

Dear Friends,

Good News! Nenagh (our city) is no longer a "Tidy Towns" black spot. Every year towns and villages all over Ireland are involved in a competition aimed at sprucing the place up for the sake of community pride as well as for the tourism industry. Last January, after the 2007 Tidy Towns judging was completed, the headlines of the local paper bemoaned the fact that Nenagh had been named the 2nd dirtiest town in the state. To counter this bad name, a real effort to pick up trash and plant flowers was made over the spring and summer. Volunteers were needed and since no expertise was required we fit right in. Nenagh still didn't win awards but the clean-up effort did take the town off the bottom of the list, and we were able to play a small part while meeting people.

The shop front effort is progressing but much slower than we Americans would like to see. Government paper work is more the reason than a lack of funds. In order to rent a property for church use, we have to apply to the city planners for permission to change the use of a particular site. Once all the documents are submitted the change of use process takes a minimum of eight weeks, as the officials decide whether or not to grant our request. It is painful working through all these details and there is no guarantee the renter will hold the property for us while the government has its way. PRAY not only that we will have patience and perseverance, but that these difficulties will give us opportunity with individuals, especially those in authority.

Despite these challenges Christ is still building His church in Nenagh! Things that we are currently PRAISING God for:

- Many contacts are developing friendships where there is freedom to ask who we are and why we are here. These interactions have shown that there is more to knowing God than the traditional Irish idea of religion.
- New individuals have started attending some of our meetings. Most are not yet believers but feel comfortable with our fellowship group, even though we discuss openly a relationship with Christ.
- Members of the Nenagh Baptist Group enjoy fellowshiping together. When one passes their driving test, the cell phone texts fly and we all rejoice, when another needs a ride it's arranged and when child care is needed, someone fills the void.

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2 Thessalonians 3:5
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*"The church's work is to prove to its worldly witnesses that it's Lord is living."
(Dallas M. Roark)*