



Quon Stothers Journey

Berkeley / Los Angeles / Ireland

Newsletter August 2008

Our Community is Small

Government reports say the Greater Shankill area and the Crumlin Road ward is the most impoverished in Northern Ireland. But the community has character and reconstruction is happening.

One night there was a rap on the door at 10:00 p.m. and I thought, "Should we open the door?" then I hear Ward thanking someone profusely. Our neighbor Andrew, who drives a cab, was going out and noticed our sunroof was open. He told us we should close it as a huge rainstorm was forecasted. Such keen observation! Such kindness and consideration! Such community life.

Ward visited with May Brush, who gave him a bag



Giant's Causeway - the top Irish tourist attraction

of cupcakes, saying they were called Queen's cakes and they were for Marda. I bake sweets to give away too. I took some matzo cashew brittle to Andrew the next night.

We were delighted by Deborah's invitation for

dinner with the apology that she hadn't done it earlier with being sick and all. She is 30 and a single mom with loads of family in the church neighborhood. When we got there she admitted that she had never cooked a proper meal in her life and she borrowed pots

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Special prayer points

Praise for consistent prayer groups and 24 hour prayer time August 30-31..

Praise for summer outreach to youth. week of August 18th. 70 from age 5-14 participated.

Pray for encouragement for pastor and Kirk session members. Decisions on future of church and resources need to be made

Pray for cross community dialogue. More community interaction and cooperation.

Pray for Roberta with a broken hip and Desmond her supportive husband

Pray for Mark Drennan with Children of the Nations, Sierra Leone.

Pray for visit from journalists from Taiwan and resultant articles on Ireland

Pray for the Mission Study Team at College Avenue Presbyterian Church

Praise for all the generous gifts of love and support



Downhill Hostel and pottery. www.downhillhostel.com

And very friendly

to do this meal for us. It was delicious, spaghetti Bolognese and chocolate cake with Devon cream, yum.

The second dinner invitation came from Margaret, a lady who single handedly collects for the Irish Leprosy Mission. She

and her husband John had us into the yard for tea and biscuits, then into the house for dinner, then off to a neighboring church for evening worship. Our church ceased evening worship for two months allowing us the privilege of visiting other churches. Margaret took us to

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More than a surprise

Your gift of support is

Pure joy over God's call

And the aftertaste of steeping friendship.

Commission To Every Nation (CTEN) www.cten.org, is our charitable support agency. CTEN was founded in 1994 by Rick Malm. He was serving in Guatemala when he saw various well-qualified missionaries had to leave the field because their ministry focus changed and they no longer had a mission agency. God called him to join missionaries to help them do what He called them to do. CTEN has helped over 300 missionaries. Their director of pastoral care will stay in contact with the home church as well as provide pastoral care for the Stothers. The CTEN mission statement is simply Prayer, Giving, and Going.

Commission
TO EVERY NATION



with perseverance *"...and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Heb 12:1 (NIV)*

Whitewell Metropolitan Tabernacle, which is what the Irish imagine all American churches to be like: hundreds of people bused in and 1000s in hand clapping worship. It was interesting, but too big for us.

The third invitation from a church member came from Barbara, a professor. Barbara is a child of the Greater Shankill and also has a PhD in Psychology from Queens University. She readily tells us her father is an alcoholic, served time in jail, was a member of the UVF (paramilitaries), and her mother was dysfunctional on Valiums. When she was 14, her 11 year old brother fell from a roof and died. She recalls two bomb blasts during the Troubles, and a militant with a machine gun in her front yard!



Four plates done in an afternoon!

After four months, Eddie who comes to church worship alone came over to me and asks, "How are you getting along?" After some conversation he told us where he lived and invited us to visit him and his wife. So after 30 years of conflict and 10 uneasy years, the basic character of community,

friendliness, and hospitality are intact.

Outside our church we received an invitation from McCall, to return as her guest to Downhill Hostel on the North coast. We stayed at Downhill last month when we took Deborah and Carson up to the Giant's Causeway and Londonderry. McCall's own immigration from Seattle ten years ago was hard and she was willing to reach out to us. She and her Irish husband, William, own a wonderful hostel and she teaches and has a pottery studio. She is brilliant and helped me build a set of plates between their baby's nap and play with daddy.

This is our community!