



# The Thatchers

## Waterford, Ireland



- 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

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Dear Friends,

February 2024

Hebrews 1:1-2 tells us that "God...hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son." This my friends is a great truth full of assurance in an age of great global uncertainty and manifold "winds of doctrine" blowing around Christendom. What are some of the great truths that Jesus spoke? Well, He said: "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid." John 14:27. He also said in this same chapter of John in verse 3, "And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also." These are just two of the many things spoke by the very Son of God that are applicable for us as we live out our days on this earth. What a blessing it is to be at peace and know that heaven will one day be a reality for the believer. There are so many in Ireland who have yet to be at peace and have this assurance. That sad reality is that in our first world modern society in Ireland, many have taken on a post-Christian mindset and are seemingly unconcerned. Pray with us as we continue to reach the lost in Ireland in 2024.

Last week, I attended a pastor's fellowship meeting up in Dublin of independent Baptist missionaries. Along with the singing and preaching there was a brief discussion of a couple upcoming issues of great potential impact here in Ireland. After the meeting one missionary pastor, Les Hill, wrote this in an update and gave me permission to use it in my update letter as I wanted you to know of this and be praying with us concerning these serious matters.

On a political level, a few issues are happening right now that are alarming to say the least. After leading our country to redefine marriage in our constitution by referendum in 2018, our ultra-left wing government is now looking to redefine the family. By doing so, it opens the door to polygamy. They are also looking to remove from the constitutional references to the wife being in the home. The vote is in a few weeks, please pray for people to vote with their eyes open! Please pray for Ireland, as the deeper people are immersed in the filthiness of sin, it only makes it more difficult to evangelise them.

To maintain their left-wing position, the government are trying to pass a "hate crime" bill which essentially makes it illegal for anyone (Christians) to say anything against homosexuality. This extreme bill, which I have personally read, is much more progressive than the European bill it is based upon. It would allow the police to search our computers, even if we are accused of a "hate crime". It also is punishable by heavy fines and up to five years in prison. If this bill passes, Ireland will essentially be a totalitarian state.

We have Mother's day, St. Patrick's day and Resurrection Sunday all coming up in the month of March with opportunities for outreach as well as some special church activities around these events. There has been a new couple who have been coming fairly regular since the new year. He is Brazilian and has professed to be saved and she is Irish and has just recently professed to have gotten saved through some witness of her brother who is in New Zealand and then through some literature that I had given her upon their first visit at our church.

With much to be praying about here, we thank you for praying with us concerning these things.

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