



## October **UPDATE**

AFARA

Josh, Bethany, Macey, Milani, Noelle, and Natallie

October has been a month overflowing with answered prayer! From record attendance at International Sunday to personal family milestones, we've seen the Lord's hand at work in powerful ways.

**International Sunday:** We're still rejoicing over what God did during our annual International Sunday! Once again, we had a record attendance—<u>112 people</u>, about half of whom were visitors. The room was filled with local Irish guests, Africans from several nations, Italians, and a group of Sri Lankans!

Our friend Kosala, the Sri Lankan Buddhist we've been witnessing to, came for the first time and even brought two friends—Denu and Dhamushka. That was a <u>huge answer to prayer!</u> As a missionary kid who grew up in Sri Lanka, I was especially encouraged to see them stay for the whole service and hear the Gospel clearly presented by Pastor Paul Craig, a local pastor and former missionary to South Africa. Several of the Sri Lankan and Italian visitors shared that it was their first time ever attending church, and we're praying for continued opportunities to follow up and share the Gospel with them.

Grásta Outreach Centre: We are so encouraged by how God is using the Grásta Outreach Centre! Each of our weekly ministries for kids, youth, and adults has seen visitors, many from the local Irish community. The name Grásta ("Grace" in Irish) has opened doors, especially with families connected to Irish-speaking schools in Derry and others involved in the Gaeltacht (Irish language) programs. We've had up to 12 youth and 12 children attending weekly. Some of these families first connected with us through our summer Holiday Bible Club and sports outreach. This fall we also hosted special seasonal fall outreach events that were well attended. The Centre was designed to reach the Irish Catholic population—often the hardest group to reach—and we're praising God that this vision is becoming reality! Thank God for mission teams who helped prepare the space. We're especially thankful for Bethany Norris, who is doing a fantastic job leading the Kids Club and faithfully serving across several ministries. Her joy and love for the children have been such a blessing.

**Visa Update:** We're thrilled to share that our <u>visas have been renewed</u> for another three years! We're thankful for the provision and help that made it possible to continue ministering here legally. Please pray as we desire to apply for permanent residency and eventually citizenship. The UK government is considering extending the residency timeline to 10 years, which would directly affect our long-term vision to plant churches in County Donegal (Republic of Ireland). We're trusting God's perfect timing for every step.

Family Updates: October was full of special family moments. Bethany turned 30! I thank the Lord for the way she loves our family, serves others, and faithfully walks with Jesus. Her ladies' Bible studies continue to grow, including with the Irish woman who trusted Christ earlier this year and is now being discipled. She recently brought a friend along—another answer to prayer! Our greatest joy this month was celebrating that our daughter <u>Macey trusted Jesus Christ as her personal Savior!</u> Since the summer, she's been asking thoughtful questions about salvation, and one evening after talking with her mom, she bowed her head and placed her faith in Jesus. So now, not only is she our daughter—but also our sister in Christ and a daughter of the King! Please rejoice with us and pray for Macey as she grows in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

**Family Visit & Rest:** We were blessed to have Bethany's parents, Mike and Ruth, visit from Tennessee. During their first week, they were a huge help and encouragement in ministry. Then we enjoyed a much-needed family holiday together in Westport, County Mayo, making sweet memories.

We also had the chance to take a Sunday off that week and visit our missionary friends Josh and Annie Moore at Carrick Baptist Church in County Leitrim. They're doing a fantastic job building a strong, healthy church. I'm thankful as well for Pastor James Wilson, whose partnership allows us to support one another when either of us needs to be away.

**Looking Ahead:** As we move into the final months of the year, please pray for:

- Continued fruit and follow-up from International Sunday.
- Salvations through the Grásta ministries and ongoing discipleship.
- God's favor as we pursue permanent residency in the coming years.
- Strength, wisdom, and good health for our family and the ministry team.
- Christmas outreach: Pray for upcoming street evangelism, leafleting, youth and kids' events, carol services, and Bible studies through both DBF and Grásta to bear lasting fruit for the Gospel.

We're excited about what's ahead as God continues to build His church in Derry and beyond. Thank you for investing in eternal work and standing with us in prayer. Please continue to pray that we'll remain faithful and fruitful in all He's called us to do.









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