



The Thatchers

Waterford, Ireland



- Ireland's population, 4.5 million
- 34% of population 25 years old or younger
- Dublin's population over 1.2 million
- Waterford's population over 46,000
- 85% still claim to be Roman Catholic

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Dear Friends,

March 2021

Our winter has been rather mild this year, and the daffodils are in full bloom. The grass has been cut twice and a bit of gardening is fresh on the mind. But as the beauty of spring buds forth, the gloom of the ongoing lockdown drags on. Ireland continues to impose their highest level 5 lockdown, the third of which went into effect the day after Christmas. Thankfully, the grocery stores, hardware stores and banks remain open with easy access, but most everything else remains closed and empty. There is talk that maybe in April after Easter we will be able to travel around a bit within our county but no change to the reopening of anything. Right now, the limit is 5km around your home except for groceries or medical appointments. The government is hoping that they can slowly open some things at the beginning of summer. We have no idea where church falls on the list. God has been good in that we can go to our building to livestream the services for our people. Most of our folks seem to be tuning in, but I am concerned about the complacency that Covid has fostered in Christianity. We have many good folks, and as a family, we are doing our best to be creative in ministering to them. It can be rather challenging though when it seems to be all one sided. The church is a body called to assemble with each one contributing for the edification of each other. Pray with us about the concerns of complacency and the sense of detachment.

We are grateful for God's goodness along the way. I mentioned in an email update at the beginning of the year that a junior aged girl had gotten saved. It was a blessing to hear her say to Lisa through text that she would not have gotten to know God or be able to be saved if it were not for Lisa. The sad part is that there is there is conflict in the home. There is also another family that has on going conflict in their home. There is a single man who has significant struggles going on in his life. There is another single man that found us through the web and popped into us for church the few times that we were allowed to be open. He professes to be a born-again believer and seems to be in tune with godly things. I am to meet him at the church on Saturday for prayer and a bit of a chat. Pray with us about these difficulties going on in the lives of several within our ministry. There are three separate issue that need to see some breakthrough and victory.

We do have plans for in the works for summer and outreach and are trusting the Lord for open doors and opportunities. As I look back through life and ministry, I can see things along the way that I could have done better or could have done more. In looking forward my aim is that I do all that I can do with whatever the amount of time the Lord allows until He come. I say with Paul, "Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." Philipians 3:13-14

May the Lord find us faithful,
Don Thatcher