



Canavans

Sowing the gospel * Watering the hearers * Reaping changed lives

IRELAND

Prayer Requests

1. Church to remain financially viable after nearly 1 year of strict lockdowns (no church services)
2. Joan - comforted with the loss of John
3. We are passing out thousands of tracts and reaching out online; please pray for fruit
4. Andrew and Shawn to finish raising support and come back to Ireland.

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JANUARY 2021 - Early in 2012, shortly after we began renting our present building, a mature, elegant couple appeared one Sunday morning. John was a doctor; Joan was an actress. Not too long before, John had attended medical conferences in the USA. A pentecostal doctor witnessed to John, and he began to consider the gospel. At a funeral, the Priest held up the wafer and wine, claiming authority to turn them into the actual body and blood of the Lord Jesus. John said within himself, "It is not true!"

They became dissatisfied with the watered down teaching in a Brethren church. Joan had seen the verses on the sign outside of our building. They decided to visit and have been here ever since. After faithfully attending Sunday

mornings for 2 years, we became friends. Joan was unsaved and I was unsure of John's salvation, though he professed to believe the gospel. John agreed to discipleship Bible studies. His salvation decision became clear. We met every Monday night for discipleship Bible studies for 2 years. After Joan was saved, they both were baptised and joined the church.

In 2015, the demonic influences that had been building within key members exploded into a power grab. As the Lord used the unwavering stand of Beth, Andrew, John, Joan and others we prevailed and the church survived. I have come to see it was a heaven sent purge. We arose spiritually stronger, more peaceful, more fruitful and more numerous than we had ever been before. John's faithfulness was key to the church's survival then and present growth now. In our attempt to leave behind a sustainable long term ministry, we then bought the church building God had so clearly led us to purchase. John signed every document and was indispensable to that process. John was a uniquely gifted, gracious and godly man who God greatly used.

In the spring of 2019, John was diagnosed with bowel cancer. As we prayed, God miraculously extended his life. Then God said it was time for John to come home. I held a 24 hour church prayer marathon for him in foolish protest. In the marathon, God told me he was taking John so clearly I could not resist any longer. I hurriedly created a series of salvation videos for our YouTube channel and the church website. On December 10, John went to be with the Lord. My best friend was absent from the body, but present with the Lord.

To say John was a well known, respected member of the community would be an understatement. We joyfully and defiantly disregarded the lockdown edicts and packed out the building with mourners. Irish people filled the building and stood in the street outside. Hundreds live streamed and within hours thousands of Irish people had viewed the funeral livestream. Though it was a spiritually wild, chaotic time...the Lord's presence sustained us. A whole lot of Irish people who have never heard the gospel heard the gospel that day and continue to hear to this day.

