstage*, on the programme. Bart Campolo – the son of renowned US preacher, Tony Campolo - was the speaker. He spoke on the story of *The Good Samaritan*. He told his own stories too about working in inner-city neighbourhoods across America. An acute lack of social supports leads to drugs, guns and prostitution making up the fabric of these societies. He told some incredible stories and we were challenged about how we reach out to strangers and to those in need. The night didn't finish there, however, but went on into the early hours with plenty to choose from: 90's Night Disco, the bands *6 \* Hotel*, *The Good Fight* and *The Jazz Commitments*, a Trivia Quiz, 24/9 prayer room, cafes, information hall and lots of munch!*

*Saturday started with an early morning bible study - for those of us energetic enough after a night of no sleep! Breakfast and seminars followed and afterwards was the morning Worship Session. For those of you that think young people haven't the stamina to sit through an hour-long service, these were up to three hours long! It was awesome to be in the presence of God surrounded by 5,000 other*

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Christians and non-Christians alike keen to hear what was said. With some of the best Christian worship bands around and such inspiring speakers the time flew! Lunchtime was followed by more seminars and off-site activities. There was quite a diverse line-up: from music like the *Psalm Drummers* to talks such as *Going Cosmic*, *The truth isn't sexy* to *Questions of Church & State* and *Bullying*. James cooked us up an amazing meal each night, which meant we were able to meet up with the whole group and find out what was going on. That evening, the worship session introduced Pete Greig, one of the founding leaders of the worldwide prayer movement, *24/7*.

Sunday and Monday unpacked more of the important issues of being a Christian in a dynamic and changing world. The importance of having a global perspective on environmental issues as Christians, was addressed in a seminar entitled *Is God Green*. Instead of glossing over the issue of homosexuality, there was a debate on the idea of *Homophobia*, which looked at both sides of the argument from a Christian perspective. The new Bishop of Connor, Alan Abernethy, spoke honestly and openly to help us with *My biggest problem with prayer*. Earlier in the day, he also spoke to a group of younger leaders from around Ireland, including some of the Cork leaders about his vision to have younger priests in the Church of Ireland and questioned why young people were not going forward for the ministry. This was an important dialogue and opened my eyes to the refreshing optimism of an engaging and relevant church in the future. The topics of the seminars over these days were engaging and topical for young people including seminars on *Fantastic Friends* or *Bebo Buddies* and *Teen Stress*.

The weekend evidently makes a profound spiritual impression for some of our campers each year, others absorb and filter what they have learnt later when they have come home, some come to enjoy the music, others to see friends, others just to top-up their spiritual batteries! Whatever the reason, we keep coming back for more! Come on SM08!

If you would like to find out more about Summer Madness and other youth events in Cork, Cloyne and Ross Dioceses, please check out these websites:

CDYC: <http://www.cork.anglican.org/youth/>

SM: <http://www.summermadness.co.uk/festival/index.php?id=66>