



**Josh, Bethany, Macey, Milani, Noelle, and Natalie**

# December UPDATE



As we celebrate the birth of Christ and bring another year to a close, December has given us many reasons to pause, reflect, and praise the Lord. The past month was full and, at times, exhausting—but also encouraging as we've seen God continue to build His church and draw hearts to the hope found only in Jesus here in Derry. Thank you for faithfully praying with us and standing beside us throughout 2025.

**Church Growth:** Derry Baptist's Christmas Carol Service reached 75 in attendance, the highest December service in the church's history. While no one trusted Christ that day, there was a strong response to the preaching. We sensed genuine conviction in the room and had several solid conversations afterward with visitors about the message. **Please pray** that the Word sown will continue to work in hearts in the days ahead. Even more encouraging, 13 were first-time visitors, many from the local Irish community. Several shared that they came after receiving a Christmas Gospel tract, while two families were invited through connections made at the Grásta Kids and Youth Clubs. **Please pray** for ongoing follow-up and future opportunities to clearly share the Gospel with these guests. Looking beyond December alone, DBF has averaged 50 people weekly over the past quarter—a remarkable step forward from the 10–15 people who gathered just three years ago. We praise God that this growth has not been superficial. It has been accompanied by salvations, ongoing discipleship, increased generosity, a growing hunger for God's Word, and believers taking mature ownership of the work through faithful service. **Please pray** that this growth would continue in depth as well as number. While we're thankful for the internationals God has brought into the church, it has been especially encouraging to see new Irish men and women attending regularly. The church's long-term heart has been to reach the nationalist Irish Catholic community, which makes up 78% of the city, and we're beginning to see God answer those prayers. Several of those newly attending DBF have clear salvation testimonies and are seeking a church that is evangelistic, Bible-believing, and unashamed of truth in an increasingly secular culture. **Please pray** that God would continue opening doors within this community.

**Grásta Outreach Gospel Seeds:** Grásta's Christmas Kids Club, Youth Club, Ladies' Christmas Party, and Carol Service were all well attended. These gatherings may appear small and simple on the surface, but they are intentional moments where the Gospel is clearly shared, Scripture is taught, and trust is built over time with people who are often resistant to spiritual things. Most who attend Grásta do not yet have a salvation testimony, reminding us that this ministry requires patience and faithful sowing. **Please pray** that God would bring conviction, understanding, and saving faith in His time. We caught a glimpse of this ministry's potential when several Grásta contacts visited church—people who likely would never have walked through the doors otherwise. It's also encouraging to note that many now connected to Grásta and DBF first met us through summer mission teams. We're deeply thankful for those partnerships and are already preparing to host teams again next year including one from our sending church. **Please pray** for wisdom and preparation as we look ahead to how God may use these teams in the year to come.

**Preparing for the Future:** December also marked the end of the term for the online Bible college where I've had the privilege of teaching alongside Irish and British pastors. It's been a joy to play a small role in training men for ministry, and I'll continue teaching again next year. **Please pray** that God would raise up someone locally to be trained for full-time ministry and future leadership.

**Family Updates:** December has been busy, but we've cherished time together as a family. We've also enjoyed welcoming people from church and community into our home for meals and conversation—simple moments that strengthen relationships and ministry alike. It's also a special season for us personally. Josh celebrates his birthday on December 24th, and our twins turn ONE on December 27th! We're amazed by God's goodness and feel blessed to be raising our four daughters to follow Jesus!

**Looking Ahead:** As we look ahead, our January update will include a more comprehensive reflection on our three years on the field—celebrating what God has done, identifying ongoing needs, and sharing the church establishing and planting vision we're trusting Him for in the years ahead. **Please pray** for wisdom for the team here as we plan, seek God's direction, and step forward in faith—trusting big, dreaming big, and aiming to glorify the God of the impossible.

As we step into a new year, we do so with grateful hearts for your prayers and partnership in the Gospel. Thank you for standing with us as God continues His work here in Derry. We pray that you and your family have a joyful Christmas and a Christ-centered New Year. **Nollaig Shona Duit!**

**Carol Service**



**Grásta Youth Club**



**Kids Class**  
**Sunday**



**Grásta Youth Club**



**ONE!**



**Special Music**



**Ladies Bible Study**

