

November 6, 2005

Dear Praying Friends,

We are on mid-term break from classes this week. All the schools in Ireland take the week of October 31st off partially because it is the mid point between the beginning of school and Christmas and partly because of Halloween. This is a huge holiday here. The children trick or treat but the main events are the setting off of fireworks and the building of big bonfires.

All day Monday (31 October as they say here) children carted wood to an undisclosed location for the bonfire. Most home owners were more than happy to see scraps of wood (sometimes big ones) from recent home renovations disappear. It saves them having to pay to have it carted off.

The building of bonfires (a leftover of pagan celebrations) and the setting off of fireworks are illegal but that doesn't stop anyone. The fireworks were particularly spectacular, much better and more wide spread than any we would have seen on the 4th of July. None seem to use the 'safe & sane' variety, preferring instead the kind that blossom far into the sky.

The week break has given us time to investigate places outside Dublin and to get some school work done. The classes have been intense but we are very thankful for each of the courses. They have given us a purpose to our days as we try to absorb the culture. Going to an Irish Bible School has also helped us to make contact with believers from areas all over this island. Talking with them about their own conversion experience, about responses of their countrymen to the gospel and about their church encounters has been very good. PRAY that we would be able to gain helpful insight for future ministry here.

Doing what we can to help in the work of Jamestown Road Baptist Church has also been a welcome activity. The congregation is small (averaging 45) but many who attend faithfully have a deep love for Christ. Part of that is because it is not easy being a follower of Jesus in Ireland. Born-again believers have to be strong because they are looked on with much suspicion. The older generation is opposed to anything that doesn't support the organized church, and the younger generation wants nothing to do with any religion. Continue to PRAY for positive contacts with Irish people. Relationship is a key component to receiving any hearing for the gospel.

We are grateful to often be reminded of our support team, and to be able to pray for individuals, households and churches. Thank you for your believing prayer for us. To God be the glory!

Dean & Julia Langley  
Proverbs 1:33

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