

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

Email:

thatchers@bimi.org

Sending Church:

Fostoria Baptist Church
8933 Fostoria Road
Fostoria, MI 48435
(989) 795-2185

Serving with:

Baptist International
Missions Inc.
P.O. Box 9
Harrison, TN 37341
(423) 344-5050



Dear Friends,

December 2023

With 2023 fast coming to a close, we reflect back over the challenges and the blessings. The second week of January of this past year brought us the grim news that we would have to move out from where we had been living for the past 10 years. This was hard news to digest along with coming at one of the worst times. Ireland has been in a housing crisis since just before Covid. Houses are very difficult to find to rent or to buy. The prices to rent and buy have increased dramatically. We had to the beginning of October and began the journey of searching for a house which took us to the beginning of September. There was simply nothing available within a 45 minute drive. Through your persistent prayers and God's great provision. We were introduced to a lady who really had no intention of renting out her house but due to the passing away of her mom she did not need two houses to live between. This opened the door literally for us. Though rent is high, she did come down a bit for us and another great blessing is that this house is only 10 minutes away from where we were previously living.

In the midst of the housing dilemma we were always inundated with vehicle trouble. The transmission failed in our van and that was a huge issue. It has taken about 2 ½ months but we have found a replacement van, a 7 seat 2016 Volkswagen Sharan. The issue is that our vehicles have to have automatic transmissions due to restrictions on our licenses for automatics only. Automatics are much harder to come by. We thank the Lord for directing us to a place that specializes in bringing automatic vehicles into Ireland.

We had some great blessings in ministry. Several visitors came to church this past year but more so in the last half of this year. A lady from Argentina has been coming over the past two months. Folks continue to find our church through the internet and through our outreach opportunities. In the spring I was able to take one of our men and two teen guys to a youth conference in Romania where Kari is attending college. The summer Holiday Bible Club for the kids was a great time investing in the lives of the young kids. We had a great group of folks from church get involved in more ways than ever before. The autumn brought the ladies fall getaway in November which Lisa has a significant part in helping with. There were seven ladies from our church go this year. That is the most that have ever gone. Then in the first weekend of December we were blessed to have The Baptist College International from Romania come by our church on their 10 day choir cantata tour or Ireland. We had eight visitors come out to this service. Christmas time always gives us great opportunities to get out our Gospel gift packets which we wrote a new tract for entitled "Jesus is the Light."

Thankfulness and rejoicing are two words that were impressed upon us this year. We are so thankful for God's provision and are rejoicing in your prayers and faithfulness in supporting our family on the field in Waterford Ireland. Thank you for the many Christmas gifts and special offerings that several of you have sent our way.

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



College Choir



Our new Van

