



# Quon Stothers Journey

Berkeley / Los Angeles / Ireland

Newsletter March 2008

## Providence and Persistence

Ward and Marda Stothers will move to Belfast, Northern Ireland in mid April 2008 to do charitable work in the Greater Shankill community! This is our story.

**With serendipity:** We believe in the Christian God and thus fate, coincidence, or luck are suspected concepts. Before His creation scan, the path to Ireland has been sure, even if circuitous, with "bread crumbs" along the way. We eating crumbs know how humility spells.

**With Support:** We are awed by the banquet of people interested in what we are doing. Our first mailing was sent to tell of our plans and invite support, be it prayer, contact



Yet another time the Irish Chimney Sweep appears

and counsel, or financial support. This is the first of our articles about the manifestation of our journey to Ireland to live and work with the Irish people to enliven faith, a journey which we hope will inform your own journey wher-

ever it goes. We are so grateful for you.

**Continued Serendipity:** We've wanted to see friends and family before we left. Two came into the BART while we rarely ride the BART, one popped out of a car on the street, long-

## with support and serendipity

time friends found us in Hawaii. We have come to our last page of our Getting to Ireland Journal and of course the Irish Chimney Sweep parked next door as Marda happened to be outside waiting for a ride.

Why observe these crashing of the Cosmos? They serve to show us that the universe is not random and God will continue to care for us in the particulars.

We are uniquely equipped to go at this time and in

this way: Ward's mixed Irish heritage, and pond of poetry, our Protestant surname, the last PCUSA intern was also an Asian American, the last intern went on her own, the pastor wants help, the church

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### Special points

- Through providence, persistence, and perseverance are rewards
- Support and serendipity sweep our path forward
- Encourage one another through charity and good works
- Pray for transition for Crumlin Road Presbyterian church and community
- Pray for relationships to neighbors
- Pray for the right car purchase
- Pray for the Mission Study Team at College Avenue Presbyterian Church
- Praise for the generous gifts of love and support

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## Newsletter March 2008

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# Commission

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## TO EVERY NATION

**More than a surprise**

**Your gift of support is**

**Pure joy over God's call**

**And the aftertaste of steeping friendship.**

About Commission to Every Nation (CTEN) [www.cten.org](http://www.cten.org)  
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 care for the Stothers. The CTEN mission statement is simply Prayer, Giving, and Going.



## with persistence and perseverance



**Our House at  
42 Glenbank Place  
Belfast BT14 8AN  
Northern Ireland**

leadership will welcome us, and the pastor's wife is an engineer. Can we fit in? We both grew up in very urban, working class neighborhoods. We have mostly wrapped up our present life, and are ready to go

through this open door with keys to keep up connections, including our website and a newsletter template.

**Persistence:** Ward's conviction came

as he started seminary in 2000 and rediscovered his poetic gift. We know missionaries in Galway and Cork. Although remote our first inviting pastor was in Cork and we wanted to live there. We were also attracted by the prosperity, diversity, and electricity of Dublin. We saw country churches and imagined a pilgrimage of seekers wanting to recreate the way of Patrick. Another encourager lived near Portaferry. We attended an ecumenical conference in Belfast and saw it as a center of reformed theology for good and for bad. God's persistence with us. This was the place all along Greater Shankill community to come alongside and encourage faith to go be-

yond sectarian divisions with new words and new stories.

**Stothers not Strothers:** (some of you also do this to our name). Our visas were approved for two years with assurances that we can get extensions. Ward's visa came back with his name spelled wrong, yet another opportunity for losing the passport! We have two weeks to pack and sell cars. College Avenue Presbyterian Church will have a commissioning service for us on April 13, 2008 at our 10:30 service. Those in the SF Bay area are encouraged to join us. A day to breathe deeply and then we go. Philippians 1:6.

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