



Ministry

October 2025

“Point your kids in the right direction - when they’re old they won’t be lost.”

Proverbs 22:6, The Message



***New Team at
Moyle PS,
Larne***



Eden PS Team , East Antrim



Pupils from Wheatfield PS taking part in the ‘Be Inspired Day’ at the Amy Carmichael Centre, Cambrai Street Belfast



***Volunteers and Staff enjoying
a fascinating presentation by
to Dr Gillian Beck, Argyle
Business Centre, June 2025***

God has 'equipped you for more'.

That day, over 7 years ago in his office in Townsend Street, Brother David did not take long to banish the word 'retirement' from my lips. He was quick to tell me that he wasn't about to retire; rather, he was stepping down as leader of Divine Healing Ministries so that he could 'do what God had called him to do' ... and he wanted me to help him do it!

After spending 3 months in prayer in early 2018, Brother David began to meet with me on a regular basis from April of that year to discern what it was that God was calling him to do and to seek God's wisdom as to how we might proceed.

By August 2018 we had established Equipping for Life, set up a Board of Trustees and appointed Pat Hutchinson as our first staff member!

Since then it has been my joy, initially as an Board Advisor and then as Trustee, to journey alongside Brother David and the Equipping for Life Trustees, Staff and Volunteers as we have seen hundreds of children 'equipped for life' in primary schools across Northern Ireland.

In June 2025 I stepped down as a Trustee as I now spend a significant part of the year travelling overseas encouraging, equipping and empowering Christian leaders. That said, I will continue to be a life-long friend of, and advocate for, Equipping for Life; a ministry that it has been my honour to be part of.

Finally, Brother David, in 2017, knew that God had equipped him for more

and, as a result, 'Equipping for Life' was birthed. Regardless of what age or stage of life you are at, be assured that God has 'equipped you for more'!

Mr Tommy Stewart, Retired Trustee, EfL



Brother David presenting Tommy Stewart with a gift on his retirement as a Trustee.

A view from 2 new Reading Programme Teams

Paul Toombs, Team Leader, Mountnorris Primary School, Co. Armagh

The team from Mountnorris Presbyterian Church of Edith, Roberta Sharon and Paul Volunteering at Mountnorris Primary school are deeply committed to supporting the children through our partnership with Equipping for Life. It is incredibly rewarding for us personally to help in some small way. We hope our presence can have a positive impact on the nurturing of these young lives, that our involvement boosts children's confidence, encourages their participation, and fosters a sense of community within the school and surrounding area. We also value the opportunity to gently share the good news of the Gospel, reflecting on the love of our Lord Jesus Christ.



Next term, we're eagerly anticipating deepening our connections with the children, exploring new ways to engage them in fun and educational activities. We look forward to continuing to be a supportive presence, helping them thrive both academically and personally, and further strengthening the wonderful bond between our church, Equipping for Life and the school, always looking to share God's love and the Good News that the Gospel brings to everyone.

Lorna Brown, Team Leader, Silverstream Primary School, Greenisland

Starting a new team of readers in Silverstream School was simply the best thing that has ever been introduced in the school. The team gelled well together with enthusiasm and optimism.



We met before the group started in the school and introduced our backgrounds and ourselves. We all had the same goals and the trust was instant. We agreed to create an atmosphere where voices were heard and valued, fostering a sense of belonging for both the adults and the children. After the session is over it is very important to offer an opportunity to debrief and to pray as a group.

Ultimately, we hope to enhance young readers to their full potential, nurturing a generation of thoughtful, empathetic and lifelong readers who are well equipped for future success.

EfL's Reading Programme — Survey of Principals

In the late Spring of 2025 we sent out an online survey to Principals of our partner schools about EfL's Reading Programme. We were keen to find out if the service that we provide meets the requirements of the school and whether there were positive outcomes for the pupils involved. Almost 55% of the Principals responded and many provided detailed feedback.

Level of Service:

All of the Principals, who responded, indicated that EfL clearly outlines what service it provides and delivers the service.

Very happy with provision.

Happy with service and communication.

Keep doing what you are doing and I pray that it is blessed as the volunteers have blessed my school

We are very happy with the service and the way the adults work with the pupils.

Impact on Pupils:

100% of the respondents indicated that the Reading Programme has a positive impact on the pupils.

EfL has made a significant impact on the lives of our children. That valuable dedicated one to one time is the highlight of our children's week.

Pupils have gained confidence, enjoy reading more and improved reading scores....

Positive Impact on self-esteem, reading accuracy, feelings toward reading, enjoyment for reading, social skills and pupil self-belief.

Pupils have an increase in willingness to read aloud.

Volunteering for EfL

At the Volunteer Celebration Events in June 2025 our wonderful Equipping for Life volunteers were asked to complete a short survey about their experiences of working with the children in our partner schools. Almost 40% of our volunteers completed the survey and the results show that volunteering has a very positive impact on the volunteers' lives. Of those volunteers who responded:

82% of volunteers

'agree' or 'strongly agree'

"Volunteering with EfL has made me feel better about myself."

98% of volunteers 'agree' or

'strongly agree'

"Volunteering with EfL has helped me to make new friends."

48% of volunteers

'agree' or 'strongly agree'

"Volunteering with EfL has improved my mental health."

68% of volunteers 'agree' or

'strongly agree'

"Volunteering with EfL helped my personal confidence."

88% of volunteers 'agree' or 'strongly agree'

"Volunteering with EfL helped me to have a better understanding of why reading, particularly with children, matters."

Volunteering in Downpatrick Primary School

Being part of Equipping for Life and volunteering as part of a reading team has been one of the most rewarding and memorable experiences I've had. The organisation's mission to create a space where children feel valued, supported, and empowered to unlock their full potential truly resonated with me. I was privileged to be part of a reading group, where my role involved encouraging and helping children improve their reading skills.

Each week, I worked closely with a small group of students, guiding them through books, supporting their comprehension, and celebrating their progress. It was inspiring to see how a little time, patience, and encouragement could have such a lasting impact. The children not only became more confident in their reading, but also began to enjoy it! It was something that was heartening to witness.

Seeing their reading levels rise and knowing that they were performing better in class was incredibly fulfilling. I genuinely felt I had made a difference, not just in their academic development, but in how they viewed themselves as learners. The warmth, enthusiasm, and appreciation from both the children and the team at Equipping for Life made the experience even more special.

Volunteering here reminded me that small acts of support can shape brighter futures. I would wholeheartedly encourage others to get involved with Equipping for Life as it's a place where change truly happens.

BILLY FYFFE,

Former Team Leader, Downpatrick Primary School (Billy has moved to a different area and is no longer able to volunteer in Downpatrick.)



Prayer

"Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you." Jeremiah 29:12 ESV

Weekly Zoom Prayer Meeting

We have a weekly prayer meeting via Zoom, from 10.00am for 30 minutes each Wednesday (Please contact Pat for the Zoom link.)

Prayer Mornings: Argyle Business Centre 10am to noon:

8/09/25; 6/10/15; 10/11/25; 15/12/25; 12/01/26; 16/02/26; 9/03/26; 11/05/26 & 22/06/26

Ways to Donate

Donate to our Stewardship

EFL has setup a special Stewardship which you can use to donate money to our charity, see the website link: <https://equippingforlife.org.uk/how-to-help/donate/>

Direct Bank Transfer

You can transfer funds directly to us via our bank account details below:

Sort Code: 95-06-79

Account Number: 00183695

Donate with JustGiving

We gratefully accept donations via our Just Giving page which can be accessed by clicking the website link.

Donate with a Cheque

Payable to 'Equipping for Life' and send to

Equipping for Life
9c Argyle Business Centre
39 North Howard Street
Belfast
BT13 2AP

If you want to donate cash please call Pat 07889572800.

Thank you.

Help Us Make a Difference

There are multiple ways you can choose to donate, such as: making a one off-donation, setting up a regular giving direct debit, organising a fundraising event in a church or community group you are involved with, leaving a gift in your will, donating in celebration. If you would like further details on how you can support us financially, please call Pat 07889572800.

One Off Donation



£10 would provide a simple gift with a bible verse to a class of P4 children at the end of a tennis course



£20 would provide 2 new bible resources to a team of Volunteer Mentors in a school

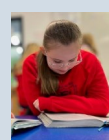


£50 would enable us to provide 125 children with bookmarks and memory verses

Regular Giving



£5 per month could provide more than 1 hour of top quality tennis coaching to a class of P5 pupils



£10 per month would help to recruit and train some of the volunteers needed for a new partner school



£20 per month would pay for the resources needed to have follow-up Inspire events with 60 pupils.

Organise a Fundraising Event

Why not organise a coffee morning, book sale, fun sports event? If you would like to discuss your idea and to receive fundraising material contact Darrin 07587883057.