



# Quon Stothers Journey

Berkeley / Los Angeles / Ireland

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Newsletter January 2009

## Last year seems a long time ago and *we have* ..

In mid December, Marda went to Oxford and London to catch up with colleagues from the Organization of Women Architects. Blessed with five days without rain we dashed about, ate well, and had a grand time. Upon return Ward announced he felt confined and wanted to start going into town once a week to get out. Great! The first time we did this on the bus, we met a lovely lady who said she was going to a nursing home to visit a former neighbor. She visits twice a week! We've found such care for the elderly to be commonplace.

We delivered homemade tray bakes (square layered cookies baked in a tray)



Conran Shop in Michelin Building, London

before Christmas to the people on our visitation list. Then we had a quiet Christmas with a worship service at the church, and turkey dinner and traditional pudding at the Drennan's home. On Boxing Day, 26 December, fellow poet Bill McKnight drove us over to

Shaw's Bridge for a short walk in the brisk air and hot coffee with mince pies in the local hotel.

After Christmas we went by train up to Downhill Hostel, where Ward read, and Marda made more plates in McCall's studio,

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### Special prayer points

**PRAISE** for new friend Dorothy. Pray for her confidence to carry on in Belfast and fulfill her dream to do mission work.

**PRAY FOR** Ward's abscessed tooth. We have a dental appointment in Berkeley.

**PRAY FOR** David Surgenor. He is gathering prayer partners and support. One local church has committed to support salary.

The next phase of ministry at the Car Boot sale. Better attendance at worship since closure/more parking.

Cross community openings for dialogue are desired but dormant.

Desmond and Roberta have moved into a bungalow, a one story house

Crumlin Road missionaries: Mark and Peter, and Rachel. The Drennans plan to visit Mark in Sierra Leone for ten days in February.

College Avenue Presbyterian Church Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) working.

**PRAISE** for generous year end gifts. **PRAY** for sustained support in 2009.



Lakes of Killarney, Republic of Ireland

## *chosen hope over fear*

and took home two sets of silk long-johns! We ate some more and relaxed with the only American we know here. Then a few days after the New Year, we boarded the bus, for an Ulster Bus company tour, and went 300 miles to Killarney passing through Moneygall, the ancestral

home of one of Barack Obama's sixteen great great great grandfathers, a Mr. Kearney. Five days of eating and touring, without cooking or washing.

We received a beautiful book Presbyterians in Ireland for Christmas noting every church in the

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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](http://www.cten.org), is our charitable support agency. CTEN was founded in 1994 by Rick Malm. The CTEN mission statement is simply Prayer, Giving, and Going.

**Commission**  
**TO EVERY NATION**



*A higher standard.  
A higher purpose.*

**Belfast Home Address:**  
42 Glenbank Place  
Belfast BT14 8AN Northern Ireland

**Berkeley Address:**  
2600 Warring Street  
Berkeley Ca 94704 USA

**Donations and address corrections:**  
CTEN  
PO Box 291307  
Kerrville, Texas 78029-1307

**Crumlin Road Presbyterian Church**  
292 Crumlin Road  
Belfast BT 13

**Home phone:** (028) 90.291986  
from US 01144.2890.291986

**Mobile phone:** (075) 99.852567  
from US 01144.7599.852567

**Email:** [wardstothers@cten.org](mailto:wardstothers@cten.org)  
**Email:** [mQstothers@gmail.com](mailto:mQstothers@gmail.com)

Presbyterian Church of Ireland. Then I heard the statistic that Agnes Street Presbyterian four blocks away, sent 545 men to fight in World War I. 72 died. This prompted an interest in the history of Crumlin Road Presbyterian. Our church was blitzed in 1941 and burned to the ground including all records. How many men did we send to World War I? A worthy project to pursue, along with the Stothers genealogy!

During this period we wrote evaluations of our time in Belfast and did some reflection and planning. We are satisfied that the past nine months were well spent settling in and learning the ways of the people. After nine months of visiting, people are getting more comfortable with us. May has come back to church. We will continue our visiting, our cooking on Wednesdays, our prayer times together. Marda will help launch the Boys Club. Our new project is to start a "Tea, Talk and Pray" time at the local primary school when we return in March. There is no "separation of church and state" although we will be respectful of other religious traditions. We want to share stories and listen,

then share poems and Psalms. We hope a few parents or perhaps other community members will join us.

The visible and palpable hope engendered this month with the miraculous USAir water landing and with President Obama's inauguration is invigorating. May we all have the reserves to do what it takes to assure a blessed future for the entire world. Our friend Bill flew to London this month to address an international group of psychiatrists as a service user

and mental health worker. He and Ward are planning a poetry laden worship service for the new year.

Please contact us to consider adding our ministry as a model to others to your church's mission list.

We will be in Los Angeles, from February 11 to February 15, and in Berkeley from the evening of February 15 to the morning of March 6th. We will be reachable at 510.540.7173 or cell 510.912.9085.



Glenbank Place with snow...