

January 2022

2021 was a busy year for us as a couple. Strong lockdown measures in Ireland meant June homeschooled our five kids and I led Bible studies and sermons online. It has been wonderful for our church to be meeting in person again since September. Below are some updates on our children followed by what we have been up to and how you can pray.

Saoirse: Sixteen now, she has a part-time job in a local pizzeria. She started studying for her Leaving Certificate exams, which she will sit in summer 2023. It has been great to see her become people-centred during the lockdown reaching out to her friends and following the Lord for herself.

Mark: At fourteen he has been reading Scriptures for himself and growing in his understanding of people. He had some difficult relationships to navigate in school during last year and we praise God that he was able to mature in his understanding of himself and others. He is involved in athletics and hurling and enjoying being competitive.

Caleb: He is now twelve and has begun to pay more attention to life. He enjoys karate and athletics. He tends to fly a bit under the radar as the middle child. He's quiet and we don't always know what is going on but he is enjoying his final year in Primary school this year.

Eliana: Ten years old she is a very happy girl, full of love and acceptance of others despite her considerable learning difficulties. She had an educational assessment in recent months. In light of the results she will move out of her present class into a more suitable class for her limited abilities. Please pray for her **to find a few things that she would enjoy doing**. She is the most vulnerable of our children. Pray for **grace as we try to help her learn to use the gifts she has been given**.

Charis: She is now seven years old. She is quick, eager, and energetic. This little girl can't learn fast enough and wants to be big yesterday! Pray she will **learn to use the many gifts she has been blessed with wisely and develop**

compassion for others.

June: She is the woman wearing many hats. Parenting during lockdown was challenging but also rewarding. June is setting up administration structures for Living Hope Church to make the wheels turn more smoothly. She leads the women's ministry, which has 21 women. Her strength is one to one counselling particularly crisis counselling. She is also discipling two other women very closely using a discipleship course. On top of all that she is the academic administrator of the Opened Bible Academy in Ireland. If she had 48 hours in the day she'd love to see a Biblical counselling ministry form in the Republic of Ireland.

Ciaran: Regular preaching and pastoral duties keep me busy. Like so many churches we had to navigate the constantly changing restrictions and the implications for the church. By God's grace we have managed to stay mostly connected and look forward to not having restrictions soon. It has been a delight to see the first class in the Opened Bible Academy do so well and a second class begin next week. There is huge potential for this as a ministry to churches across Ireland. **Pray for wisdom for our level of involvement in OBA and IBI while also in pastoral ministry.**

Further Prayer Points:

Pray for more elders and deacons for the church.

Pray more members would start giving and serving freely from their relationship with the Lord.

My class in the Irish Bible Institute, (Life and Teaching of Jesus) begins January 19th. Please pray **for me to get used to the advanced technology** IBI has invested in for teaching a blended learning environment with some students in the classroom and others at home.

The Lord has answered prayer regarding the Opened Bible Academy by providing two men (Steve and Jason) to co-teach this term. They will be studying the historical books of the Old Testament. Pray **they will catch a vision**

for OBA to spread across Ireland.

Pray for me to have a **clearer vision** for Living Hope Church and develop **better communication**. These are not strong points for me but are needed for the church to grow in healthy ways.

Pray for the church to get to the point that it can **pay its own pastor**. There has been good progress over the years but has some way to go yet. We aim to set up structures so that any new pastor can easily transition into Living Hope Church.

We thank you for your continued support, prayer, and giving to partner with us in the work the Lord is doing here.

In His Grace,
Ciaran