



3 YEAR UPDATE



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As we complete our third full year of ministry in Derry, we wanted to pause and share a broader picture of what God has been doing—not only over the past year, but across the last three years. We are deeply grateful for your prayers, encouragement, and faithful partnership in the Gospel. What follows is not a report of our efforts, but a testimony of God's grace, patience, and steady work in spiritually difficult soil.

LABORING TOGETHER: When we arrived in Derry, **Derry Baptist** was averaging **10–15 people** on a Sunday. The church had been faithfully shepherded by **Pastor James Wilson**, who had already invested **nearly ten years of ministry** here before our arrival. He became pastor following the church's planting by the **Snode family**, American missionaries who laid an important foundation for the work. For many years, Pastor James labored in a spiritually challenging context, carrying a vision to see **DBF become a strong, healthy, fully indigenous church**, and to see it used by God to **reproduce other churches throughout the region and beyond**. This vision was sustained through prayer, perseverance, and a long-term commitment to the people of Derry. From the very beginning, our desire has been to **labor together as a team**—thankful for what God had already done, while praying that He would allow the work to grow, mature, and more effectively reach the **majority local Irish Catholic community** with the Gospel. We continue to pray for **more laborers**, raised up locally or called from overseas, so that together we might see the church strengthened and positioned for church planting in **Derry, Donegal, and beyond**.

Today, we are encouraged to see tangible answers to those prayers. DBF now averages around **50 people each Sunday**, with a **record attendance of 112** this past year. In **2025 alone**, we welcomed **over 180 visitors**, many of whom had never attended a Bible-believing church before. When combined with the ministries of DBF and the **Grásta** Outreach Centre, we are now ministering to **75+ individuals weekly**—a number that reflects steady, year-by-year progress. Additionally, during 2025, over **90,000 tracts** were distributed through our various outreach efforts.

We praise God that this growth has not been merely numerical. Over the past year, **three people trusted Christ**, and several others have been involved in ongoing discipleship. There is a growing hunger for God's Word and a seriousness about following Christ that has been deeply encouraging. Year after year, we continue to see steady, measurable growth, giving us confidence that the Lord is faithfully building His church.



Old Building



A CHURCH LEARNING TO TAKE OWNERSHIP

One of the clearest evidences of health has been the way people are beginning to take ownership of the work. The number of individuals serving faithfully has grown to **over a dozen**, with new people helping in music, children's and youth ministries, media, set-up, and other areas. The core team continues to strengthen, and more people than ever before are stepping into responsibility with consistency and joy.

We are also encouraged to see **new men and teens leading publicly**—reading Scripture, praying, and growing in spiritual confidence. These may seem like small steps, but they represent important progress toward maturity and future local leadership.

Local giving has also increased. While we still have a ways to go before offerings reach a fully sustainable level, seeing local giving grow from approximately **\$5,000 to \$30,000 annually** has been a significant encouragement. The church's building fund has also continued to grow, reminding us that God is moving His people toward long-term responsibility and vision.



GRÁSTA OUTREACH: REACHING THE HARD-TO-REACH

The opening of the **Grásta (GRACE) Outreach Centre** in October 2025 has been one of the most strategic advances of the past three years. Through Grásta, we have connected with **dozens of children, teens, and adults**, many from the **Irish Catholic nationalist community**—a group historically difficult to reach due to the city's complex religious and political history.

Through kids' clubs, youth clubs, Bible studies, and outreach events, the **Gospel is shared every week** in an environment where trust is slowly being built. Several individuals have visited DBF as a direct result of Grásta connections, and many relationships remain ongoing. Most who attend Grásta do **not yet have a salvation testimony**, reminding us that this ministry requires patient, faithful sowing over time.

The **mission teams who served with us in 2025** played a direct role in this progress—helping with the Grásta building, engaging in outreach, and forming relationships that continue today. Some who first connected through those teams are still attending DBF or participating in Grásta ministries.



TRAINING & MULTIPLICATION

This year also opened new doors for leadership development as I began teaching in an **online Bible college** serving Irish and British men, led by national pastors. Through this opportunity, I've been able to **invest in five men** preparing for ministry. While this represents a small part of our overall work, it aligns closely with our heart to see leaders raised up locally and regionally for long-term Gospel impact.



THE BIGGER VISION AHEAD

Our long-term vision remains clear:

- To see **DBF built into a strong, fully indigenous church**—self-supporting, self-governing, and self-propagating
- To continue strengthening and expanding the **core leadership team**, raising up local men and women for ministry
- To more effectively reach the **local Irish community** with the Gospel
- To prayerfully pursue wisdom regarding a **more permanent building**, when God opens that door
- To see **churches planted across the border** in the Republic of Ireland
- To facilitate **mission teams and internships**, helping others discern God's call while strengthening the work here

We are thankful for the ongoing **partnership with Pastor James Wilson** and continue to pray that God would raise up **more laborers**—men and women who will serve together as a team to see the northwest of Ireland reached with the Gospel.



RESIDENCY & LONG-TERM MINISTRY

We are thankful to share that our visas were **renewed for another three years**, allowing us to continue living and ministering here without interruption. Looking ahead, it remains our **goal to pursue permanent residency and citizenship** over the next 2–3 years under the current system, which would give us greater liberty, flexibility, and security to serve—particularly as we pursue church-planting efforts across the border in the Republic of Ireland in the future. Please pray for wisdom and favor as immigration policies are currently under review. Proposed changes could significantly extend residency timelines, and we are asking the Lord that we would be **grandfathered under the existing framework**. We trust God's sovereignty in this process and are grateful for His continued provision and guidance.

HONEST CHALLENGES & ONGOING PRAYER

We also want to be transparent. This is spiritually dark ground. At times, the need feels overwhelming, and progress can feel slow—often marked by steady advance rather than visible breakthrough. We continue to pray for unity, for more people to step up in service and giving, and for deeper Gospel breakthrough—especially among the Irish community.

Please pray with us for:

- **Wisdom** as we consider future building needs, and for local offerings to continue increasing to a sustainable level
- **More laborers** raised up locally
- **Dozens of individuals** we are connected with to come to saving faith
- Continued **endurance, faithfulness, and unity** in the work
- **Clarity** to pursue God's perfect will and not be diverted by internal or external pressures
- **Grace** to raise four godly, loving, grounded, spiritually healthy daughters, and for a strong, united marriage

And yet, year after year, we are watching God answer specific prayers—many of the very requests we asked you to pray for last year. That gives us confidence that He is at work, even when the fruit is still developing.

We cannot adequately express how grateful we are for your partnership. Your prayers, financial support, and encouragement are bearing fruit in ways that are sometimes quiet, often slow, but real! Thank you for standing with us as God continues to work here in the northwest of Ireland.

