

McCracken Update

At a time when New Year resolutions may already have fallen by the wayside, it is good to remember that, however imperfectly, serving God is again the privilege, the priority and the challenge of 2015.

Back in November, we had a very helpful and encouraging **Prayer Day** with our ECM work-



ers in Waterford and Dublin. Castle-daly Manor, in Athlone, was the venue and we all appreciated taking the time out to be with one another and to share matters for praise and prayer. The younger children enjoyed games and the older ones had a go at making fudge amongst other things! Having a supportive input to the lives of our fellow missionaries continues to be an important part of our work and we look forward to God's guidance and help this year as we contin-

ue to serve together in different parts of Ireland.

In Claremorris, we celebrated Christmas with a DVD entitled, "**Jesus—The Reason for the Season**". It was really good to see a couple of people come along on the night who we had been praying for. It would be great to see them regularly at our Bible Study on Thursday nights during the year ahead

We have just started a monthly **Sunday evening prayer meeting** as we think specifically of the spiritual needs in Claremorris, but also of the need to see the ministry develop. Key to this, we believe, is the beginning of a team ministry here which requires the support of more workers to join us. We meet at 7.30pm in our house and are looking forward to encouraging times of prayer and fellowship as the year progresses.

We hope to take advantage of the national holiday on 17th March and distribute many evangelistic leaflets on **St. Patrick's Day**. Last year's parade in Claremorris was very well attended and so there promises to be good opportunities to chat with people...you might pray that Mayo's famous liquid sunshine would hold off! Generally, we hope to arrange quarterly meetings this year on Sundays as we test the waters for more regular services in the future. The GAA centre, where we run our Bible studies, is the likely venue.

David is currently studying for his mock **junior certificate exams**.... it's hard to believe that he's at this stage and we hope that these go well in preparation for the real exams in June. **Sarah** has made a bright start to secondary and seems to enjoy her subjects and is doing well. Both have made good friends which is an answer to prayer.

A couple of months ago, we invited donations for the **Claremorris Church-Plant Project**. It has been really encouraging to receive some gifts recently which go towards the cost of various things such as room rental for the weekly Bible studies and evangelistic literature. Thank-you so much, this is a great help! Gifts for the project or for our personal support can be marked and sent to the ECM office or directly to ourselves, as you prefer.

May the Lord bless and encourage you throughout this year,

Jonathan, Nicola, David and Sarah



Praise

- **Jonathan successfully completed the English teaching TEFL course.**
- **Many faithful prayer partners and supporters**
- **Encouraging times studying John's gospel on Thursday evenings.**

Prayer

- **CO-WORKERS to join us in Claremorris soon.**
- **David's mock exams - 6th to 13th of February**
- **Fruitful conversations with people on St. Patrick's Day**
- **The first of our quarterly meetings, planned for Sunday, 29th March.**
- **Thursday outreach, giving out literature and door to door, weather permitting.**

