

Matthews Newsletter



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21 November 2008

Celbridge Second Sunday Prayer Meeting

Please continue to pray for these monthly times of prayer for the spiritual needs of our village. Last month we had a very encouraging time together in prayer. We meet again Sunday Dec 14. Pray that we are open to pray as God's Spirit leads, and also that we are open to any actions we may be lead to take through our times of prayer.



School Days

Patrick and Julie are settling into college well, and enjoying their studies. Please

pray for safety as they travel in and out of the city on buses and trains. Patrick has already had an accident while cycling home from the train station. Thankfully, his injuries were not too bad, though it did take the medical staff well over an hour to clean the gravel out of his hands. He has healed up well but still has a lump on his little finger which may require surgery.

Brian has adjusted well to secondary (high) school. He has made some good friends and is enjoying all the different subjects. Colm continues to do well in school, and recently enjoyed completing a project for the young scientist competition. Please pray for the boys and for our interactions with the school and other parents, to be opportunities for grace. Martha has recently joined the PTA in Brian's school, in order to have more input there.

Scott is getting along well with being home schooled, though he misses his brothers. He and Sarah have fun together. Though she doesn't officially start til next year, she does some work with us now.



The Economy

Ireland is experiencing an economic downturn similar to that in the US, and

so much of the rest of the world. House prices are falling, unemployment is rising for the first time in years, and many recently arrived immigrants are returning to now greener pastures at home. Though not totally unexpected, it does come as a shock to many who had got used to the up-market lifestyle, and had bought into Ireland's new materialism. Pray that the current harder economic times may serve as a wake up call, and cause people to reevaluate what is truly important.

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“least evangelized spot on earth”



Christianity is declining in Europe to the extent that it has been described as the “least evangelized spot on earth” Less than four percent of the total population in Europe is evangelical and in most European countries Ireland included the percentage falls to less than one percent.

What do I mean by Evangelical?

The word “evangelical” is floated around in churches, the media and particularly in this year’s election but many have no idea what an evangelical is. Many Christians themselves still have a hard time agreeing on what exactly defines an evangelical. Ellison Research asked the average adult American what they believe is an “evangelical Christian.” Thirty-six percent of them said they had no idea. Six percent of Americans said evangelicals are defined according to their political worldview. These people said evangelicals are conservative, ultra-conservative or radical right, anti-homosexual, Republican, highly involved in politics, etc. So here is my definition of an evangelical. It is a three-fold definition: " An Evangelical believes: (1) the Bible is authoritative in faith and practice; (2) in a conversion to believe in and follow Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord through rebirth by the Holy Spirit); (3) in sharing this message of faith with others through evangelism and social witness." In a nut shell what I mean by an Evangelical is someone who makes the Gospel of Jesus Christ central to his or her speaking, thinking, and living.

Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

I have been thinking about what Jesus said in Matthew 6:10 and how we should pray. Another word for God’s “kingdom” is God’s “Rule” so lately I have been praying that Jesus would come and rule in my life and in the lives of those I come in contact with, and those I am praying for. So when you pray for us here in Ireland you could be saying to the Lord; **“Your will be done in Ireland as it is in heaven.”**

Prayer Requests

In everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. (Philippians 4:6)



As mentioned, pray for our monthly Celbridge prayer meetings, but even more, pray for the light of God’s presence to break through the darkness here in Celbridge. Pray that as a family we shine the light of Jesus to all we meet. Do continue to pray for our financial situation, that we would have enough to meet our needs. Pray for the people we will be speaking to in our Christmas outreaches next month. Pray that we continue to grow in love for our God, for each other, and for those around us.

Let us Pray

We pray regularly for each of you, our friends and churches that sponsor and pray for our family and ministry. So if you have specific prayer request we would consider it a privilege to pray for you. Just drop us a note or e-mail with any prayer request.

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