



# 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,

December 2017

This last year was filled with many events and challenges coupled with plenty of opportunities to give out the Gospel. In looking back over the year, it was exciting to see how many people we were able to cross paths with and have divine appointments to share the saving message of Jesus Christ. One family that we had been working on left the country back at the end of summer. Strangely enough, things apparently did not work out, and we just found out a week ago that they have moved back. Also, just this past week we have another new contact—simply stated—a woman who desperately needs Christ. It was a big answer to prayer that she came to church for the first time on the last Sunday of 2017 during which the Gospel was clearly interwoven into the message on what truly made the wise men wise. Several of our church folks have had and are having some real-life challenges—life changing events, spiritual battles and assaults of Satan as well as God's answers to prayer and His blessings along the way.

Another long-time goal and prayer request has come to pass in the last month of 2017. The Lord has allowed us to move from meeting at the hotel to our own rented space which we now have 24/7. We are in the end unit on the back of a sort of small v-shaped retail unit building. This location is just off the main road leading out of Waterford in the Cork direction. The location houses a café, Sony centre, tile shop, curtain and blinds shop and across from us is an auto parts shop, charity shop, tire centre and another flooring place. All the kids were excited as Smyths toy store is across the road and McDonalds is just down from there. One big blessing is that most of these shops in our retail unit are closed on Sunday so there is plenty of parking for us which is a big deal! It is extremely hard to find a meeting place AND have parking. The unit that we are in previously housed a hair salon and was left in extreme disarray. Our folks came together and worked hard alongside our family to repair this facility and transform it into our church. The laminate flooring had been put in too tightly and it had buckled. The wall paper was dark grey brick and was coming off in several places. The ceiling tiles were nasty looking and disintegrating. There were no heating units in the large main room, and there were electrical outlets and wires everywhere. It was a great day when the skip (Irish for of a dumpster) arrived to take away a large pallet 3 ½ foot high full of old ceiling tiles along with 28 large black rubbish bags stuffed full of trash and several other pieces of odd and ends of your basic junk. We worked right up through Saturday the 23<sup>rd</sup> to be able to have our first service on the 24<sup>th</sup>. As a church we were able to come together for that first service and celebrate our Christmas Sunday and our special Christmas evening service and fellowship. The remainder of the work is to do all of the trim work, complete the floor tile for the second bathroom that was left undone, do some minor work on the hall and kitchen walls and ceiling, have the alarm installed, get some tea mugs (VERY important! 😊), build a pulpit, and get some signage.

We are extremely grateful for one of our churches that has faithfully supported our family from the early days of deputation which sent funds to cover the cost of our tables and chairs. We are equally grateful for our home church that sent funds as well to help with the cost of the ceiling tiles, heating and walls. This help was certainly needed and definitely a major blessing. (pictures attached to the email version of this letter)

Thanks again for praying and supporting our family.

May the Lord find us faithful,

Don and Lisa Thatcher & Family