

McCracken Update

May Newsletter 2016

We must begin by **thanking you** for remembering us during the difficult time of Roger Smith's death in mid February. We appreciated the letters, emails and phone-calls that followed and can report that **Margaret** is coping quite well and feels committed to the work here in Claremorris. This is something we have been praying much about.

In our last letter, we shared something of the vision to see a Claremorris church started during this year. We're pleased to say that we have just decided to hold regular house meetings, starting **Sunday 5th June**. As we have worked and waited through the sad events of the last few months, the sense of God prompting us forward has been quite clear. At our **recent ECM conference in Croatia**, we were encouraged to be faithful and yet adventurous in our approach to church-planting. The "adventurous" part can sometimes be the hardest thing, but is made easier when circumstances give us a gentle nudge!....

In early January, a **Christian family from Zimbabwe** set up home in Claremorris. We only found out about them in mid March and have been delighted to have them join with us in fellowship in Castlebar. They have a young family and look set to remain in town for the foreseeable future. Adam is a very keen and welcome addition to our little Bible group on Thursday nights. The studies themselves have also been going well, especially in regard to the growing sense of relationship amongst the few of us who are there. This has been very encouraging and further underlined the need to spend more time together. In addition to these things, it has been interesting to hear of other possible workers or those who are thinking about how they can be of help to us here, quite apart from the **Uricks** who are on their way....**God is at work.**

Please remember us as we meet simply and informally on the 5th, that the Lord would be glorified as we come together and that we would know much encouragement and unity. Margaret has offered her home to get us started and we hope that, very soon, it will be too small!

Since last September, **Nicola** has been studying at the Castlebar College of Further Education. Her health care support course has been very helpful and has led to various conversations about faith amidst the pressure of assignments and placements. During a class presentation on her various house moves in Ireland, somebody actually asked, "**How do you start a church?**" During this time of study, we have also been aware of the Lord's help in practical ways. A fellow ECM missionary offered her car to us while she is in Australia...a second car at just the right time. We still have it for a few more months.

As the summer comes in, we are looking forward to seeing more of God's hand in things at this significant time. Please pray for faithfulness and protection as we move forward.

Thankyou all for your partnership in this work, Lord bless,

Jonathan, Nicola, David and Sarah.



The Urich family—Ann, Jeff and Jade, moving soon to Claremorris.

Praise

- The sense of God's leading with the church-plant at this new stage.
- Nicola being able to finish her course in healthcare.
- The Zimbabwean family that moved to Claremorris.
- Helpful times at the Thursday Bible Study, deepening friendships.

Prayer

- The church meetings scheduled for **5th June**
- For the Uricks as they prepare to come after the summer from the USA.
- Guidance and help with our outreach efforts, especially as we talk on the doors with people or give out tracts and magazines.