

Mission: Motherland

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4 Months To Go!

Greetings to all our friends, family and investors! Rebecca, Violet and I are all doing very well and hope that you all are in the best of spiritual and physical health. I am writing this towards the end of August and I can't believe that we have just over four months until we plan to be in Ireland. We are hopeful that we will have all of our funds raised in just a few weeks and we will be able to purchase our tickets soon. There is so much left to do and we ask your prayers as we attempt to get everything done.

What Have We Been Up To?

What we've been up to for the last several weeks is traveling, traveling and more traveling. In the past few weeks we have traveled to Nashville, Atlanta, California, Missouri, and Virginia. We've actually just returned from a week long road trip to Virginia where we met with two congregations and visited with our good friends the O'Rourke's. You may recall that Ryan and Kelly O'Rourke were the first missionaries in Galway and the family that started the congregation there. We met them over social media several years ago and hit it off right away. When they found out they had to return to the U.S. we spoke with them about us taking over the work in Galway. We flew out to Ireland from Pohnpei and took a look at the work and decided to take it over. When we finally met them face to face it was like we were already old friends. We have only grown closer over the last two years and it was our great pleasure to see them. You may also recall that they went to Pohnpei almost a year ago to adopt a little baby boy whom they named Titus. It was so nice to be able to see how that little boy has grown. He is very healthy and happy and we loved to be able to see him again. After adopting Titus they found out they were expecting a little baby who they welcomed in early June. Baby Marcella is healthy and adorable. Watching Violet spend time with her was just precious. Violet immediately fell in love with Marcella



and was constantly talking about her. She would sit and entertain her as much as she could and if Marcella started fussing Violet would immediately find her pacifier and put it in her mouth (even if Marcella didn't want her to!). One of the great things about getting together with the O'Rourke's was we were able to talk much about the work and life in Ireland. They were able to give us valuable insight on what to expect and the best ways to get started when we arrive.

Our travel is not over yet. We have about two weeks in Dunlap and then we go to Henderson where Rebecca and I will both be presenting lessons to students at Freed-Hardeman University. From there we get back to Dunlap and have a day and a half before we travel to the Northeast where we will visit my family. We get back from there and then head to Atlanta where we will both speak at the World Missions Forum at Forest Park, then we head to Western Kentucky where Rebecca will be speaking at a ladies' day and I will be presenting the work to a congregation. After that we go back to Knoxville where I am performing a wedding and then it will be back to Dunlap for a few days before we are out again. Please keep us in your prayers as we travel.



When We Arrive

I remember when Rebecca and I were planning to go to Pohnpei I was thinking, “What do we do when we get there?” and “How do we start?” Those same thoughts are running through my head now as we prepare for Ireland. When we did arrive in Pohnpei the first thing we did was look for housing and then we started to look for furniture for our house. When we bought our kitchen table we met a man who would become our first Bible study, and convert. From that man we set up several other studies and eventually the work took off. I keep trying to remember the lesson from that is to just live our lives, meet people, be open about our faith and why we are in Ireland and then, without even trying, the work will get started.

One of the major differences in Ireland is that we will have to deal with immigration in a way we never had to in Micronesia. U.S. citizens are allowed to live and work in the FSM without a visa. That is not the case in Ireland. We will have to bring with us several documents showing why we

are going to Ireland, why there is a need for us to be there, the fact that we have money to support ourselves, and the fact that we have private insurance (the Irish government does not want foreigners to come and attempt to live off of Irish taxpayers).

As we are dealing with immigration we will also work on securing housing and a vehicle. The good news about that is we have the advantage of the internet. In Pohnpei, even today, you cannot find rental housing on-line. However, there are several realty companies in Ireland that advertise on the internet. That should help us get an idea of what is available and we should be able to start arranging to see places before we even get there. The same is true for a vehicle. We are budgeting for one month in a hotel and one month in a rental car, but we are hopeful that we will get into a house and vehicle much sooner than that. Of course, we would appreciate your prayers in that endeavor.

In addition to that we will begin getting to know the few members in Galway better. There are about 6 who are members of the church, or regular visitors to Sunday worship. We will start meeting with them in their homes and out socially to get to know them and discover the spiritual needs of the congregation. In addition to those members there are several families, mostly Nigerians, who attend a Friday night Bible class the congregation has. We will also get to know those families and, Lord willing, set up studies with them to bring them into the fold.

As you can see we have a lot on our minds as we prepare to move to Ireland. I haven't even talked about all the things we have to do just to get there! We are so thankful to have so many good brethren behind us and supporting us as we make this transition and head to the field. We could not have done the work in Micronesia without you, and we will not be able to do the work in Galway without you either. I ask, again, that you add us to your daily prayer list.



Pics from top: Housing options we've found online, the church when we were in Galway.