

A Letter from Ireland

Hello once again from Newtownards in Northern Ireland!

Sally and I are coming down from a busy period of visits with friends from the church in Waterloo, Ontario. We were delighted to have one of the elders, Dave Knutson, and his wife Pat, with us for 5 days in June. We were able to catch up on the past 3 years, and they were able to attend the Sunday assembly here, as well as see some of our superb countryside.

Just recently returned home are Peter and Wanda Speek, also from Waterloo. We took some vacation time and together embarked on a coach tour of the Scottish Highlands. They both enjoy being with our congregation and were able to be with us for two Sunday assemblies. Our evenings seem emptier at the moment without them.

Also in September, we had a visit from our good friend, Jim Holmes, who works with a church in Japan. He also teaches English there, and brought eight of his students for a tour of Ireland. We were happy to have them visit with us one Sunday and stay for a shared meal and conversation after. The church was encouraged by their visit.

Coming up for us is a visit in December with the church in South Dayton, Ohio, who support us in the Lord's work in Newtownards. We are excited about renewing old friendships and the opportunity to share more about our work and our hopes for the future.

Apart from the visits, our work here continues in both outreach and disciple building. I meet every Monday evening with another of our members, Stuart, and a non-Christian, Robert. We are reading through and discussing the Gospel of Mark together. This has been a very encouraging experience for me, and I continue to be amazed at the power of God's Word. Please pray for Robert as he considers the person of Jesus and the call of the gospel.



Our big news this time round is the first baptism since we returned home. Kevin Doyle submitted his life to Christ in July, after being with us on Sundays and for our mid-week studies for over a year. We are also working with two former female members, praying for restoration in the near future. Both have been attending either on Sundays or Thursday evenings. Again, please keep these people in your prayers as they think about their response to God's love.

On Sundays, Alex has been teaching the Pastoral Epistles. In the New Year, I will take over with a study on the New Testament Church. Thursday evenings has focussed on dealing with members' questions, the latest discussion centering on Unity in the Church. We are finding this format extremely helpful in motivating interest and discussion.

Our prayer here is for more opportunities to share the message of Jesus and for new disciples who will take seriously the task of carrying the message to the next generation. We especially ask for your prayers for the future of the church here, and for the Lord to bless us with potential future leaders for his people in Newtownards.

David & Sally Dunn
September, 2017