

PROVIDENCE CHURCH Prayer for the Nations

GEORGIA

General Information

- Population: almost 5 million.
- Capital: T'bilisi.
- Located at the crossroads of Western Asia and Eastern Europe, it is bounded to the west by the Black Sea, to the north by Russia, to the south by Turkey and Armenia, and to the southeast by Azerbaijan.
- Georgia was occupied by Soviet Russia in 1921, becoming the Georgian Soviet Socialist Republic and part of the Soviet Union. After independence in 1991, post-communist Georgia suffered from civil unrest and economic crisis for most of the 1990s. This lasted until the Rose Revolution of 2003, after which the new government introduced democratic and economic reforms.
- A large majority of Georgia's population (83.9% in 2002) practices Orthodox Christianity. The Georgian Orthodox Church is one of the world's most ancient Christian Churches, and claims apostolic foundation by Saint Andrew

Challenges

- Evangelicals are effectively comprised of Baptists and Pentecostal/charismatic groups, but more and more congregations from both streams wish to remain independent of denominational affiliation.
- Evangelicals are not growing, but they are at least shrinking slower than the overall population.
- The Orthodox Church in Georgia is usually one of the biggest opponents to evangelistic efforts and discourages people from studying God's Word. In fact, church leaders recall once when they were handing out Bibles in a village, the local Orthodox priest gathered each one of the Bibles and burned them in the central square. But in this environment, God is blessing after years of sowing seed. Other IMB missionaries have lived and ministered in Georgia since it opened after the fall of Communism. They helped prepare the soil for the growth that is now being seen (From IMB site. Link below).

Prayer

- Village unemployment/underemployment is nearly 100%. Few congregations have the resources to support pastors and often have dilapidated church buildings.
- Pray for creative ideas for church meetings and outreach, and pray for God's provision in the daily needs of pastors and church members living in poverty (Operation World).
- Pray for churches to thoughtfully share the gospel with young people in relevant ways.

Reference

- [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Georgia_\(country\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Georgia_(country))
- <http://www.operationworld.org/geor>
- <http://europeanpeoples.imb.org/stories/view/church-in-georgia-bapt>