

To my dear friends and family,

I hope this letter finds you all well and joyfully preparing for the Christmas season! It has been a jam-packed first half of the year, and I just want to say thank you so much for your love and prayers and support!

Since the beginning of the year, the new NET Missionaries have been trained and sent to their respective mission areas. This year, we have two travelling teams called the Road Team and the Vocations Ireland Team, and the other five teams are based all around Ireland. They have been working non-stop with the various schools, parishes, and communities to share the Gospel with young people, and encouraging them to make Jesus a bigger part of their lives.

Here in the office, we have also been working tirelessly to keep the mission going; to encourage young people to love Jesus and embrace the life of the Church. The roles that I have been given to do my part in this are; Recruiting Administrator, Finance Assistant, and Outreach Team Member.

As the Recruiting Administrator, it is my role to journey with people who express interest in doing a NET year. I communicate with them via email, organise the sending and receiving of documentation, and organise interviews. In my Finance role, I help to organise the finances of the organisation. As part of the Outreach team, I help to run the Youth Group in town, as well as go on missions outside of Ireland to run retreats.

The highlight of my year so far was when the Outreach team, along with some Alumni, were sent to the middle east (UAE and Oman) to run retreats for up to 1000 youth between the two countries. We were on this mission for two weeks in November and it was such an inspiring and uplifting experience for me. One experience that really stood out, was when I was getting to know a few of the youth during the Oman retreat. The young women were talking about how much of a positive impact it was



to have the NET Team come and share their stories and Church teaching with them. How it is difficult to live with the pressures of the world and school and society, but how having faith and community supports them in overcoming these obstacles; how much of a blessing it is to look forward to the NET Team visiting every year to give them a boost in their faith and help them recognise the love of Jesus in their lives.

It was so impactful for me because sometimes it can be easy to think that we are not making a difference in the lives of others, but we are! It reminded me that this mission of reaching out to young people and showing them the love of Jesus is important. It is important because too often, this world tells us that money or status, or a career is the most important thing to have in life. But the true value in life is found in faith and family and community with each other!

So, this coming Christmas, I hope and pray that you are all able to find the love of Jesus in a new way; spending time with family, reconnecting with old friends, finding new friends, or disconnecting from the craziness of the world, at least for a short while.

Thank you again for all your support and prayers. I appreciate you all so much, and we would not be able to continue this mission without your presence in my life so thank you, thank you, thank you!

You are in my thoughts and prayers constantly!

Much love and God bless always,

Marie xox