



The Thatchers

Waterford, Ireland

April 2025

Dear Friends,

Apologies for this letter being almost a month late as we have been on a long arduous journey with our son Kevin and his wife Jamie concerning Kevin's situation of liver failure that I mentioned in our last letter. We have made a few journeys between Michigan and Ireland over the past few months. The Lord has blessed us with being able to be with Kevin for much of this intensive time in his life.

We left you in our last letter with Kevin having somewhat improved and was getting on day by day. He was then to embark in the process of the multiple appointments for liver pretransplant assessment and testing. This would normally take place on an outpatient basis over the course of several months. Believing Kevin to be stable and able to manage, we went back home to our life and ministry in Ireland at the end of January. At the beginning of the month of February we began working on our plans for summer outreach and ministry events. The Lord gave us good services in our church with the folks and some very special moments with the young people in our Sunday evening classes. Then along the way in February, Kevin became very unwell again and bed ridden. He had to go back to the hospital and found out he had picked up influenza A. Kevin was able to come home again but was really stuck in bed and this began to take a toll on his physical stamina. Lisa and I decided that we would fly back to try and be a help in any way that we could.

After being back with Kevin that first week in March, we saw him begin a rapid decline before our eyes to the point where we had to arrange and organize medical transport to get Kevin down to Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit nearly two hours away. This is one of only three hospitals in Michigan that do liver transplants and Kevin had a connection and point of contact established there already. Lisa and I following that ambulance on that Friday, the 15th of March, left the house immensely concerned with whether or not our son would see Monday morning. The special arrangement that was made with the local ambulance crew who knew Kevin from his time serving on the local fire department began a series of the miraculous and good hand of God at work. To shorten a very long story, what was to take place over the course of months assessing and testing to QUALIFY to be put on the list for transplant, took place all inpatient in four and a half days! Exactly one week from arriving in hospital, on Friday the 22nd the pretransplant coordinator come hustling into Kevin's room waving the much sought after letter of approval and confirmation that Kevin was now listed for transplant. The answers to prayer and blessings did not stop there. One week later on the next Friday the 29th Kevin was in surgery for 6 hours receiving his life saving liver transplant! Through much prayer and God's gracious hand, six weeks later (42 days) yesterday, on a Friday, the 25th of April, Kevin wheeled out of his hospital room and down the elevator and stood up and stepped into the car to come home!

Kaleb will be finishing up his first year of Bible college in Romania at the end of May. We are looking forward to having him back home again. Each of the girls are busy with work and the things that God has given them to do. We are thankful for all of the notes, prayer and financial gifts these past few months. Proverbs 25:11 says, "A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver". This has been a help and encouragement along the way. The Lord has been good to allow us to be able to be there for Kevin and in strengthening us during this time. Also, we have an updated prayer card. If you would like some, send me a note with a quantity and address to post them.

May the Lord find us faithful,
Don and Lisa Thatcher & Family



- Ireland's population, 4.5 million
- 34% of population 25 years old or younger
- Dublin's population over 1.2 million
- Waterford's population over 46,000
- 85% still claim to be Roman Catholic

Email:

thatchers@bimi.org

Sending Church:

Fostoria Baptist Church
8933 Fostoria Road
Fostoria, MI 48435
(989) 795-2185

Serving with:

Baptist International
Missions Inc.
P.O. Box 9
Harrison, TN 37341
(423) 344-5050

