

# The Thatchers

## Church Planting in Ireland



Don & Lisa, Kevin, Karissa, Kaley, Kari, Kaleb

Dear Friends,

June 2017

We are just back from a rather quick one month trip to the USA. During this visit, we were able to visit Lisa's family in South Carolina and my family in Michigan. The main purpose for the trip was to be able to attend our son Kevin's wedding. Kevin and Jamie were married on the 10<sup>th</sup> of June. Our prayer is for God's leading and blessing in their lives as they embark on this new journey in together. Kevin also enjoys his job building log homes all across Michigan. For us the journey was bitter sweet. It is always good to see family and friends but the departures don't seem to get any easier.



I have never had any issues with flying, but can I tell ya that this trip certainly has changed my travel tune. Our flights over from Ireland went just fine. It was the 6:00 cancelled flight heading north that started our bad experience. We were rebooked to fly from Greenville to LaGuardia in New York. On arrival at 9:30 AM I noticed that our connection was already cancelled as well. Long story short, we were stuck in that airport for 14 hours and ended up getting in to Faithway Baptist Church after 4:00 AM. I was a very long day and our daughter Karissa was not to impressed that it was her bag that did not get delivered for a day and a half. That necessitated a trip to Walmart! The flights on to Michigan went just fine, but the departure to head back to Ireland was another story. We left our hometown airport with a little over an hour delay heading to Chicago O'Hara. Flying through a very turbulent storm over Lake Michigan we could now see the city of Chicago as we were descending only to hear the captain come on the speaker and say the airport had been closed and we must go back for fuel. Back through a very, very bumpy sky to Michigan to set down at another airport, refuel and wait for an hour and a half. We then set out again for Chicago as the storm raged on and I can attest that we were certainly not flying the friendly skies on this day! We finally made it to Chicago only to find out our flight had long since departed. I waited in the long lines for rebooking as there was major flight disruptions across the airport. I finally got to the counter and told the lady mine was simply-Just needed to get to Dublin for 6 of us that is. Then her eyes got big and she scoured the computer for a few minutes saying nothing. Then she said, "the best I can do is get you out in two days from now." There were no seats available for 6 on any flight to any of the major western European airports at all. They would not release our luggage and we were basically left on our own again as this was all weather related. By this time it was 11PM and the day that started well was ending in an exhausting knot. I called a friend, Pastor Todd Harrison at Bible Baptist Church in Bloomington about 2 hours away. As soon as I told him the situation he said We are on our way to come get you. The church kindly lodged and fed us. Knowing we had two days and no luggage...my family insisted on one more trip to Walmart for a change of clothes! All I can say is airport delays are costly in so many ways, but in all our travel troubles we had some many great opportunities to witness to a bunch of people concerning salvation and be a calm testimony for our Lord Jesus. I can certainly say that we are glad to be back in our own beds.

We achieved two great milestones in our lives this past month: We celebrated Lisa's 50<sup>th</sup> birthday and our 25<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. God has been so good to us in meeting our needs down through the years. I am so thankful that God brought Lisa and me together. She is a blessing to me.

Pray with us as we begin our family conference with Evangelist Bob Jones from Tennessee next week. We are trusting the Lord to do some great things in all of our lives. Continue to pray for a building for our church and for our summer outreach. Your prayers are very important to us

May the Lord find us faithful,  
Don and Lisa Thatcher & Family



- 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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