

**Irish Proverb**

**MAY TODAY BE BETTER THAN YESTERDAY, BUT, NOT AS GOOD AS TOMORROW**



**20TH DECEMBER**  
Fist Service



**CHLOE 18 CLARK 14**  
**CATHERINE 13**



**DENISE AND MYSELF**

# NEWSLETTER



## Stewards in Ireland Newsletter #41

This Newsletter has probably been one of the hardest ones to write thus far. There are several reasons for this. As many of you may know, we moved to Tralee, Co. Kerry in the summer of 2019 to plant a new church. Once we settled into our new town, enrolled the children into their new schools, dealt with a pandemic and finished renovating and preparing a place to meet as a church, we had our first official Sunday morning on the 20th of December 2020.

**8 For whether we live, we live unto the Lord; and whether we die, we die unto the Lord: whether we live therefore, or die, we are the Lord's.**

**Romans 14:8**

It was such a fantastic "first" for us. Many of you were praying for that day, and I'm pleased to let you know that we had 21 in attendance for that very first Sunday, a Christmas service. Denise and I were over the moon with joy and praise to our Lord and very hopeful for the future.

Then..... the bottom fell out, so to speak. After just coming off our second level five lockdown (October-December) for several weeks, Denise and I really hoped we were out of the woods by this time. Little did we realise that we would be back into another high level five lockdown right after our first Sunday, and we are currently still there with no real end in sight. It's a bitter pill to swallow for sure. Between the second lockdown and our current one, the country only opened up for three weeks right before Christmas. These lockdowns are quite severe, in my opinion, and quite often don't make a great deal of sense. We are restricted to five kilometres (3 miles) movement from our house and should only leave for what the government has deemed "essential." I know everyone in the world is affected at the moment in one way or another by this pandemic. The most problematic issue is, I believe, that Satan has used this to proclaim across the island of Ireland that the local Church is ultimately non-essential.

So we were literally open for one Sunday, and that's it. I didn't know exactly what to do from there. Before we had a place to meet, we met at home in the sitting room. The following Sunday, we went to Church as a family and started to record the service, but for whom I had no idea. A couple of Sunday's went by, and I received a message from a man seeking a place to worship. I told him that coming was at his own risk regarding the law and illness and that I would be there recording. I have to tell you that it was a blessing to have someone other than the family to preach to. The next Sunday, I wasn't sure that he would show up again, but he did and this time with three other people. I must do what God wants me to do, and for us, it's not closing our doors nor forsaking the assembly of ourselves.

There is currently a movement across Ireland to re-open churches and proclaim the Church as indeed "essential." To my knowledge, Ireland is the only European country currently that has closed the church doors to its people.

## *Pictures of Tralee Bible Fellowship*



Please pray that we can begin one-on-one discipleship with someone soon, that the Church is protected from the enemy, and that the Irish government will re-open churches across the country by Easter (or sooner).

It is such a struggle at a time like this when people are at the end of their rope and in desperate need of encouragement and fellowship. I'm praying that we will get through to the Taoiseach (the person with the power) and that he will have a change of heart and allow all the churches to open up for Easter and remain open as "essential" services.

Our three children have been at home doing their schooling online since January. Did we mention they are all teenagers? Please pray for us. Our oldest daughter Chloe is finishing her last year of Secondary school (High school). It has been a tough year for her, as you can imagine being locked in for much of your senior year. If you could please pray for her to finish her year well, get through her final tests well and for guidance into the next phase of her life. Thank you, we would appreciate that.

We want to thank those who continue to pray for our family as we minister here in The Republic of Ireland and also to those that sacrificially give to allow us to minister here.