



Quon Stothers Journey

Berkeley / Los Angeles / Ireland

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Newsletter March 2009

Refreshed and ready for another year . . .

Three and a half weeks went quick and we are back to our home in Belfast. We got back on Saturday, 7 March, and the Presbyterian Church of Ireland Moderator (the head spokesperson for the year) spoke at our "civic service" celebrating 140 years at Crumlin and Tennent Streets. People brought family members; community leaders and politicians attended. When was the last time a city council member or member of congress attended your gathering? After a few days of jetlag and shedding a cold we are back in our routine of visitations.

This coming Saturday our church will host a St Patrick's Day celebration with a dance group, a music



Our families and friends welcomed us warmly and full of love.

group, and Irish stew. For several years Crumlin Road hosted this event and invited the neighboring Catholic Church. This will be Ward and my first opportunity to meet the "neighboring Catholics".

Our first "Tea, Talk and

Pray" session was held at Edenbrooke School and our postcards will go home with the students this week to invite their parents to meet with us. One staff worker poked her head in and said "Can I ask any questions?" "Yes", "Well there is no God or what

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Special prayer points

PRAISE FOR Dr. Berger the family tooth puller extraordinaire for painlessly removing Ward's abscessed tooth.

PRAY FOR Ward and Marda's prayer time at the local school.

PRAY FOR Ward's health and commitment to physical therapy for better mobility.

PRAY FOR the next phase of ministry at the Car Boot sale. Better attendance at worship since closure/more parking.

PRAY FOR cross community openings for dialogue desired but dormant.

Desmond and Roberta have moved into a bungalow, a one story house

Crumlin Road missionaries: Mark, Peter, and Rachel. Rev Drennan came back with an African illness. Pray for complete recovery.

College Avenue Presbyterian Church in Oakland Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) working now.

PRAY for sustained support in 2009.



Visited Matilde Avilez (and Jean Williamson), two faithful Christians up in years

choosing hope over fear

happened at the barracks wouldn't have happened." Hard question.

Some of you have read that a faction of the IRA has killed two soldiers at the Army base North of Belfast and a policeman in Armagh a day later. The news is reporting "we are not going

back to the Troubles" but our people are saying it brings back fresh wounds. Ward was asked to lead the midweek Bible study on a theme that will help people. Across the country rallies have taken place protesting this return of terrorism.

Five weeks in California

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was planned but the moderator's visit changed our schedule. Next year five weeks! I was running at 200 miles per hour and Ward was exhausted by the complexity of things. It didn't help that he came home to California with that abscessed tooth and after three dentist consultations, it had to be pulled. Then his eye pressure was high and drops were given on top of the antibiotics for the tooth, and then his urologist said good PSA score but bladder weakening. To top it off, rats were needing trapping, his unfavorable compulsive chore. I had help from my sorority sister Jean Woodruff who came the last week we were at home and helped on many fronts. Taxes, financial chores, driver license renewal, cars to shed, water in the basement, replastering the bathroom, missing drawer handles, a handout to type, and a Costco run to make. Relaxing visit to Los Angeles and to Napa, bookclub, breakfast at Rick and Anne's, Cheesecake Factory, El Cholo, Daimo, Somerset twice, Ici ice cream, Melvin cooked five great meals, dim sum, olallieberry pie, and I cooked corned beef which the Irish don't have and don't cook. It's true, try googling it.

Serendipity: Met Bill Beatty at the post office and met Mary Negaeli at the "Church and State in the Obama Era" lecture in which Scotty McLennan mentioned the Williamsburg Charter completed 20 years ago by Os Guinness. Woodruffs and I met Os Guinness in 1970 a few months apart while separately attending L'Abri as students. Serendipity again during the birthday party we held for Tim Nuveen our relatively new friend who turned 75. Tim brought his

friend Mary Lou Kappel, whom we discovered worked in Young Life with Arlene Lui, my high school church advisor! This was meaningful since I had been looking to find Arlene for many years to thank her for how she influenced my life.

So all in all it all got done and a few surprises to boot. We've added a few more friends to our newsletter list. Thank you for your interest in our work and your LUV!



Tea for the Moderator's visit