



Ready for church!

Praises & Prayers

1. Pray for our disciples and disciplers.
2. Pray for Mallow Bible Fellowship and Tralee Bible Fellowship.
3. Pray for wisdom for future planning due to COVID-19.
4. Pray for Emily's continuing medical needs.
5. Pray for our homeschooling.
6. Would you please prayerfully consider joining our ministry?



Teen Christmas Party!

MINISTRY UPDATE

JANUARY 2021

Dear friends and ministry partners,


Greetings from Ireland! We are so thankful for your continued prayers and support for our family. Let us tell you what God has been doing!

As you are aware, we have been under fairly strict restrictions for most of last year. We were moving in and out of different levels of restrictions which impacted where and how we could worship together. In October, we had to return to meeting online for all of our services. With the help of ZOOM, we streamed our services live over social media while allowing us to fellowship with one another privately after the preaching. Those precious moments have given so much hope to so many of our members and ourselves!


The Irish government announced a brief easing of restrictions for the Christmas season, and we were able to plan a few services at the youth Centre. During one of these services, we celebrated Bill's completion of the discipleship course. It was equally exciting for Devon, his discipler, as it was his first time discipling someone else! We are so proud of them for their commitment to continue to study God's Word in spite of the pandemic.

December brought with it tragedy. We received shocking news that Dee, one of our dear friends here, passed away unexpectedly in her home. As we struggled to say goodbye to one who was such a joy our hearts and our church, our sorrow was compounded by our inability to attend her funeral due to restrictions. Dee was a special blessing to all of us, always willing to lend her talents and friendship to anyone. She never met a stranger. Words alone cannot express what she meant to us.

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We have been praying for the teenagers in our church, especially for those who are struggling to engage in the online Bible studies and services each week. We hosted a special Christmas-themed digital escape room over Zoom, and quite a few teens turned up to join us! This was followed by a Christmas party (socially distanced, of course) at church that Sunday. We had so many teens join that Emily had to run out to the store to buy more gifts for all of them! We were so thankful to see them in person and bring a little joy and gladness into their lives.



Emily wanted to do something special for our church members this year. In addition to sending out Christmas cards to all of them, she set about planning a special treat for them. She single-handedly created fifty luxurious hot chocolate bombs that transform when added to hot milk. They were given out at our Christmas Eve service, which was our last in-person service of the year.

We know many of you are facing difficulties, and many more have suffered personal tragedy during this pandemic. Let us be encouraged in the Lord, who alone is our confidence, our strength, and our hope. May our testimony to His faithfulness shine so brightly that others will wonder and be drawn to Him. As we look back on the year, the temptation is to focus on what didn't happen. However, in the midst of the crazy, as we enter yet another lockdown period, our family is going to choose gratitude. So, instead of our normal year in review, we are choosing to share 20 things we are thankful for in 2020. We hope that you will find joy with us in what He has done!

John, Emily, Abigail, Josiah, Micah and Noah

1. **Our hope in Christ** - we have grieved with so many friends and families over losses this year, it has made our hope of heaven ever more real
2. **Time** - our schedules are normally filled, this year was the year to slow down and be present in everyday life
3. **Provision** - the Lord continues to provide for our every need
4. **Homeschooling** - it may have scared us to death, but it's been more rewarding than we could have imagined
5. **Health** - we do not take it for granted
6. **Friendships** - our lives have been brightened this year by the smallest acts of kindness
7. **The Church** - 2020 is the year that has shown us the Church is more than a building but also reminded us of the vital aspect of assembling together
8. **Abigail** - she has brought creativity and a positive spirit to each day
9. **Josiah** - he has kept us on our toes with his wit and clever comments
10. **Micah** - he has made life anything but boring, his fiery hair is no match for his personality
11. **Noah** - he is truly one of the happiest kids you'll ever meet, the smiles and laughter he brings are priceless
12. **Our family** - FaceTime and Skype holidays are no stranger to us, but those that have shared in the mundane moments with us through video chats have encouraged our hearts
13. **Our marriage** - being together 24/7 can be a blessing or a challenge, we certainly didn't walk through the year perfectly but we are ending 2020 with a stronger relationship than ever
14. **Our teammates** - walking through this year would have seemed even more impossible without the blessing of doing life together
15. **Our home** - the Lord provided for us to move last year and have much more space, this has been invaluable for the months we've been stuck at home
16. **Ministry** - let's just say there were no classes in Bible college on ministering in a pandemic. It has been challenging and often times discouraging. But, we've seen the Lord continue to work and getting to continue to be a part of that is amazing
17. **Our supporters** - in a financially uncertain year, there has continued to be such faithful and sacrificial to our family
18. **Josiah's salvation** - the extra time at home afforded extra conversations, our hearts are overjoyed by his decision
19. **Friends in ministry around the world** - the Lord has not been stopped by 2020, He is faithful and He will continue to use His people to bring others to him
20. **Grace** - it all comes back around to this- grace for each and every day, for each and every moment, overwhelming grace was shown to us and we pray grace was extended through us.

Oh, and of course we can't forget... 21. **Toilet paper!**