

PROVIDENCE CHURCH Prayer for the Nations

Lithuania

General Information

- Population: 3 million.
- It is situated along the southeastern shore of the Baltic Sea, to the east of Sweden and Denmark. It borders Latvia to the north, Belarus to the east and south, Poland to the south, and Kaliningrad Oblast (a Russian exclave) to the southwest.
- Believers and clergy suffered greatly during the Soviet occupation, with many killed, tortured or deported to Siberia.
- On 11 March 1990, a year before formal break-up of the Soviet Union, Lithuania became the first Soviet republic to declare the restoration of independent State of Lithuania.
- Catholicism has been the majority since the the end of the 14th century. Some priests actively led the resistance against the Communist regime (symbolized by the Hill of Crosses).

Challenges

- As per the 2011 census, 77.2% of Lithuanians belonged to the Roman Catholic Church
- Country has the highest suicide rate in the world.
- Some estimate that the average Lithuanian female has seven abortions in her lifetime. According to 2006 statistics, about 23 percent of all pregnancies are aborted in the country. Gitanas Savanoris, a member of Šilute Evangelical Baptist Church, laments that Lithuanians "continue to lead the world in suicide and alcohol and in drunk driving. [Lithuanians] still see abortion as an assurance of not having more children, not murder.
- Less than 2 percent of the country's 3.6 million people ever hear the Gospel message, according to missions researchers' estimates.

Prayer

- Milton Magalhaes ministers in Lithuania's capital, Vilnius. The International Mission Board worker and his family have a vision to help plant 12 churches in the country within the next 12 years.
- Hope in Jesus Christ would replace the culture of death in this country.

Reference

- <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lithuania>
- <http://www.bpnews.net/printerfriendly.asp?id=29185>