



## **Testimonies of what Reformers Unanimous can do!**

*"If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed."*

John 8:36

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We meet weekly at:  
**The Reformers Unanimous Activity Centre**  
Located in the Enterprise Business Park, Inishmore, Ballincollig, Cork  
**Every Friday Night from 8 pm to 10 pm**

**Everyone Welcome**  
Loads of Tea and Coffee Provided  
*Along with a lot of help!*

# Reformers Unanimous...



...is a Bible-based addictions programme that tells the truth about addiction. It not only listens to people's problems, but teaches them what God has to say in the Bible about their struggles. Clearly, all of our problems arise from within our own hearts, and God knows how to perfectly heal the broken hearted. No matter what your problem is, we are ready and willing to help you, so please reach out.

## What RU Offers...

### Great Help

Each Reformers Unanimous meeting includes a 30 minute teaching lesson on issues of behaviour modification - what it takes to change a person. Join us and learn how to have victory over the many struggles and conflicts that we deal with in our modern society.

### Stories of Victory

Each Reformers group gives volunteer students an opportunity to share how God has changed their lives. Our visitors love to hear stories of God's miraculous, and saving grace.

### Helpful Groups.

Reformer's Unanimous breaks into small counsel groups to share each of our burdens and blessings. Each group is led by a counsel leader. Personal counselling is available. There is no charge for these services.

### Trained Leadership Staff

Each Reformers Unanimous group has its very own leadership staff of volunteers who are trained to work with you one-on-one or in group counselling.

### Awards Programme

Each Reformers group awards its students with different pins and ribbons for each level reached in the program. This is a great time of rejoicing over every personal victory won by a student!

### Complete Curriculum

Reformer's Unanimous has various resource materials to help recovery. We have Programme Guides, Workbooks, Handbooks, Memory Books, Counsel Guides, and Study guides, that deal with all forms of addictions, no matter how dark, or destructive.

# Friday Class Format

Reformers Unanimous class format is split into three different segments which we have titled talk, talk, talk. Each section is designed to develop a personal relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ.

## **We Talk To God: Prayer and Testimonies**

First, we talk to God. We do that in two ways. First we talk to God in prayer. Each student is given an opportunity to share a need or request for God. We then talk to God in prayer over those requests. The requests are typed out and presented to the RU Leaders to be prayed over through the week. We then talk to God in testimonies. Reformers Unanimous gives students an opportunity to share how God has changed their lives. Our visitors love to hear stories of recovery through God's miraculous, saving grace. We hear of days, weeks, months, and years of victory and give awards for each.

## **We Talk To Each Other: Counsel Groups**

Second, we talk to each other. Reformers Unanimous breaks into counsel groups to share each of our burdens or blessings. Each group is led by a counsel leader. If anyone needs personal counsel, it is made available. Students go over their completed challenges during this time and encourage each other in their road to recovery. Counsel groups are led by volunteer church members and graduate students. Training is available to help you prepare your church helpers to reach out to those to whom much is forgiven.

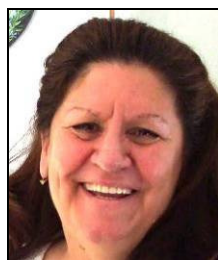
## **God Talks To Us: Preaching from the Bible**

Third, God talks to us. He does that, Lord willing, during the message. Reformers Unanimous doesn't just listen to people talk about their problems. We teach what God says to do about it. We teach the Holy Bible. It is the only book God wrote, thus it is the only one we use. Each new camp director is trained in how to present the messages in convicting yet caring ways, which are intended to encourage the students toward program participation. A hearer that is a doer is always an overcomer

## **Counsellors and helpers include...**



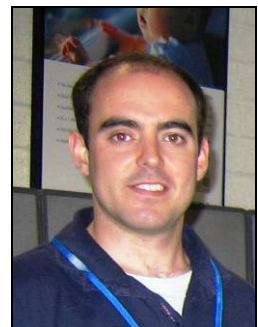
Daniel Eberly



Kathy Eberly



Denis Linehan



Joseph McCarthy

*As well as Darren Lauser, and other special volunteers!*

## Testimony of James Foley

My name is James Foley. I am 51 years of age, Born in Cork on 6/1/1959. My testimony is of a life of bondage to alcohol until I was finally set free from my addiction through the power of Jesus.



I grew up in a good catholic home in Friars Walk, Cork. I attended the local Christians Brothers school where I enjoyed my school days excelling in both academics and sports. My father, a carpenter, worked hard to provide for us and my mum looked after our home. I had a happy childhood and there was lots of love and laughter in our house. I along with my brother and sister had a good upbringing.

To the best of my recollection I was 17 years of age when I first started to drink alcohol. At that time we used to go to a disco every Saturday night which was held in the Arcadia Ballroom. That was the highlight of the week for us back then, getting dressed up to the “nines” and off to the Arcadia.

Alcohol was not sold at the disco, however it was readily available at The Killarney Bar which was next door to the Arcadia. It was there that I had my first drink. Little did I know then that when I took that first drink while sitting at the counter of The Killarney Bar, feeling like a “real man” that I had opened the door to a real life of misery which was to last some 32 years. It was a life of pain and sorrows culminating with being admitted to a psychiatric ward at the CUH coupled with a profound desire to commit suicide.

What happened you may ask? How did it come to this? Was there some tragedy occurred to cause this? Surely there was something!!!

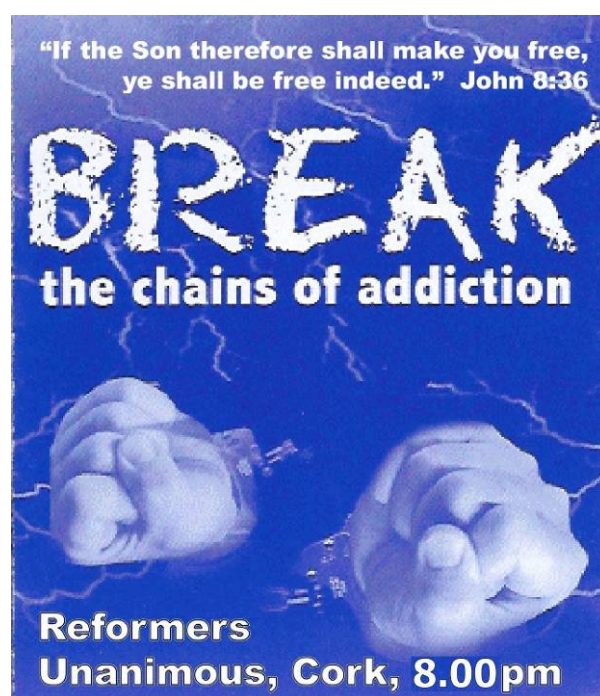
From the outside looking in I was living a successful life. I had everything going for me. In my twenties I had a good career, was well paid, had company cars, foreign trips and expense accounts. In my thirties I was married, had a daughter, my own house and my own business. However on the inside there was so much turmoil going on. I spent my days looking for something but never knowing what I was seeking. My heart was a black hole that I couldn't fill and the more alcohol I poured into that hole the bigger and blacker it got. Slowly but surely alcohol took control of me. It wrapped its chains of bondage around my heart, strangling any hope I had of escaping its clutches. My

only way out of this pain and emptiness was death and that is what I wished for. I used to cry “ just let me die”

On Jan 2<sup>nd</sup> 2009 I came to Reformers Unanimous, a broken man , full of anger, hatred and bitterness, full of blame and self pity, addicted to alcohol and blaming God for my entire mess. I soon learned that I was in the right place, that I had to come as I was, that I couldn't change myself but someone else could and that someone was Jesus. The Bible tells us in the book of Luke 19:10 “*For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.*” How true those words which Jesus spoke are. My entire life is now changed, it is full and complete. I now entrust everything to Jesus knowing that whatever may come my way in life , by trusting in Him and in His strength, all will be well. I am secure in the knowledge of what Jesus did for me at Calvary and His resurrection from the dead and the glory to come.

I came to RU lost but Jesus found me. Amen

As for alcohol my last drink was on 31 December 2008. I never desire or think about drinking now and know for sure that I never again will. John 8:32 “*And ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free*”



## Hi my name is Despina

This is my story of how I came to Reformers Unanimous of Cork. I used to and allowed Satan to rule my life, and did many things I am now ashamed of:

- I used to cut myself and write in blood
- My wardrobe was black
- I cursed people that irritated me
- I tried to commit suicide several times, and in general I hated life
- I listened to heavy metal
- Did drugs and Alcohol

That is only a glimpse of the evil things I used to do.

God even sent a lot of Christians my way but as soon as I heard the name JESUS, I would cringe and wanted to literally attack them. (Makes you think of how powerful the name of JESUS is.... doesn't it?)



I was terrified of death and I knew that if I died I would go straight to hell. I knew Satan was not my friend, but he would do almost anything you asked him as long as he could own you for eternity.

One day in 1998, I was sitting upstairs at my favourite nightclub looking down at the people dancing. I was so drunk, drugged and depressed but I didn't want to live like this anymore. I knew I needed God, and I didn't want to go to hell, so I called out to Him and said "God, please help me." Seconds after that I got a tap on my shoulder. There was a girl standing beside me. She looked at me and said, "Do you know Jesus?" Wow, that just blew me away...

The following Sunday she took me to church. After about two services the pastor asked if there were any people that were not sure if they were going to heaven and asked for a show of hands. I wanted to put my hand up but it felt like a weight pulling it down, but eventually my hand shot up (it felt like eternity). A lady counsellor came and took me to a back room where she explained salvation and what Jesus did for me. I accepted Jesus in my life... hallelujah.

I felt so happy, like a massive burden had been lifted off my shoulders. Everything started changing in my life. Now when I heard the

name of Jesus I did not cringe but I would cry if people spoke badly about Him. I also didn't want to kill myself anymore and was not afraid of dying.

But even though God transformed my life and delivered me from the hands of the devil I seemed to always allow the devil to have strongholds in my life, making it easier for me to be pulled back into the world over and over again.

In 2006 an incident occurred in my life that made me lose my husband. I lost my self-esteem, feeling embarrassed, guilty, dirty and unworthy of Gods love. I lost him because of my unwillingness to live in the boundaries that God set out for me, and in return, God broke me piece by piece making it so difficult to turn to anyone but to him. I was down on my knees day and night; the tears I cried didn't seem to end. I prayed for God to restore my marriage, to mould me into the person the He wanted me to be and not the person I was.

By the time I realised how bad things were going, it was already Christmas. It was the worse Christmas I had to go through. I wanted so much to hold my husband and tell him that I was sorry and that I loved him, but the closer I tried to be with him the further away he got. I tried almost everything to win him back but nothing seemed to work. I felt so lonely and so lost; all I wanted to do is run away from my problems, which I have always done in life. I wanted to go home to be with my mom but God shut all the doors for escape. I couldn't afford to go overseas, my passport had expired and I couldn't afford to get a new one. All I could do was hold on to God and pray and cry and pray and cry.

You may call me weird but with time I couldn't thank God enough for breaking me down the way He did. Yes I had lost my family, yes I had lost my husband but I gained so much more - more than I could ever realise. I started gaining a relationship with God. Everything I did, everything I thought and everything I said started was being guided by God. He showed me that evil doings do not give you freedom, He showed me to be grateful for what I had and things could be a lot worse than they were. He showed me to be grateful and rejoice in the time of trouble. He showed me that I could not live life without Him and that it would only lead to disaster or death.

God showed me through the preaching and teaching of my pastor at church, and through the teaching at reformer's Unanimous so many things, and His hand lifted me up and wiped my tears, but it didn't stop

there. He has now taught me to take responsibility for my actions and not shift the blame on anyone or anything.

For a long time I blamed alcohol for my actions but recently God revealed my true self. He revealed to me that when you cross God's boundaries you are capable of doing anything. It was not alcohol or drugs that made me do the things I did - yes it may have clouded my judgment - but ultimately it was the real me that needed changing. That was the scariest thing to face. I came to R.U thinking I had an alcohol problem but what God revealed to me is that I had a spiritual walk problem. I have been clean from drugs and alcohol for 6 months but my heart still needed a lot of work. And I mean a lot of work.

Following Jesus Christ is a constant effort for growth. It says in the Bible that the heart is deceitful above all things. God used circumstances in my life to reveal to me of how deceitful I really was.

You may think you know yourself and what you are capable of doing but when God reveals to you on how bad you really are, it hurts badly. The Bible in Romans 3:23 says we are all sinners, but have you ever stopped to think of how bad you really are and how bad you can get if you do not do Gods' will?

It is so true that God chastens his own and if you are a Christian and God is punishing you, give praise and thanks to Him, for it is better to be chastened by God and do right than for you to travel down the easy road without God and end your life in ruin.

So next time you blame your actions on alcohol, drugs or some person, be ashamed and humble yourself enough to realise you need God in your life and as soon as you surrender every bit of yourself to him, that is when God can take you and use you for his Glory and deliver you from everything that is holding you back for becoming a real Christian.

R.U is not only a place for you to be freed from your habitual sins but it is a place were God can bring you to show you how much He loves you, and show you that He did not get beaten to a pulp on the cross for nothing. Jesus wants to help you and He wants you to have a personal relationship with Him. Surrender to Him, it's the only way you will ever be truly free.



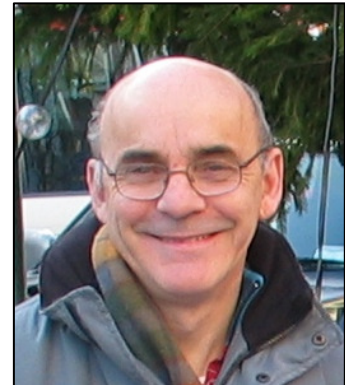
# Meet Reformer's Unanimous Cork Director

## Tony Mahony

### *A Testimony of God's Grace*

#### **Introduction**

My name is Tony Mahony and I was an alcoholic. An event took place in my heart on the 9th Jan 2003 that has transformed me on the inside. Although addicted to alcohol since my teens I was released from its grip. Alcohol no longer has any power over me, I don't even think about it. When I was freed from my addiction I couldn't believe it. I kept looking to see when was it going to return. Up to today I'm still free.



The purpose of this testimony is to give you the reader assurance that if you suffer from any addiction no matter what it is you too can be freed from the bondage of your addiction. At this stage I want to give credit to the one who freed me, his name is Jesus. Don't let any pre-conceived idea that you may have about Jesus, prevent you from investigating for yourself what He has to offer you. If you are really in trouble and are looking for a way out check out the rest of this leaflet. There is no other program I know that offers you complete freedom from your addiction.

If you want to know more, we are called "Reformers Unanimous" – a Christ-Centred Addictions Programme and we meet every Friday night at 8pm at the Reformers Unanimous Building in Innishmore, Ballincollig, Cork.

#### **Tony Mahony's Testimony**

I was born in Ennis, Co. Clare where I was brought up a Catholic. I have two older brothers, an older sister and one younger brother and sister. I started to drink alcohol on a regular basis at 15. I left home at 18 and joined the Irish Naval Service. I was married at age 25 to my wife Dina. We have two children. I was hospitalised for alcoholism at age 32. Over the next 7 years I struggled with alcohol, my marriage and career. In 1991 I left my job because I could no longer do the work I was trained to do. I wandered around for the next 5 years trying to work and trying not to drink. I was in and out of A.A. and psychologists' offices. I needed help but I couldn't figure out what went wrong. I felt I was different from everyone.

I was hopeless, lonely and lost. I was suicidal. I prayed that God would take me because I was a complete failure in every area of my life. I was completely alone even though I was surrounded by my family and friends.

I stopped drinking on the 19<sup>th</sup> Oct. 1996. This date stands out in my mind because one of my children started to drink alcohol. I knew what laid ahead for

someone so young because I too drank as a teenager. I stopped because I was unable to confront my child and say that it was wrong. So I went to A.A. and to a treatment centre. I am very grateful for all the help I received in the Treatment Centre and especially to A.A. I took on the A.A. program with my whole heart. I served at group level and area level. After 6 years in A.A. I could never pass the third step which spoke of handing my will and my life over to the care of God as I understood him. I was looking for God, for my understanding of him. I thought at that time that all roads led to God, that it all depended where you were born and what religion you were brought up with. At this time A.A. was my religion but it didn't tell me who God was.

Towards the end of 2002 the Baptist Church in Carrigaline handed out some calendars which had some scripture from the Bible. I read a poem of a 14 year old girl, young Christian, and I knew from what she had written that she knew more about God than I did. My wife saw the calendar and asked me if I would get a book advertised by the church. So I did. With this book came a tape called *The Uniqueness of Christianity* by J.P. Richardson. I never heard anything like this before, it was the message that God had sent his son Jesus to die on the cross to save sinners from Hell. I remember that after hearing this message I asked God what was going to happen to me after I died. Straightaway I felt condemned. It was a frightening experience so I thought the best thing was to forget it! The following day I asked myself the same question again and God gave me the same answer. I was held in condemnation which seemed like forever. When I was released I said that I would not ask this question anymore.

A few days after this I was in a friends house checking on his dog while he was away on business. I reached out to play one of his tapes looking to see what kind of music he liked. I picked up a tape I did not want to see. It was the testimony of the conversion of a Roman Catholic priest called Richard P. Bennett entitled "From Tradition to Truth". I put it aside and carried on with my original plan, but I had no peace. So I played this tape and listened to his testimony. After a while I became really interested in his testimony, because here was a priest who left the priesthood when he saw that he had to be "born-again" to enter the Kingdom of God, and that his religion or his own good works could not save him. At this stage I had heard the gospel preached twice but was still not sure of what it was. As I listened to this priests testimony a loud noise came over the speakers. It got so loud I could no longer hear him speak. So I took the tape out and saw that there was a name and telephone number. So after a while I rang, thinking that there wouldn't be anyone at the end of the phone. Straightaway the phone was answered and the man on the other end was the Pastor of the Bible Baptist Church Ballincollig. He invited me to visit his church the following day. And so I did. This was the first time I saw anyone preaching from the Bible. I heard I had to be "born-again", that my first birth was a physical birth. Now I needed to be reborn spiritually. I learned that because of my sin I was separated from God. I learned that there was a severe penalty for sin. This penalty is death,

not only that I would die physically but also that I would spend eternity in Hell. I knew that I was a sinner, but I hoped God would turn a blind eye to my past since now I had gotten sober and turned over a new leaf. But God cannot overlook sin, all sin must be paid for. Then I learned that God had sent his son to the cross to pay the penalty that I owed for my sin. I never knew why Jesus had died on the cross or what his death had accomplished. He died so that I could go free. His death paid the debt that I owed to God.

Slowly but surely, the picture came together for me and at last, I could understand the gospel that Christ died for my sins. I looked at this for a while not sure that this offer was for me. Did God want me? I was told that God loved me and died for me and wanted to save me. I kept holding back then one day I just went to the cross and told Jesus that I was sorry for my sins and I asked him if he would save me. Nothing else happened that day except I cried a lot but I wasn't sure I was saved. So on the 9<sup>th</sup> Jan 2003 I prayed again with my Pastor and asked him was I saved. He said yes. That's the moment I believed.

Over the next few weeks I noticed that I had stopped praying to be kept away from alcohol. I also noticed that I wasn't thinking about alcohol anymore. I kept on attending A.A. for about 6 months but noticed that everyone was talking about their disease etc. and I did not seem to be suffering the way they were. Eventually I stopped going to A.A. because everyone kept talking about the problem and no-one was interested in the solution.

Jesus Christ is the solution to all our problems no matter what they are. It is interesting to note that while I was under conviction that I was a sinner condemned to Hell without the saving grace of Jesus Christ, alcoholism took a back seat position, it was no longer the main problem in my life.

Today I am a recovered alcoholic, not a recovering alcoholic. The Lord Jesus saved me from the power that alcohol had over my life. But more than that he has saved me from an eternity in Hell and has given me the gift of eternal life. I know that when my time comes to leave this world I will be with him forever in heaven. If you are an addict like I was then you are just as stubborn as I was. You will probably try everything in your power to control your addiction. It will toy with you giving you a false sense of control. Then it would turn on you and destroy you and everyone that is near to you. You have a way out, his name is Jesus. Why don't you find out who he is, and what he can do for you.

### **A Thanksgiving Prayer**

Heavenly Father, I thank you for guiding me safely through all of life's pitfalls and through the scourge of alcoholism. I know now that you used this opportunity to get my attention. Thank you for your grace and your love in Christ Jesus. Thank you for freeing me from my addiction. Help me to tell others of your great love and salvation.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

# Testimony of Jay Lauser

God introduced me to a couple godly men who each had been serving God as Christians for over twice as long as I have been alive. And I felt very young and new to things. Which I am. I have only been saved three years, actually. Of course, I lived in a Christian home and thought I was saved. But when I look back with the spiritual eyes that God gives us to see how much we need Him, I can tell how gone I was. For those years in which I was lost, I was a typical teenager. At least I was inside of myself. I could put on an act and pretend to be a good boy, but it wasn't real. In reality, I lived in passionate apathy. I vehemently defended my 'right' to not care. I didn't want God to give me rules, I didn't want my parents to tell me what to do or how to think. They poured their hearts out to me, but I didn't listen. They taught me godliness, but I rejected it. I didn't care. I didn't want to live right. I didn't care about that either. I could imagine the pleasures of sin, and enjoyed doing it too. I had no taste for the light of God or for fellowship with Him. All I cared about was my own desires. All I wanted was to fill my flesh with the vilest perversions I could find. Praise God my parents sheltered me from finding many.

I was inoculated against Biblical teaching. It took God and a very large two-by-four (a two-by-four is a big board that hurts really bad when it runs into you) to get my attention that I needed help, that I might be going in the wrong direction. God was my first mentor. That was when I accepted His salvation.

Then, as I softened my heart to learning and changing, He brought the forgotten and forsaken teachings of my parents back to my heart and mind. I yielded to their authority and accepted their counsel. Then God began to bring teachers into my life, and brought me to various programs and ministries to help teach me to follow Him. After living most of my life in an atmosphere of sin, I needed a lot of work done on me.

Reformer's Unanimous is one of those ministries. It has impacted my life dramatically, teaching me a godly foundation for my walk with Christ. The encouragement and fellowship that I get from the people here is a highlight of my week. I love it because I see Christ in it.

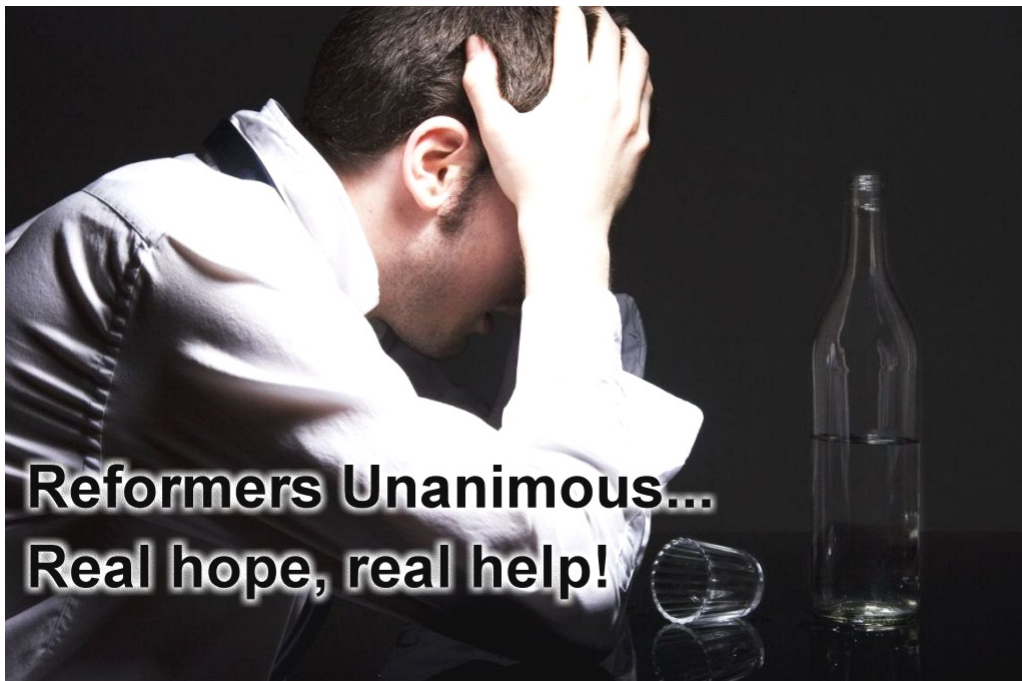
Because of these blessings in my life, I have learned a lot that I would have had to learn the hard way otherwise. Of course, I learned several other things the hard way anyways. But although I have a long way to go, God is using me and what I have. My life is His, to help Him and further His glory.

Before I was saved I did a lot of pointless things. I spent, or wasted, time with all kinds of stuff. But now, God has given me a passion for His service. I don't have time to spend on computer games with all the ministries and projects I have started, or take part in. God has truly transformed my life: turning me from a pitiful waste, to a productive servant. And I am eternally grateful. My life is infinitely better than it was in every way. I have purpose, a passion, a vision. I have hope, and I have a God. Everything I have gone through was worth it, and everything I could possibly go through for His sake would be worth it. God is worth it.

# Testimony of Weston Greaney

## The Renewed Man

I first knew the Lord in 2001 when he drew me and saved me from a life of sin. For 8 years I wandered in and out of obedience trying to serve the Lord and myself to no avail. I finally reached a point in my life where I knew there was no other way to peace and contentment than absolute surrender to Jesus Christ who saved me. For 8 years I had attempted to live by god standards but I was holding on to my past, but my past would always catch up with me. I had to learn how to get past my past and realising that I needed help, I turned to Reformers unanimous Cork. Since dedicating my life to R.U., I have learned to deal with adversity in a manner which is pleasing to God. The Lord has taught me to turn to Him instead of my addiction. This programme has also taught me the value of giving the most important thing that I have to others, Jesus Christ. I've learned to know Christ again through prayer, reading Gods word and sharing Jesus with others. I have finally obtained the victorious Christian life, the chains are broken and I am free..... you can be too: choose the Lord today and be renewed.



**Reformers Unanimous...**  
**Real hope, real help!**



***YOUR testimony***

***could***

***be***

***here!***



**Additional information  
can be found on the  
International Reformers  
Unanimous website at  
[www.reformu.com](http://www.reformu.com).**

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