

MINISTRY UPDATE

APRIL 2025

Greetings from Ireland! Spring is finally here, and we are being blessed with the kind of weather that Americans dream of when they come to Ireland:) Let us share with you all that God is doing here!

Our kids have been enjoying the extra sunshine and the chance to get outside and play with friends in the warmer weather. As the days grow longer, we have been able to spend outdoor time taking walks, gardening, and freshening up the backyard with a coat of paint and some lawn care. Emily and the kids are working hard to finish their school on time, as their home school schedule experienced a lot of changes during furlough. But due to their hard work and diligence, they are right on track!

We have been working hard in preparing for the many groups who will be joining us from America to help with summer camp, holiday Bible clubs, a family conference, and evangelistic outreaches. We have to plan about one to two years in advance of any group, which includes planning itineraries, securing lodging, arranging transportation, and developing programming. It takes a significant amount of man hours and brain power to accomplish all of this, but we remain convinced it is worth it as we have seen the Lord work in and through these groups time and time again. We are so thankful for all those who are giving up their time and finances to make this year's events successful.



We were privileged to have several special services over the past two months. The children's leaders have been working hard to prepare the kids to sing several special songs during a morning service, and their exuberant voices and fervent worship were an inspiration to our congregation. A family whose children grew up in our ministry invited their friends and neighbours to a special baby dedication for their oldest daughter's first child; our building was as full as it had ever been, with 150 in attendance! We also celebrated our mothers for Mother's Day (which happens a bit earlier here in Ireland), and we had 20 mothers join us, a great turn-out for our church!

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We have all been extra busy with the added responsibilities we took on since our teammates, Doug and Amber, are on furlough. John has enjoyed preaching to the adults every Sunday, which led to an opportunity for several of our young adults to step up and take on the task of teaching the teens each Sunday. Their willingness to lead the teens is an extraordinary answer to prayer for our church. Both of these adults were saved and discipled in our church, and now they are pouring into the next generation!

Emily is more busy than ever. Not only does she handle all of the household duties and the home schooling of the kids, but she also plans and organises church activities on a weekly basis. She recently organised a ladies' event for the first Saturday in April where women could fellowship, sing praises to the Lord, and share testimonies of His work in their lives. She also prepared a challenge to share with them about remembering the victories that God has given in their lives during difficult circumstances. There were 16 women in attendance, and many of them marvelled at what a sweet and precious time they had together. They were so excited that Emily is already planning another meeting for next month!

John organised a Nerf battle for teenagers on the first Friday of April. 15 teenagers attended and enjoyed pizza, soda, and the opportunity to shoot Nerf darts at each other throughout the church building. We are still collecting the odd Nerf dart around the church! Several teens new to our church attended for the first time thanks to the invitation of excited teenagers, and they are looking forward to future activities already.

One of our most fruitful events of the year is rapidly approaching. Since we began running teen camp in 2014, over 40 teens have been saved, and scores of teens have received excellent biblical preaching and spiritual guidance. Camp requires a tremendous amount of effort from volunteers, as well as a significant amount of money to finance. Most years camp is subsidised by individuals, but this year we are expecting much less than we usually receive. Would you consider contributing a one-time gift to help send our teens to camp?

Thank you so much for your prayers and support for our ministry. Please pray especially for the upcoming family conference and evangelistic outreach on the last weekend of May. We are praying that many of our congregation will participate in sharing the gospel to the thousands who will attend the Mallow Home and Garden Festival, and that many souls will be saved. Last year 11 were saved and over 20 church members participated in evangelism! May God bless you for your continued faithfulness!

John, Emily, Abigail, Josiah, Micah, Noah and Lydia