

Dear Friends and Family,

Christmas 2025

Our church Christmas theme this year is "O Holy Night!" As we settle our hearts and minds upon this Christmas season, we reflect upon the peace and holy hush that descended upon this earth when Christ was born. Isaiah 9:6 says, "Unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given... and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace."

As the year began in Gospel Baptist Church, the Lord brought in several new folks who have continued with us. We have a new dynamic of families with children who are not familiar with the Bible. To help these families, we have changed the children's Sunday school hour to the second hour as we have higher attendance then. We have since seen a marked improvement in their understanding of Christ, His Word, and how it applies to their daily lives.



In May-June, we were in America and celebrating the wonderful union of Josiah and our dear daughter-in-law, Caroline. It was a beautiful **wedding** ceremony in Florida! We were able to get acquainted with the Farley family (Caroline's family) as well. How special to be joined by dear friends and family at the wedding, including folks who travelled from Ireland to share in our joy! Josiah and Caroline are enjoying the special beginnings of married life together. We love hearing the normal news as well as their future plans. They plan to start deputation soon and return as

missionaries to Ireland!! During this time, we were also able to see Mom and take care of a few things she needed. When we returned home to Ireland, we went straight into a very busy summer with Les working with an intern, **Sean**, the son of one of our missionary friends.



In August/ September, my dear mom, **Pat Tobin**, started to experience a bigger change in her Alzheimer's. We felt it best that I go and check on her and see what our new responsibilities as daughters should be. Mom's overall speech was quite limited, but as a testimony and praise to the Lord, Mom's spirit and words became alive when we sang hymns together. Mom was walking and eating slowly, but was still somewhat independent. This was mom's seventh year since her diagnosis, and she has been in a special care facility in Tomah, Wisconsin, for the past three years. My sister, Heather, lives in that town, which has made it so much easier to check on and advocate for Mom. It was also a blessing to have the dear church family of Tomah Baptist Church look in on her. Mom had definitely begun her decline, but it was not dramatic at this point. Then, to our surprise, she took to her bed a few weeks after I

came home in September. It was quite sudden, and within two months, the Lord took our precious mom home. We are in a tender season of missing her, but we are also thankful that her struggle is over.

I was able to spend a little time with Josh in Watertown, Wisconsin, in September. This did my mama heart a world of good! Josh is in his junior year at Maranatha. He has had a fantastic year in his Voice Pedagogy/Music major. Josh won a college campus music award this year! He also started a couple of new jobs, adding to the private voice and violin lessons he teaches. He teaches two music classes for primary students each week at a small private school, and he works on Saturdays at his local Culver's. I was able to attend church with Josh in Jefferson, Wisconsin. He is very much enjoying the ministry there, which is being interim pastored by a Baptist World Mission board member. Josh had something special happen in September; he began a courtship with a young lady! It was a joy to meet Madison and become better acquainted with her.



Hannah is in her senior year (sixth year) in Ireland!!! She has embraced her homeschool experience, as she sets her personal goals and paces herself towards the finish line. Hannah is my right-hand woman when it comes to organizing, helping at home, and ministry responsibilities. God has given Hannah a very special way with children and young teen girls. She has been teaching the music program at our church, For His Glory Music School. She has eight piano students and continues to add more each year! They are all progressing and playing in Gospel Baptist church. Hannah continues her studies in music in our Tuesday Missionary Music co-op, which we host bi-weekly at our church. She also loves playing the traditional instrument of Ireland, the harp. **Hannah** looks forward to

graduating in May, pursuing a secretarial degree here, and working alongside the ministries here in Ireland.

John is 14 (nearly 15) and growing like a weed! He loves playing football with his dad and men from a recovery home (formerly Reformers Unanimous). John still amazes us with his art drawings as well as his musical abilities. **John** is in ninth grade, and he is our last homeschooler!! He took a very special trip with his dad to Cairo, Egypt, in November! Les takes every one of our children on a special trip before they graduate. Les was invited to teach at a Bible seminary conference, and what a wonderful experience it was for both John and his dad!



As we close, we remember each year is a gift from our Lord. Each moment with family and friends is a gift to be treasured. At this time of reflection, let us worship and prepare to honour our Lord and Savior this Christmas.

Love,

The Hills