



Hello

My name is Richard Thompson, and I am the director of BCM (Bible Centered Ministries) here in Ireland. It is my pleasure to send you greetings from Ireland to the US, a country that has long supported our work here, and also the birthplace of many who have answered God's call to come and serve here. Indeed, it was two American ladies who founded BCM Ireland, back in 1965.

We thank the Lord God that He has continued over the years, even to this day, to work through BCM Ireland. Our main ministries are children's camps and clubs, as well as teaching and training for Sunday school teachers. We also manage a large retreat centre that Christians from all over Ireland make use of throughout the year. We have the pleasure each year of seeing many children and young people both come to put their trust in Jesus and grow in Him. It was through a children's club run by BCM that I myself came to trust Jesus as my personal Saviour and the BCM camps in the following years which helped me establish my walk with Him.

In the past, we have had many regular Bible clubs around the country, reaching hundreds of children each week. However, as time has moved on, many of the missionaries have retired or moved home, meaning that many of these clubs no longer exist, but the need continues to increase. We depend on many volunteers, who do a tremendous job and are a blessing to many. There is a great need however to have more 'Fulltime Missionaries' to run regular clubs and camps and to organise and lead the volunteers, giving them the support that they need. Given the small number of Evangelical Christians in Ireland, raising the necessary funds to allow for this remains one of the harder parts of our role.

While Ireland was once known as the "Land of Saints and Scholars", things have changed quite a lot over the past few decades. While in name it remains predominantly Roman Catholic, only 18% of people now attend mass regularly. More troubling, the second largest 'faith group' in Ireland, outnumbering all other denominations, is now "no faith". Both of these facts point to a big spiritual need in our land. Evangelical Christians make up approximately 1.5% of the population here, making it the country with the lowest percentage of Evangelical Christians in the English-speaking world!

With all this in mind it was such an encouragement when we heard from John and Kelly regarding their call to Ireland. They have visited us here and from talking and sharing with them we believe that in their answering God's call many more here will be reached. To have someone with John and Kelly's experience and leadership ability, particularly in children and young people's ministries come and focus on reviving our clubs and establishing new ones is such an answer to prayer.

Thank you for taking the time to consider supporting John & Kelly and family in their call to Ireland. If the Lord leads you to do so, may I take this opportunity on behalf of BCM Ireland to welcome you on board as part of our team here.

May you know and experience God's abundant blessing.

Richard Thompson
BCM Ireland Director

