



# Canavans

**Sowing the gospel \* Watering the hearers \* Reaping changed lives**

August 2020

## PRAYER REQUESTS:

1. Salvation: Adian, Dino, Sandra, John
2. Young adults showing promise: Jaime, Nick, Sandie, Katrina, Doyna, Wiktorja
3. Stable, fixed line internet connection
4. Andrew & Shawn to remain safe and raise support to come back to Ireland.

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## LOCKDOWN TRANSITION:

July 2020 - The lockdown has been a time of reflection and realization: we are in the last days. We must use what time and means we have to earnestly proclaim the gospel to the lost and strengthen believers. We continue to knock on doors and pass out hundreds of tracts every week. We continue to give spoken presentations of the gospel to those around us as the Lord gives wonderful opportunity to witness.

In the lockdown, video edits and uploads lasting 6-8 hours for the sermon and another 4-5 hours of uploads for the children's class became the new normal. Zoom became the method for Bible studies.

On July 13 we restarted in-person services, with about 65% of the church returning and the rest watching online. Livestream was a new endeavour that nobody in the church had experience in. I am very thankful for my son Caleb, who is a youth pastor in Virginia and a "livestream expert" for his invaluable advice. Though livestream equipment was sold out in Ireland, God enabled us to find some in Sweden.

## EXCELLENCE IN MINISTRY

The preaching, music, children's ministries, gospel outreaches, website etc. are the result of prayer and our best efforts. In the various ways we serve the Lord here in Ireland, we earnestly strive for excellence for the Lord is worthy of our best. This is more than a statement, this is the reason why we serve in the way that we have and hope to continue.

However, the acute cost and dysfunction of socialism in Ireland, the stigma of being a "Baptist" and demonic interference regularly frustrates ministry efforts. Over the years I have not talked much about this, but it is a very real part of ministry in Ireland.

## SEIZING THE MOMENT IN SPITE OF OPPOSITION

Over the years I have tried to establish an internet connection at the church. Because of the higher cost and inferior speed of the fixed line, I ended up tethering from my phone. The offices in the buildings around us have had fast upload speeds for years.

Tethering from a phone is problematic with live-streams. For several months, I tried multiple options and begged suppliers to try to get a basic internet connection at the church, but to no avail. Though we live in a technologically advanced city and are very close to optical fibre lines and are willing to pay to connect the line and for service...to this day I still tether from my phone for church livestream services and pray for a more stable solution.

In spite of that, we have persevered and God has given a victory. The Lord has enabled us to produce a decent quality livestream. Believers are being fed and the gospel is being boldly proclaimed in-person and over the internet. We are continuing to pursue excellence in ministry as we seize the moment and use the tools God has made available to us. As the Lord leads, we will continue to employ new strategies to reach further into the darkness in the time we have left.