

# McCracken Update

## July Newsletter 2018... 20th Anniversary!



Dear Friends...yes, it's true. This month, we are celebrating **twenty years of life and ministry in Ireland**. We well remember moving to Carlow in July 1998 to work with Carlow Bible Church,



where we spent five, formative, happy years, mostly with Irish people, in an Irish led church. During this time, our own house changed a bit with the arrival of David and then Sarah, now 18 and 16 years old. In 2003, we moved to Tramore, Co. Waterford and an ECM church-plant situation working with English, Australian, Dutch and German missionaries. At this time, Ireland was be-

coming home to many different nationalities, notably from Africa, and we have fond memories of our ten years in Tramore. In 2013, we made the big move out West to Claremorris, where we are now. Whilst Carlow and Tramore had work to join in with, here we faced into the practical job of starting a church from scratch. Looking back, this was quite a daunting prospect, but we praise God that today, we have a multi-national group in our "Calvary Church Claremorris" which includes people from Ireland, America, Brazil, Paraguay and Africa. On 3<sup>rd</sup> June, we celebrated our **second anniversary as a church**, enjoying time together with some good food and also reflecting on God's grace to us during this time. Ireland is an increasingly liberal state and more than ever before, it occurs to us how important it is to be involved in our Christian church family where we are all part of what He is doing at this time.



Whilst it is fitting to look back at times like these, we must also look ahead. We are planning to have a church table at the local **Agricultural Show on 5th August** where we hope to run a children's craft, as well as have helpful literature available. This is the 100th anniversary of the Show and there will be many people out with their families to enjoy the day. We will be giving out invitations at the Show for our children's clubs that incoming week. We have one estate in mind to have an hour long club on **8th and 9th August (3-4pm)**, with another club in the **Town Hall on the 10th (3-4.30pm)**. We trust that the local housing estate will be open to us being there and that we will be able to bring good clear Bible messages and some fun to the children.



**David** has been busy recently with his Leaving Certificate Exams and is very glad to see them through. His results come out in August and he hopes to pursue a sports studies course over in Castlebar. **Sarah** will be returning to school in September to start her Leaving Certificate after a year of projects, school trips and work experience. We are glad to say that the work in the West is expanding with new church-plants in Loughrea, Boyle and Longford town. We are glad to be part of this partnership with **Calvary Mission** and look forward to seeing more progress in the days ahead.

**Thankyou so much — Jonathan, Nicola, David and Sarah.**

### Praise

We're thankful for God's goodness over all these years and for those who have partnered with us in Carlow, Waterford and Mayo. Many people have been very faithful to us.

We're thankful too for the way in which God has brought our Claremorris church into being. Truly, He is building it and we want to remain faithful in these challenging days.

### Prayer

Please remember the development of the church and as we plan the August outreaches. It would be wonderful to see a new family join us soon.

It would also be great to see new workers involved in this growing church-planting movement in the West, but in other places too. Please pray for those who could be involved with us in Claremorris to see the work developed. There are clear opportunities.

For us as a family, that we would continue to know God's leading, help and protection.



**Personal contact details**—jnmccracken149@gmail.com Tel—00353 94 9372760 19 Rushbrook, Claremorris, Co. Mayo.

**ECM**—Ballymacoss Avenue, Lisburn, N.I. BT 28 2GX Tel. 028 92 666044