

What an encouragement it's been to gather on Wednesdays for food, fellowship and Bible study this winter!



## Dear pastors/supporting churches,

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Ah, that'll never happen to us. Admit it - you've thought it or you've said it at some point. Well, it turns out that one thing we thought would never happen to us did, in fact, happen to us - our Irish bank account was drained dry by an online thief! We were in shock. We felt violated. We were angry. Honestly, we were riding a roller coaster of emotions for days.

In the midst of the whirling emotions, we realised that we had to hand everything over to the Lord. The burden was simply too heavy for us to carry. It was comforting to know that there were loads of people praying for the stolen money to be refunded. Several weeks passed. Then, one morning, I logged in to our account to check our balance. As I scrolled down the page, I could hardly believe my eyes! All of the stolen money - down to the penny - had been refunded to our account. We cried! We hugged! We praised God for His faithfulness! We thanked Him for all the prayers that had been offered on our behalf! That morning, a massive weight was lifted off our shoulders. A huge thank you to all who prayed for our family and checked in to see how we were doing. We appreciate so much your kindness, love and friendship.

God continues to work incredibly through our services. Here's just one example: nearly 100 "unique" faces were present for our two Christmas Eve services. We're thankful for several visitors who attended on that day. Our Wednesday Bible studies have been gaining momentum as well. Recently, 25 adults and children crowded into our house for food, fellowship and a wonderful time in God's Word.

It's the middle of February and daffodils are springing up and even some trees are starting to bud. Spring is a refreshing time of the year after the overcast, dark days of winter. Signs of spiritual growth are sprouting up, too, with several expressing an interest in starting one-on-one discipleship. We're also excited to see others - some who only recently started attending church - stepping up to serve the Lord.

Believe it or not, we will celebrate our 8th anniversary in Ireland on March 8th. Where has the time gone? We praise the Lord for His faithfulness through the years. We stepped out in faith the day we left Ohio and He's always provided for our every need. Thank you for your faithfulness, as well, through your prayers and giving. Words can't express how grateful we are for your partnership in ministry.

The Staleys

Serving in the Republic of Ireland