

PROVIDENCE CHURCH Prayer for the Nations

Netherlands

General Information

- Population: almost 17 million.
- The European part of the Netherlands borders the North Sea to the north and west, Belgium to the south, and Germany to the east; and shares maritime borders with Belgium, Germany and the United Kingdom.
- The Netherlands is a geographically low-lying country, with about 20% of its area and 21% of its population located below sea level, and 50% of its land lying less than one metre above sea level. This distinct feature contributes to the country's name: in Dutch (Nederland=low land).
- During WWII, there were thousands of Dutch who risked their lives by hiding Jews from the Germans, as recounted in *The Hiding Place* by Corrie ten Boom.
- After The Netherlands declared independence with Spain, it adopted Calvinism as a quasi-state religion (although never formally), but practiced a degree of religious tolerance towards non-Calvinists.

Challenges

- The Netherlands is one of the most densely populated countries in the world.
- 42% of the country is irreligious.
- 29% is Roman Catholic and 19% is protestant.
- The Protestant Church of the Netherlands (PKN) forms the largest Protestant denomination, with some 12.3% of the population, down from 60% in the early 20th century.
- Protestants are comprised mostly of Dutch Reformed Church (which then represented roughly 8.5% of the population) and the Reformed Churches in the Netherlands (at that time 3.7% of the population) and a smaller Lutheran Church, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in the Kingdom of the Netherlands (0.1%). Since the 1970s these three churches had seen a major decline in adherents and had begun to work together.
- The Church embraces religious pluralism.

Prayer

- Members of the WESTERN MEDITERRANEAN CLUSTER in NETHERLANDS share, "We would deeply appreciate continued intercession for us as we try to get a Bible discussion group off the ground.

Reference

- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Religion_in_the_Netherlands
- <http://imbeurope.org/pray/beginning-a-bible-discussion-group-in-netherlands/>