

COUNTRY PRAYER FOCUS

MAKING "...RIVERS IN THE DESERT."
Isaiah 43:19

momentum > europe

November 2017

Prayer Focus: Ireland



Capital City: Dublin
Government: Parliamentary Republic
Population: 5,011,102 (July 2017 est.)
Major People Groups: 82% Irish, 9.5% other white, .7% Irish Travelers, 2% Asian
Religion: 78% Catholic, 2.7% Church of Ireland, 1.3% Muslim, 1.3% Orthodox, 10% none
Language: English, Irish

Spiritual Climate: Moving from strong Roman Catholic traditions and beliefs to a more secular outlook in life and practice. Many will still claim some connection to the Catholic Church especially for marriages, christenings and burials but not as an impact on daily life.

From our ministry directors in Ireland:

David Wilson, the National Director for Agape Ireland (Cru)

When Christ gave his commission to the eleven apostles, "Go and make disciples of all nations", Ireland was part of what he had in mind. We constantly return to the question: How will Ireland be discipled – what are the **key buttons** to push so Ireland will take heed, sit up and listen?

Our universities are one of those key "buttons to push". Whenever social and political organizations want to change the country they head for the universities. Bringing the gospel of Christ to every student is a task which, along with other partners involved in student work, we take very seriously. How much is enough evangelism? – When there is an unavoidably significant witness to our whole culture. We have a way to go yet!

Norm Patterson, Director of Momentum Europe's Dublin Endeavour: Sue and I moved to Dublin in the summer of 2016 with the charge to work with the local staff team to help develop the ministry to men and women of influence. In the last few months we have had the privilege of helping to organize several outreaches including the following:

- Dinner with the former CEO (from Berlin) of Spiele Max, a giant toy company, speaking about his experience of rebuilding his life and company through faith in Jesus Christ. In attendance, 4 ambassadors.
- Breakfast with Agape Ireland Director speaking on Intelligent Design to men and women in the business and professional communities.
- Dinner Event for couples called "What is Love Actually?" with guest speakers, Mark and Christine Daniel from the UK. One strategy to reach leaders is to strengthen marriages. "One may be successful in the business world, but marriage is a true indicator of success in life."

Prayer Requests

- * Pray for key leaders in business and other professions who would be discipled and engage their peers with faith conversations.
- * A speaking engagement in Castlebar, a city in western Ireland, in December on marriage and the Gospel.
- * Ask God to extend Norm and Sue's visa for more than just one more year.
- * Pray for the results of the "Love Actually" dinner and at least 5 couples to see God's power working through them and their marriages to reach others in a climate of increasing Irish secularism.
- * That the Irish nation would uphold the sanctity of life and support their Amendment 8 (anti-abortion constitution law).
- * Pray that leaders of the cities would see Christ in new ways, not merely as a religious leader.

Praises For

- * The good results of the 3 outreach events and the follow-up of almost 100 new contacts.
- * A strong Agape team working with university students and seeing students' lives transformed.
- * Financial responses to help support the work.
- * The 2 couples who will assist in the newly launched FamilyLife ministry.
- * Faithful men and women of God like Declan and Mismana Harvey, who work in this secular culture to bring about transformation. The Harveys were instrumental in inviting many of the couples to the Love Actually dinner. As a result, the Pattersons now have access to their large congregation where many leaders worship.

