

PROVIDENCE CHURCH Prayer for the Nations

**IRELAND**

General Information

- Population: about 6.4 million.
- Politically, Ireland is divided between the Republic of Ireland, which covers just under five-sixths of the island, and Northern Ireland, a part of the United Kingdom, which covers the remaining area and is located in the north-east of the island.
- The island was converted to Christianity from the 5th century onward.
- Immigration and secularization has had a negative effect on the church.

Challenges

- Research published in 2006 by the Evangelical Alliance Ireland (EAI) shows that the number of evangelicals tripled from 10,000 in 1980 to 30,000 in 2006. However, evangelicals still make up less than 1 percent of Ireland's population.
- More than 60 percent of evangelical churches have started in the last 25 years; 40 percent in the last 10. Nearly half claim no denomination.
- A classic symbol of Ireland is the shamrock, a three-leaf clover. There is an old folk tale about how Patrick used the shamrock in order to explain the difficult concept of the Trinity to pagans of Ireland.

Pray

- Missionaries Christ for Ireland
- Discipleship work among the missionaries there
- The Irish Bible Institute (IBI) has also played a key role in the church growth. Remarkably, IBI is "the first major evangelical Bible college since the Puritans lost control of Trinity College, Dublin, in the 1630s.
- Jeff Rose, reformed open air preacher, takes a team each year to Dublin to evangelize.

Reference

- <http://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2007/april/7.21.html>
- <http://www.christforireland.org/?i=11675>