

SEPTEMBER 2021

Colin & Ally Holmes, Ferrybank, Waterford

- o We are thankful for a good week when Ally and the kids went North to spend time with family- many sleep overs were had with various family members! Colin remained behind to read, pray and prepare to lead and preach into a number of issues in the season ahead.
- o We'd appreciate prayers for Anna, Eoin and Conor to be well supported in settling back into school in a time of Covid and with new teachers from 1 Sep
- o Colin will speak with his neurosurgeon on 15 Sept to discuss the delays to surgery and consider changing to the option of radiosurgery instead. Pray for wisdom and discernment- that God would make straight our paths.

- o We are thankful for a positive meeting with the planning team in church in which we laid down the challenge of developing as leaders and of sharing ministry and sharing the gospel more widely in the year ahead.
- o In September we will be meeting mostly in Ferrybank on Sundays, rather than just every other week. Pray for this to enable more people to be part of church and for the strength and resources needed to make this happen.
- o Pray for wisdom and patience - as we continue to seek to get alongside people beyond church meetings. Despite more freedom to do this there is a nervousness and reluctance for some about meeting people socially.
- o We have noted how our children have missed the company and encouragement of other Christian peers across the past 18 months. Normally we seek to take opportunities to foster this beyond our own church family, but this has not been possible. Pray for Ally as she seeks discernment in how to address this for kids in church and to share with them in a way that is more personal and relational.

- o Colin is no longer registered as a pharmacist, and we need to increase our team of financial supporters- individuals and churches- to help meet our current 25% deficit of pledged support. Join us as we look to God to provide and to collaborate creatively with our support team to address this challenge.

Jonathan and Nicola McCracken, Claremorris

Praise

- We give thanks that both David and Sarah passed their driving tests last month. With Covid restrictions and lessons being stopped during the year, it seemed a long time for them to get their test dates.

- Sarah got a cancellation place for student accommodation in Limerick which was a real answer to prayer. She will start on the 6th September.

- We give thanks that Wendy's husband, Tony, and young son, have started to come to church each week. It is great to see them come along as a family.

Prayer

- Pray for the church as we start a new season and as we begin to think about membership with those who come regularly.
- Pray as we plan a church leaflet for September/October and wisdom as to how that should go together as we advertise and share the church details.
- Pray for the students as they start back to college. Pray for safety with the covid situation. Pray for the Christian Unions in many of the colleges around Ireland that they might help and encourage many students.
- Nicola has had a tooth abscess recently which has been very troublesome. Pray for healing and that the nerve will heal.

Peter and Anna Crawford

We give thanks to God for his grace and help during this time of transition back to N Ireland for medical treatment. Peter has now started his cycle of immunotherapy treatment, and so far no serious side effects. We ask prayer for patience, as we wait on God for his answers and what He would have us do while back in the Coleraine.

Meanwhile please pray for :

Our friends in Greece in their various ministries through this long hot summer, with the regular outbreaks of fires in different places

Al and Rachel Macinnes arriving on the 26th. They will be staying in our apartment initially and settling their two girls in Greek school.

Anna's twice monthly zoom prayer gathering with a small group of Farsi speaking Iranian Christians.

She was able to involve our friend ""Sara" in Lisbon who is translating for her, and it is amazing to see how she has grown in her faith.

Please pray for her also, that God would provide all she needs in order to complete her PhD in Lisbon this year.

David & Samantha Gilkinson (Salou, Spain)

Praise God that Maria got a school place in the local public school. Although we received a disappointing answer initially, 5 days later we received a call from our first choice school offering Maria a place. We are so thankful. Please pray for her start on the 13th September, for a good teacher & a kind group of friends & that Maria will manage in Catalan. Pray that overall this will be a positive change for her & that it will help her to feel more settled in her life here. Please remember Luca too who will start a nursery for a few hours 4 days a week too. It will be a big change for him.

Praise God for our 5 weeks in NI at the start of summer. We were able to speak in lots of churches & catch up with many. Although the time ended up being busier than we had hoped & it ended up quite tough & unsettling on the kids at times, we are thankful to have made it back.

Ministry wise we had a youth camp week in July partnering with Word of Life. It was a challenging week for the family but a wonderful experience for the 29 young people from our church that went. There were lots of significant decisions made & we are rejoicing in that.

We also had a week long kids club, an 'English Bible School,' which was out of our depth organisationally but God really blessed our time with the 35 or so kids we had everyday. It was a real step up for our young people in terms of responsibility too, mostly because we did not have the help of summer mission teams, but that turned out to be a really good experience for them. Two families came to church the Sunday after because their kids attended the week. Praise God for this.

The end of the summer held our summer youth program filled with various activities such as Bible studies, English clubs, sports tournaments, beach worship sessions, mountain hikes, sleepovers and vision nights. We are praising God for a super bunch of young people. Pray for the weekly Saturday night program starting in September. Pray for us as we lead them in this coming year, for the huge responsibility & great opportunity we have for discipleship.

Stuart & Ellsye Rowell

Praise: A Momentous Year for Ellsye and me so we want to ask you to praise God with us for his Amazing Grace!

- we have had our 75th birthdays -how could this happen? I look in the mirror and wonder how someone so young could have deteriorated so rapidly!
- we celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary last month. It has been a Blast and I am grateful that God brought us together at Bible College in Wales and gave me a Proverbs 31 wife!
- we left Newcastle 30 years ago and arrived in Vienna in August with a wet camping trailer and a frightened family. These have been the best years of our lives being part of God's Big Story and we feel privileged to be still able to serve the Kingdom of God in the Balkans and Beyond.
- $75+50+30$ =Amazing Grace. It has been a journey with a few bumps along the road and many highs too, but our conclusion is "Great is your Faithfulness"

Prayer: Planning a trip for October/November

I believe Covid has used this devastating virus for his own redemptive purposes and I am looking forward to spending time with colleagues to hear their stories of God's faithfulness in bring home a bride for Jesus in hard times. My plan is to travel less and spend more time catching up with my special friends and hopefully make new ones too.

Thank you for your faithfulness in praying for us.

Charlie and Miriam Anderson ECMI

Hi folks well I am on my first trip praise God in about 2 years and although it started with some nerves because of all the travel requirements, God has been good and I have had no bother yet. I have added my itinerary and some prayer points so you can see where I have been. I would be grateful for your continued prayers. Thank you all. Charlie

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Information</i>
August		
20th Fri		Flight Dublin to Budapest - arrived safely and they let me in
21st Sat	afn/eve	Meeting Brad Pellish ECM USA and Hungarian contacts
22nd Sun		as above

23rd Mon	Morning	Review and Reflect Meeting Brad Pellish Car hire and Travel to Ljutomer, Slovenia, (4 hours)
	Evening	Meeting Alen Kerčmar Alen Kerčmar and family
24th Tues		
25th Weds	Morning	Travel to Ljubljana (2 hours)
	Afn/eve	Meeting ECM partner Diana and her church leaders
26th Thur	Morning	Sebastian and Gloria (Radovljica)
	aft/eve	Goran and Metka and their church plant
27th Fri	Morning	Pastor Peter Novak (Sarah Deacon's church)
	aft/eve	Tavel to Maribor, Bostjan and Lydia Travel to Varazdin, Croatia. (1.5 hours)
28th Sat	All day	Varazdin ECM Team Meetings Travel to Zagreb
29th Sun	tbc	Visit Church plants with Kostya Sovereign Grace Church, and meeting Pastor Mario
30th Mon	tbc	Meetings with, Mario and Kostya
31st Tues	morning 16.55-1900	Travel to Budapest (4 hours) Flight Budapest to Lviv
Sept		
1st Wed to 4th Sat		Various meetings with ECM Ukraine team and potential new partners.
4th Sat	evening	Flight to Krakow
5th Sun	All day	Meeting with ECM partners/Church Leaders and preaching. Travel to Mikolow (1 hour)
6th Mon	all Day	With Cackowski family.
7th Tue	morn/aft	Return to Krakow and meeting Lila Groth
	evening	Flight home via Edinburgh
8th Wed	morning	Home to Belfast.

Please pray

- that the Lord will use this time of visiting to bring encouragement and blessing
- that we will enjoy Christian fellowship as we chat, eat, laugh and pray together
- for insight as we reflect on what has been learned from the past 18 months and as we make plans for the future.

Praise God I am able to do this trip and keep praying for

- general travelling safety,
- necessary permissions to enter countries (avoiding isolation or quarantine)
- and for protection from covid.