



Canavans

Sowing the gospel * Watering the hearers * Reaping changed lives

Prayer Requests

1. Salvation: Cem, Adian, Dino, Sandra, John
2. Young adults showing promise: Jaime, Nick, Sandie, Katrina, Doyna, Wiktorja
3. Lockdown to end before July 20th
4. Andrew to remain safe and raise support to come back to Ireland.

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April 2020 - Irish ministry in lockdown

We have been in lockdown since March 16, 2020. The last time that we met in the church building for church was on Sunday, March 15, 2020. Since then, we've been pre-recording our Sunday morning service and premiering it on YouTube at our regular service time. After a few weeks of recording the adult service, we also began to record the children's church. Our Wednesday Bible Study is done live through Zoom. God has broadened our reach through the YouTube sermons and the Zoom Bible studies. We praise the Lord for this! God is still at work in the hearts of men!

Dan and Beth find it awkward talking to a camera instead of a live audience when recording the sermon or children's church! The isolation has helped us to realize how precious personal, face to face relationships with people are, and how important it is to meet in person in the local church setting.

For us personally, life has definitely changed. You cannot travel farther than 2 kilometres from your home and then only for exercise, medical appointment, or grocery shopping. The police can stop you whenever you leave your home. We've been stopped multiple times, more recently when we were coming home from recording the Sunday service. Praise the Lord that they deemed our trips to be ok. Otherwise, we could be fined 2,500 euros and/or spend up to 6 months in jail.

A trip to the grocery store is no longer a quick stop for a few items. There is a long line to wait in just to be allowed into the store to shop. Beth often has to wait in line for an hour. When you arrive at the door, you must sanitize the handle of your shopping cart and then put on disposable gloves that are provided. Masks are not required, but many people are wearing them. The silver lining: the store is not crowded and there is no line to wait in for the cash register.

The Irish people seem to be very fearful. I believe it is because they do not know the Lord Jesus Christ as their Saviour. It has been a blessing to see our people grow in their faith in God at this time. As the unsaved around them continually look to the government to provide answers and their needs, our people have grown in their realization that God is faithful and trustworthy. Some of our people who work in the medical field have contracted the virus. Though they would never have asked for it, they realize that God was there for them and growing them in their walk with Him.

Online salvation Bible study with muslim man

A Turkish man name Cem has begun to attend the mid week Bible study on Zoom. He is actively seeking to understand the Christian faith. He appears to have a nominal muslim background. It has been thrilling to share Christ with Him and see him understand the differences between Christianity and Islam. I have sent him a NT and evangelistic literature. Please pray with me that Cem will be born again.

The Lord is in control!

The church was experiencing numeric growth before the lockdown occurred. I was a little disappointed to see spiritual momentum in the church disrupted. However, though some have been a little slack with the online viewing, it has been encouraging to see some restart church attendance thru online Bible studies and thru church videos. Over 90% of Irish (and Americans) aged 18-55 consistently view Youtube and/or Facebook. This experience has led to us building skill sets that allow us to have a greater presence (thru video) in the online forum. You can see what we are doing at hope.ie which will lead you to our Youtube account.