

Newsletter

"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord."

1 Corinthians 15:58

Rocky Soil, Certain Hope

God is doing something truly wonderful that we are humbled to be a part of. It is a blessing that never grows old, and yet at times it is hard to take in all that He is doing. I do not know about you, but I am having a hard time wrapping my head around the fact that it is almost April. Depending on where you live, it may still be snowing, or you may already be running the air conditioning. Maybe you are like us here in Ireland, still dodging the raindrops day by day. Either way, it is remarkable to think that Easter is right around the corner. What a precious season to reflect on the hope we have in our risen Saviour.

March was truly a memorable month for the ministry here in Tralee, County Kerry. There were many highlights, but none greater than seeing a young man accept Christ as his Lord and Saviour. There is simply no greater joy than seeing someone come to saving faith in Jesus Christ. I wish I could tell you in every newsletter that souls are being saved regularly, but that is just not the reality of the place where we are ministering. If you have ever been to Ireland, you understand how rocky the soil is here. That rocky ground adds to the beauty of the countryside, but spiritually speaking, it means we must keep our hands to the plough and faithfully press on. Please pray for this young man, that he will fully surrender to follow the Lord and take the next step of obedience in believer's baptism very soon.

Another encouragement this month was being able to turn over both the men's meetings and the women's meetings to a committee of faithful men and women in the church. That may sound like a small step to some, but to us it is a meaningful milestone. It is encouraging to see the church beginning to take ownership in this way. The men's group, which we had been calling "Fella-ship," has now been renamed the "Strength and Honour Men's Group." No matter the name, it is a joy to see the men stepping up and organising their next event, which, to my understanding, will be a clay-pigeon shoot this May at Knocknagoshel Irish Shooting Sports. Watching people grow, serve, and take initiative is a blessing and a reminder that the Lord is building His church.

On Mother's Day, we had around 16 to 18 mothers in attendance at the church. Since Mother's Day is celebrated earlier in Ireland, do not worry—you did not forget it. It was a special joy to honour the mothers in our church during this season. We were also blessed to have Steve Burkholder, a good friend and pastor from Texas, visit us for the day's special activities. Steve and his wife, Natalie, played an important role in helping guide us toward God's call on our lives for missions.

Another highlight of the month was being able to go on a mission trip. It may sound funny for a missionary to say that, but missions never leave a missionary's heart. That is why, at the church we are planting, we already support three missionaries: one to Spain, one to Nicaragua, and one to Mongolia. Lord willing, we will also be able to support a new missionary this coming May.

Recently, one of our good friends, Traci Warner, our missionary to Nicaragua, opened a door for Denise and me to serve in Cuba. Because of Canton Baptist Temple's Christmas missions offering, we were given the opportunity to go, and it was an eye-opening experience. I had the privilege of preaching to local pastors and their wives from Hebrews 11 and 12, encouraging them to remain faithful and keep their eyes on Christ. A Bible school training session also took place through Judson Baptist Church, which did a wonderful job teaching lay leaders and providing materials for them to train others. In the evenings, I was able to speak on discipleship, which many of you know is very much the heartbeat of our ministry. I encouraged them not to settle for a form of religion, but to pursue a real and personal relationship with the living and loving God.

The Lord also opened a deeply personal door while we were there. During an intense fuel crisis, God still made a way for us to visit Matanzas, where my mother was born. I was able to meet family I had never met before, and they welcomed us with hugs and kisses. It was a moment I will never forget. To realize that I was the first in my family to return and stand in the birthplace of my mother was deeply moving. Denise and I left Cuba with full hearts, and I truly believe it will not be long before Cuba is not only receiving missionaries, but sending them out, because the church there is growing and the Lord is clearly at work.

One thing that stood out powerfully to us was the believers' deep dependence on the Lord. In our culture, many of us struggle to understand what it means to rely on God for our daily bread, but in Cuba that dependence is very real. It was powerful to witness with our own eyes.

As wonderful as this month was, with all of its opportunities and blessings, the greatest highlight of all was still that young man coming to know Christ as his Lord and Saviour. Everything else was icing on the cake, but one soul saved by the grace of God was truly the cherry on top.



Denise and I are serving the Lord in Havana, Cuba.



Project 4:32

Please continue to pray for Project 4:32 Phase 2. We have just hit a milestone at 25.73%, praise the Lord.



Between the rain, the fellowship, and the faithful goodness of God, there has been no shortage of craic this month, especially with our first dry day since August finally arriving at the beginning of March.



- Young man's growth
- Church ownership
- Cuba discipleship



"She's a craic vacuum"

She sucks the fun out of the room. Brutal, but funny.