

Dear Friends,

Some of you may recall last month our describing God's provision during the past year as 'little by little he is teaching us patience and trust'. We kind of thought the lesson might be over. It was not.

During a recent meeting with Tuttlebee's (our Irish partners, Matt & Jules), we expressed our excitement and expectancy over how God might provide. We anticipated the imminent planning permission from city officials to proceed with our shop front facility for the Nenagh Baptist Group (NBG). All of the paper work had been submitted and all of the initial responses have been positive. Surely God would provide us with this needed approval, would He not?

That afternoon, an official-looking letter came through the post. The words jumped from the page: 'the information submitted is not adequate to enable a decision to be made'. We are being asked to submit further information specific to how our activities will affect existing street parking and what kind of signage will be used. I have to admit we are somewhat puzzled by this action and request, as our original application addressed both of these topics with some specific detail. The patience & trust lesson resumes!

Our fears were two-fold: would there now be an additional 8-week delay (the submission cycle) as NBG pays monthly rent just to hold onto the facility lease option, or do we start all over again (with another location) as hopes for planning permission fade? Our architect has been a tremendous encouragement in allowing for a reduced fee, while charting our course through the all-too-typical bureaucracy. He has already responded to the request for information and estimates our delay will be four weeks rather than eight. It is good for us to continue learning at the Master's feet; please PRAY as we now trust there will be a March decision that will be favourable.

Finally, please remember the several individuals here who continue to express varying levels of curiosity and need (several for the first time this past month). Those that are interacting with scripture (and each other) show clear signs of renewal. PRAY that others observing this would follow their example.

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Genesis 50:19 & 20
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*"The best thing about the future is that it only comes one day at a time."
(Abraham Lincoln)*