

NEWSLETTER

6 Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. Phill. 4:6

Please Pray:

That the Lord will meet our financial needs concerning our taxes and expenses.

Connor & Holly

The first year of marriage there is a lot to learn. Pray that Conner and the new MRS. Steward will grow in grace towards one another.

Karen Denise's Mom

Pray that Karen makes a full recovery. Pray that Chuck her husband sees her needs and takes care of himself as well.

Praise

We would like to thank The Summit Church for giving not only financially but praying earnestly.

From the bottom of our family's heart thank you to each and everyone of you who has prayed, given and loved us through this time.



Do you believe in prayer?

Do you think God answers our prayers? I'm sure you do. Well, if you are a born-again believer, I know you could testify over and over again (like our family) how our gracious Heavenly Father has not only heard you but has answered your prayers over time. If we have a personal relationship with the Lord, we know that He always answers our prayers. Sometimes with a wait, other times with the dreaded NO, and still others with yes, my child. Some years ago, I started having issues keeping my thoughts organised during my prayer time; they often would drift recklessly. So I started writing my prayers down in a journal and those who I am interceding for. When God answers, I write it down and give Him thanks for the waits, nos, and yes's. It is a tremendous blessing to see all that the Lord is doing daily that I have no choice but to be stirred and worship Him even more. In this newsletter, I would like to share a few praises with you.

Sometimes our prayer can span decades. It's like the prayer that Denise and I have been praying for our children. We pray for them to find and wed someone who loves the Lord more than them. Our hearts desire as parents, and we know our Lords desire that we as Christians thrive in our marriages. Of course, that doesn't mean that we aren't going to have issues in our union, but it does mean that those issues will be handled biblically, and above all, we will try to honour God, who is worthy. Well, in October, our oldest son Connor was married to a lovely young lady that loves the Lord, and at that moment, as they exchanged their vows to each other, my heart became a wellspring of praise. So much that a little leaked out my eyes. We can now declare one down and three to go!

Some prayers are decades old, and some are only days or even hours/minutes. There are prayers so urgent that we have no choice but to fall on our knees and cry out to God because He is the only option, the only hope, and the only answer.

When we were back in the states for the wedding, four out of the five of us contracted the Covid 19 virus. The prayer for physical safety and healing was not contained to us only, but many went into the throne room on our behalf. Denise and I are so thankful and humbled to hear of so many praying for our health and recovery. It lifted our spirits. As the saying goes, when it rains, it pours. We hadn't even finished our ten-day quarantine when we received news that Denise's mother had a stroke in the middle of the night and was in the hospital with a significant blockage. So we got on our knees and asked God to watch over her. Once again, the church responded with fervour in prayer for us. Denise's mom had to be life-flighted to another hospital that morning because they had to remove the clot by surgery as she was unresponsive. The surgery was a considerable success in many ways. She can use all of her motor functions as usual and is quite adept. She is going through rehabilitation as she sometimes mixes up some words, which worsens when she gets tired. But we are thankful for her recovery thus far.

These past few months have been quite challenging both physically, emotionally, and even financially. Because we got the Covid virus, it really messed up our plans to return home to Ireland in mid-October. We had to rebook our flights and, in turn, incurred a heavy financial burden of \$5,000. It was a true blessing that a loved one had purchased the tickets for us, but then the Devil is always trying to steal our joy, isn't he?

When we finally did get home a few weeks later, our Irish taxes were due. Because we are new citizens here in Ireland, we now have to pay taxes here and not in the U.S. The process begins by taking two years of taxes the first time you apply (2020 & 2021). This fact didn't shock us as we began to put extra money away for this purpose some time ago. What was a shock was the amount for both years. Ireland is one of the most expensive places to live globally, and just last year, Dublin surpassed London in the cost of housing. We know this and accept it because we know this is where the Lord wants us. And quite often, He brings our eyes to a place where we can only see Him, and it is a beautiful sight. The process is full of pitfalls and seemingly impossible situations, yet we can see all the blessings if we remain focused on Him. Denise and I had to empty the coffers, so to speak, and still didn't have enough to pay the due taxes. I have to be honest; this is a tough place to be, a place in which we feel our security is stripped away. But the Lord put in motion a long time ago people who were going to help us, and that is incredible. The Lord has placed Himself so squarely in our vision in these past months that it would be impossible for Denise and myself to see anything else. So we pray, and we worship, and we worship and pray through all the storms of this life. Knowing full well that He is our God and nothing is impossible to Him!