



United Kingdom

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Europe

Geography

Area 244,110 sq km. Two main islands: Britain and the northeast of Ireland. A union of four countries: England 103,400 sq km, Scotland 78,800 sq km, Wales 20,800 sq km, Northern Ireland 14,100 sq km. Also three small autonomous states that are dependencies of the British Crown: Isle of Man 588 sq km (in the Irish Sea); Channel Islands 194 sq km (Guernsey, Jersey).

Population	Ann Gr	Density
2010	62,129,818	0.54%
2020	65,321,580	0.49%
2030	68,187,438	0.40%

England 83.8%. Scotland 8.4% (~60,000 speaking Gaelic). Wales 4.9% (~740,000 speaking Welsh). Northern Ireland 2.9%.

Capital London 8,631,325. Other major cities included in constituent country section. **Urbanites** 90.1%. **Pop under 15 yrs** 17%. **Life expectancy** 79.3 yrs.

Peoples

Anglo-Saxon/Celtic 85.2%. English 69.2%; Scots 9.3%; Irish(2) 4.1%; Welsh 1.8%; Cornish 0.8%.

Asian 6.3%. Largest groups: Urdu-speaking 1.5%; Punjabi 1.1%; Hindi 0.7%; Chinese(4) 0.7%; Bengali 0.5%; Gujarati 0.5%; Filipino 0.4%; Tamil 0.3%.

European 3.3%. Polish 0.7%; Greek (includes Greek Cypriot) 0.6%; German 0.3%; Italian 0.3%.

Middle Eastern/West Asian 1.9%. Arab(10) 0.6%; Jews 0.5%; Pashtun(2) 0.3%; Turk (includes Turkish Cypriot) 0.2%.

African Caribbean 1.4%. Caribbean origin;

majority British-born.

African 0.8%. Nigerian, Somali, Ghanaian, others.

Other 1.1%. Romani/Gypsy/Irish Travellers(6) 0.5%; North American 0.4%.

Literacy 99%. **Official language** English; in Wales both English and Welsh. English is the primary language of 400 million in the world, as well as the major language of international communication for over 1.4 billion.

All languages 15 indigenous; over 200 immigrant languages. **Languages with Scriptures** 5Bi 3NT 3por 2w.i.p. There have been more translations of the Scriptures into English than into any other language.

Economy

The world's first industrialized economy – now primarily a post-industrial service economy and highly dependent on financial and business services. The post-WWII decline through poor management, low investment, labour unrest and high levels of public ownership was reversed from the mid-1980s to the late 2000s. One of the hardest hit by the 2008–2009 economic crisis (the impact of which will be felt for some time to come), but still the world's fifth-largest economy. Unemployment was 2.5m in 2010. Resistant to entry into Euro monetary system.

HDI Rank 21*/182. **Public debt** 52% of GDP.

Income/person \$43,734 (92% of USA).

Politics

Parliamentary, constitutional monarchy. The UK was formed in 1801 as a Union of Great Britain and Ireland. Southern Ireland formally seceded from the Union in 1921. The British Empire, once covering one-fourth of the world, has become 60 independent states, most being members of the British Commonwealth. Since 1945, the transition from a world power to a European state linked to its own continent has not been easy, but close ties to both the USA and the EU continue. The UK remains a political, military and cultural power with disproportionate influence globally. The centuries-long conflict between the Irish and British (over sovereignty of Northern Ireland) is largely resolved on a political level, but not necessarily in the hearts of the people involved. The smaller constituent members of the UK – Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland – enjoy a great degree of autonomy due to the devolution process of the last 10–15 years.

Religion

A Christian nation for centuries, religious freedom still exists, although nominalism, pluralism and hostility to overt religiosity in the general public and the media increasingly threaten religious expression. The Church of England (Anglican) is recognized as the

Established Church in England, and the Church of Scotland (Presbyterian) in Scotland. The Sovereign is recognized as the titular head of the Church of England. Disestablishment of the Church is increasingly advocated.

Religions	Pop %	Population	Ann Gr
Christian	59.66	37,066,649	-0.8%
Non-religious	34.49	21,428,574	2.8%
Muslim	3.20	1,988,154	2.2%
Hindu	0.94	584,020	1.4%
Sikh	0.63	391,418	1.5%
Jewish	0.40	248,519	-0.4%
Buddhist	0.34	211,241	3.1%
Other	0.22	136,686	2.5%
Chinese	0.10	62,130	0.5%
Baha'i	0.02	12,426	0.5%

The percentage of those self-identifying as Christian ranges significantly depending on the source.

Christians	Denoms	Pop %	Affiliates	Ann Gr
Protestant	194	6.91	4,293,000	-1.1%
Independent	279	1.36	845,000	1.8%
Anglican	4	36.23	22,509,000	-0.8%
Catholic	6	8.61	5,350,000	-0.3%
Orthodox	20	1.06	660,000	0.5%
Marginal	54	0.89	552,000	-0.6%
Unaffiliated		6.81	4,231,000	0.3%
<i>Doubly affiliated</i>		<i>-2.25</i>	<i>-1,400,000</i>	<i>0.0%</i>

Churches	MegaBloc	Congs	Members	Affiliates
Church of England	A	16,100	1,200,000	21,900,000
Catholic Church	C	4,550	2,409,910	5,350,000
Church of Scotland	P	1,480	500,000	1,100,000
Methodist Ch of GB	P	5,500	260,000	780,000
Baptist Union of GB	P	2,000	139,000	545,000

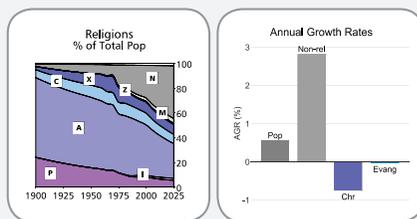
Other New Churches	I	1,105	95,000	285,000
Presby Ch in Ireland	P	400	197,000	280,000
Church in Wales (Ang)	A	1,420	68,657	274,600
Church of Ireland	A	430	120,000	265,000
Jehovah's Witnesses	M	1,520	130,000	255,000
Greek Orthodox	O	110	141,176	240,000
Latter-day Saints	M	340	115,584	178,000
Assemblies of God	P	650	74,500	149,000
Elim Pentecostal Ch	P	500	55,000	138,000
Luth Council of GB	P	170	59,000	118,000
Christian Brethren	P	1,000	43,000	105,000
United Reformed Ch	P	1,600	62,893	100,000
Salvation Army	P	680	43,000	60,000
Other denominations[340]		12,607	1,218,188	2,110,125
<i>Disaffiliated</i>				<i>-1,400,000</i>
Total Christians[387]		52,162	6,931,908	32,832,725

TransBloc	Pop %	Population	Ann Gr
Evangelicals			
Evangelicals*	8.8	5,490,134	0.0%
Renewalists			
Charismatics	4.7	2,902,227	1.0%
Pentecostals	1.0	635,071	1.3%

*This figure is an indication of belief rather than of practice; about one-third of this number attend church regularly.

Missionaries from UK

P,I,A 6,405 long-term; 5,726 international.



United Kingdom – General

Answers to Prayer

- 1** The UK's contribution to global Christianity has been significant for centuries. From Wycliffe and Tyndale up to today – with the Alpha Course, 24-7prayer and a host of evangelical writers, theologians and worship leaders – the UK continues to offer blessing to the nations of the world.
- 2** The Church is growing among many ethnic minorities. Part of this is through widespread immigration from strongly Christian nations such as Nigeria and Brazil, whose Christians bring with them much-needed vitality and spiritual confidence in the gospel. Part is through considerable conversion growth among Africans, Chinese, Polish, "Travellers" (Romani/Gypsy) and even modest growth among South Asians and others. Multi-ethnic churches are sprouting up and seeing new converts to Christ from among largely unevangelized peoples.

Challenges for Prayer

United Kingdom | December 4-6

1 Britain needs to discover a sense of purpose and direction for the 21st Century. Its sense of nationhood and core identity has increasingly diminished since the end of the British Empire and plays itself out in the context of:

- a) **Foreign policy**, which remains globally engaging. As a permanent UN Security Council member and head of the Commonwealth, and because of its special relationship with the USA, Britain's involvement with the wider world remains extensive in both diplomatic and military contexts. Pray for this influence and power to be wielded for the sake of what is just and right, when needed and called for.
- b) **Integration with the EU** remains a political hot potato. The loss of autonomy to the Byzantine politics of the EU sits poorly with many in the UK, but greater integration appears inevitable. Balancing maximum participation in the EU with maximum retention of autonomy seems an impossible compromise.
- c) **Devolution of the UK into federalism**. This will grant greater autonomy to Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, but at significant financial and political costs. Britain and "Britishness" will suffer at the hands of buoyant national identities and agendas.

2 The sense that all is not well pervades the country. "Broken Britain" is the catchphrase of the tabloid news. The "freedoms" of the 1960s led to social disaster and hastened spiritual decline. Many are discouraged about the future and cynical about the seeming impotence of politicians to deal with the malaise; this trait is exacerbated by the media. Violent crime, alcohol and drug abuse, sexually transmitted diseases, immorality, prostitution, illegitimacy and abortion rates, gambling addiction and personal debt levels are not just alarmingly high, but in some cases are tacitly encouraged by misled government policies. Conservatives point to breakdown of the family and traditional morality as primary causes. The simultaneous decline of Christian values in society over this same period is hardly a coincidence. Without a radical change, disaster looms. Pray for national repentance and restoration to the spiritual vigour that once made Britain's Christians a blessing to the world. Many Christians are praying for revival.

3 Immigration remains a massive challenge, but is also an utter necessity and an unavoidable reality. The seat of British Empire now draws many from the far reaches of its former domains – and beyond. There are an estimated 600,000 to 900,000 illegal immigrants in the UK. Fully 70% of net population growth in the next 25 years is anticipated to be from immigration; in some boroughs and towns more babies are born to immigrants than to citizens. Pray with an eye toward:

- a) **A core identity and purpose for Britain**. Without a cultural centre or core set of values around which to build a multi-cultural society, disintegration and division will triumph. Pray for Britain to regain a sense of what makes it Britain; pray that these values would celebrate and reflect what God rejoices in.
- b) **Integration**. Unwillingness or inability to adjust to life in the UK and lack of support and welcome for many immigrants all contribute to the creation of ethnic ghettos.
- c) **Criminal and terrorist threats**. Immigrants tend to suffer lower rates of employment and education, and higher rates of poverty and crime. They are much more vulnerable to exploitation by human traffickers, crime lords and religious fanatics. The number of people who enter the UK with the intention of criminal or terrorist activity is of course unknown, but it is far too many nonetheless. Pray for all who intend to exploit, disrupt or destroy to be thwarted by the authorities.
- d) **Christian and mission impact**. Immigration, a trend reviled by reactionaries, also brings great blessing to these shores. Christian immigrants have staved off even greater declines in mainline churches and brought new life to many recent movements. "Reverse mission" is an undeniable trend, with around 1,500 Christian missionaries coming into the UK from the Americas, Africa and Asia. Immigration has also brought many unevangelized peoples right onto the doorstep of gospel-oriented churches. Thank God for these twin blessings; pray that both might be fully utilized to see new churches planted, new peoples reached and Jesus glorified.

4 Multi-cultural pluralism has replaced Judeo-Christian tradition as the foundation of society. Minority religions, particularly Islam, receive notable attention and government support – in education, legislation and freedoms – yet they still feel discriminated against. Astrology, New Age, the occult and old-world paganism (Druid/Wicca) are popular, with a massive increase of literature and websites promoting their ends. The UK itself is now a mission field. Praise God for religious freedom; pray for it to be retained; pray that it does not prompt further turning against, or away from, the

Christian faith that shaped the UK so profoundly for the better.

5 **A national awakening** is needed. There has been one in virtually every century of the last 800 years – the last was in 1859-69. The steep decline of organized Christianity in the UK is almost unparalleled in Europe – especially among Methodists, Anglicans, United Reformed, Brethren and other Protestant denominations. Pray that Christians might grow passionate for God’s honour, burdened to pray for revival and free from deadening negativism and materialism that pervade the churches.

6 **Christianity is increasingly marginalized** by a hostile media and public mood. Christian morality and belief in the uniqueness of Jesus are labelled “intolerant”. Government regulations make it increasingly difficult to minister in the public arena. Many believe serious persecution is not far off. Pray that believers may recognize and address the decline of Christianity in the public sphere. Pray that they may recover confidence in the gospel and boldness and passion to share it – lovingly and unapologetically – with the majority who have little concept of its content.

7 **The Church of England** is deeply mired in crisis. It is the “mother” Church for the world’s 81.6 million Anglicans. Anglicanism, the umbrella under which Anglo-Catholics, liberals and evangelicals uncomfortably co-exist, lacks unity and even basic fellowship over some fundamental theological issues. Fragmentation is evident over issues such as ordination of women and homosexuals, endorsement of same-sex unions, ecumenism and disestablishment. Globally, the rapid growth of non-Western evangelicals within the Church of England (particularly in the Fellowship of Confessing Anglicans) and the continued decline of the predominantly Western liberal wing further set these two ends of the Anglican spectrum resolutely against each other. Nationally, the Church lies trapped between being socially marginalized and being resented for its position of privilege as the state religion. Evangelicalism is a growing force and gaining centre stage in the Church of England. It accounts for 34% of UK’s Anglicans and 50% of the UK’s evangelicals, but less than 10% of all Anglicans regularly attend services. The charismatic movement also contributes to extensive renewal within the Church. Pray that Church leadership might regain a prophetic role and speak, in unity and with clear biblical authority, to a nation that is morally and spiritually adrift.

8 **There are signs of hope** – water these tender plants with prayer:

- a) **Traumatic social change** and the devastating consequences of family breakdown, drifting identity, violence and fear for the future bring a new openness to consider spiritual solutions.
- b) **Renewal movements.** Many pastors and congregations experienced charismatic renewal between the 1960s and 1990s, giving rise to a new family of churches. The New Churches grew fast and became significant spiritual forces in the nation and enlivened worship across the denominational spectrum. Their growth has since slowed. Nationwide, these changes have been stimulated by major transdenominational gatherings such as Spring Harvest, Soul Survivor, Greenbelt, New Wine and New Word Alive. But even these events are increasingly compartmentalized by sub-culture and theological persuasion.
- c) **New younger-generation movements** are emerging with new approaches – culturally appropriate worship styles, prayer movements and outreach efforts. Notable groups – including 24-7Prayer, The Message Trust, Soul Survivor, Tribal Generation, NGM and many others – are springing up in different parts of the country.
- d) **The Alpha Course** and Christianity Explored have spread across the country to nearly every denomination and around the world as hugely effective outreach programmes. These user-friendly introductory courses explain Christianity in a relaxed and informal environment. About 8,450 congregations used the Alpha Courses in 2008, with over 2.5 million individuals having completed one in the UK alone.

e) **Evangelical generosity.** Studies have shown that evangelical churchgoers give nine times as much to charity as do average Britons, even in the midst of the financial crisis.

9 **Evangelical Christianity** is no longer growing. Without immigration of evangelicals (from Africa in particular), decline would be pronounced. The prominent challenges are:

- a) **To maintain and increase unity** in fellowship and vision. The Evangelical Alliance does much to encourage this and gives credibility to evangelicals in national life. The EA represents 74 denominations and 725 agencies and is a focal point for its 1.5 million constituents.

b) **The widespread loss of confidence** and certainty in the veracity of the gospel, in the uniqueness of Jesus and in models for church life and outreach. These are simultaneous with increasingly assertive and confident atheism and Islam. Initiatives for reformation, renewal and national outreach have been attempted since the 1990s, but few have had significant or lasting impact. Christians need to learn why they can be confident in their own faith and the truth thereof.

c) **Cynicism** about the Church's future and lack of spiritual ambition cripple enthusiasm for missions locally and overseas. Pray for restoration of vision and faith in God's ability to change Britain once again.

10 Christian leadership is under intense pressure – from increasingly demanding church members, from increasingly intense scrutiny by the public and from the lack of effective Bible teachers and expositors. Pray for effective discipling and training of new leaders; previous failure to develop a younger generation of leaders is now costing the Church dearly. There are 105 residential theological colleges offering 8,600 places of study. Pray that these may impart not only theological education, but also spirituality and world vision.

11 Young people are a source of great concern. Some studies claim greater spiritual openness, but others point to a largely negative view of religion and to ignorance or complete disinterest in even the concepts of sin and salvation. Despite greater than ever freedoms, unhappiness, suicide, self-harm and mental health problems have reached alarming levels. The UK “leads” Europe in most of the following categories: teenage sexual activity, sexually transmitted diseases, teen pregnancy, abortion, binge drinking, drug abuse, violent crime and non-participation in either school or the workplace. Poverty intensifies the problems and reduces the solutions for an increasingly desperate underclass. The breakdown of the traditional family unit and high levels of family dysfunction contribute greatly to this huge challenge. Pray for:

a) **Religious education (RE) teachers in schools.** By law, RE is a core subject. It is increasingly popular, but there is a shortage of well-trained teachers. And, religious education has shifted from instruction in the Christian faith to a relativistic comparative-religions class. Pray for Christians involved in this ministry and for meaningful ways of making the message of the gospel come alive.

b) **Effective discipling of young people.** Sunday school is a fading institution, and viable alternative models are lacking, even as “Millennials” demonstrate low commitment levels as a generational trait. Meanwhile, millions of children and youth are virtually untouched by the gospel; because of Christians' failure to adequately reach out and minister to young people, much of an entire generation is lost to the Church. Half of evangelical congregations have no specific children's ministry; the rate is probably even less for non-evangelical churches. Unsurprisingly, churches with vibrant youth/children's programmes tend to be growing churches.

c) **Youth movements.** Urban Saints, Scripture Union and **YFC** have long had significant impact, especially in secondary schools, few of which have live, outgoing witness from staff or student groups. Newer movements and conferences such as Soul Survivor, NewDay and Audacious are innovative and effective.

d) **Missions vision.** Few young people have much exposure to a vision for evangelism and missions. **OM**, World Horizons, **YWAM** and The Message Trust, along with several others, seek to redress this.

12 Students in higher education are exposed to great pressures. A largely godless, consumeristic and hedonistic younger generation is being formed by the secular system. Less than 2% of students are actively involved in church. Pray especially for a life of consistent and loving witness by Christian students; they are the ones best equipped to reach their own peers. Pray for:

a) **The Christian Union groups** among students, especially the more than two million in colleges and universities. Their growth and diversity are encouraging, the main ones being Agapé (**CCCI**), Navigators, Fusion and **UCCF(IFES)**. The oldest and most widespread is the work of **UCCF**, with over 10,000 students involved in Christian Unions. Pray for mature, stable leadership and for effective support and advice from the 70 full-time workers and more than 60 volunteers. Pray also for solutions to the increasing challenge of maintaining a witness on campuses, which are ever more biased against Christianity.

b) **Overseas students.** There are about 400,000 international students in the UK – 80,000 from China alone – plus many thousands in English-language schools. Outreach to them is varied but too limited, and many return home without hearing the gospel. Friends International, **UCCF(IFES)**,

Navigators, COCM and others have ministry to them.

13 Britain's contribution to world evangelization and the Protestant missions movement in the last 220 years is unique, but interest is waning as the Church weakens. Fewer than one in six Protestant churches has missionaries serving on the field. Widespread misconceptions are that the job is largely completed or that efforts should be concentrated on Britain's needs. Pray these for the Church:

- a) **A strengthened conviction** that all peoples need to hear the saving story of Jesus and enjoy the transformation only the gospel can bring. When churches lose the belief that souls can be lost for eternity, mission and evangelism suffer.
- b) **A renewed commitment** by local congregations to participate in world evangelization, to pray out their members to areas of greatest need and to adequately care for those who go.
- c) **An increase in recruitment** for missions; pray that the growth in short-term involvement may lead to increased long-term mission commitment and support.
- d) **The coordinating role of Global Connections (EMA)** in promoting vision and cooperation among mission agencies and in local churches for world evangelization.

14 The growing ethnic-minority populations form a significant part of UK urban life. Some cities have large minority populations; in some areas, specific ethnic-minority communities form the largest single group. Active Christians number a higher proportion of some communities – such as African Caribbean, African and East Asian – than in the indigenous population. Others come from countries where the gospel is little known and entry of missionaries is impeded. Cultural distance, racial discrimination and even open hostility antagonize many minorities against what is falsely perceived to be “Christianity”. Pray for:

- a) **Local congregations** in multi-ethnic areas to open their doors, homes and hearts to this mission field on their doorsteps, and to find wise, loving and effective ways to make friendships, meet needs and win some for the Lord.
- b) **More cross-cultural workers**, some called to train churches and others to minister to specific ethnic groups. Unique ministries already involved include South Asian Concern, **OM** (Turning Point and LifeHope) and missionaries linked with Interserve (Urban Vision), **ECM, MECO**, Crosslinks, **Christar, WEC**, World Harvest Mission, International Teams, ReachAcross, Naujavan and **CMS**, as well as some non-Western mission agencies.
- c) **Better coordination of efforts** and research. Many ethnic-minority communities are completely unreached due to lack of information or awareness of their locations, populations and needs. The recently formed South Asian Evangelical Alliance (as part of the EA of the UK) provides such a forum for the UK's South Asian Christians; sadly, the African & Caribbean EA recently suspended its operations indefinitely.
- d) **Outreach** that is bold and confident, but sensitive and culturally appropriate. Those from other religions face many issues and obstacles to accepting the gospel, including pressures from family and community and threats of rejection or violence. Pray that Christians will help those from ethnic-minority communities to follow Christ within their own cultural context as much as is possible.
- e) **Effective use of resources.** **WEC's** “SOON” broadsheet ministry reaches many, in English, French, Swahili, Portuguese and Pulaar. Kitab is an important Christian resource centre specializing in literature and resources on Islam and related issues. South Asian Concern's website is valuable for seekers from a South Asian background.

15 Specific ethnic minority groups that need intercession:

- a) **South Asians**, the largest minority grouping, number over three million. They are too commonly ghettoized into ethnic enclaves. Growing numbers are coming to Christ from the Hindu and Sikh communities, but few from among Muslims; about 4% of all South Asians are Christian. The greatest needs are among the Kashmiri/Mirpuri Pakistani, Bangladeshi, Punjabi, Gujarati and Pathan communities.
- b) **Caribbean and African peoples** – 17% of the population are church-going, a rate triple the national average. There are over 200 denominations; these churches were previously somewhat isolated from the evangelical mainstream, but multi-cultural churches are increasing. Competition

for worshippers, however, can be an unhealthy factor in the way some of these churches relate. The needs for prayer are significant; poverty and undereducation are far higher for these peoples than for the general population. Half the families from a black or mixed background are single-parent families. The 100,000 Somalis are one of the UK's (and the world's) least-evangelized groups; thus far, little is being done to reach them.

c) **Middle Eastern and North African peoples.** Outreach is largely localized and sporadic. Many wealthy Arabs come to the UK as tourists, businessmen or students; some have come to faith. There are several Christian fellowships for Arabs and a few for Turks, Kurds and Iranians. The latter are quite responsive to the gospel (Elam Ministries, Interserve). Yemenis, Moroccans and Algerians are more recent arrivals and are largely unreached.

d) **The Chinese,** approaching 500,000 in number, came from Hong Kong and Vietnam in the past, but today most come from Mainland China as students and for business. Many thousands are trafficked or enter illegally into the country; most of these are subject to cruel working conditions. Chinese Overseas Christian Mission (COCM) has successful church planting and student ministries, as do OMF and OM. There are over 100 Chinese churches, and about 5% of Chinese are Christian.

e) **The Jewish community** is slowly eroding due to secularism (80% have no religious commitment to Judaism) and assimilation (through cultural and marital dilution). The proportion of strict Orthodox Jews is increasing due to higher birth rates. Many of the Jewish followers of Jesus, between 3,500 and 6,000, integrate into Gentile churches, though there are also possibly 20 fellowships of Messianic Jews. Pray for Church's Ministry Among Jewish People, Messianic Testimony, Christian Witness to Israel and the newer ministries, Jews for Jesus and Chosen People Ministries. Such ministries face opposition from the increasingly influential and strict Orthodox Jews, from liberal Christians and from an anti-proselytizing society in general.

16 **Muslims** now number two million and possibly more, with a high growth rate due to immigration and births. Those of Pakistani origin are the largest group; Bangladesh, India, the Middle East, Somalia and North Africa also contribute large numbers. Large-scale illegal immigration, Islamic terrorism, little effort to assimilate into British society and rapidly growing influence of strident militant Islam all create a wary and even fearful majority. These, coupled with harsh anti-terrorism measures, drive alienated Muslims into more radical forms of Islam, creating a vicious circle. The number of mosques has increased nearly five-fold in 20 years; hard-line Islamic sects control half of these. Muslims see the conversion of England to Islam as a key strategy for winning the West. London is now a hub for Islam, especially for extremist organizations. Pray for the breakdown of cultural and social barriers on both sides and for opportunities to share the gospel.

17 **Christian media ministries** include:

a) **Christian literature and Bibles.** Few nations have available such an extensive range of Christian and evangelical literature as well as Bible versions. The Gideons International has distributed over 37 million NTs and Bibles in its 60 years of ministry in the UK. There are over 400 Christian bookstores and over 100 Christian publishers, although these ministries are suffering a downturn of late. The Bible Societies – with ministries of Bible translation, publication and distribution in Britain and around the world – also have a wide range of catalytic ministries to stimulate Christian growth. BookAid has a remarkable ministry exporting one million donated surplus and second-hand Christian books annually to poorer countries. Pray for these ministries and for Christians to become more avid readers.

b) **Christian broadcasting.** Christians are free to own and run national-level Christian radio and TV stations. Christian radio will increase, since local licences are now granted. Premier Radio has national coverage via FM and satellite and is the most accessible of Christian broadcasting ministries. Pray for wisdom and balance in the face of opportunities. Many Christians are active in secular broadcasting as well as in religious programming on national radio and TV – millions view “Songs of Praise” every week on TV and online. Pray for positive impact in an environment often hostile to outspoken Christian faith.

c) **New media,** such as myriad Christian Internet sites, digital content for mobile phones and even electronic/online congregations all provide further opportunities for a tech-savvy and church-wary generation. Pray for effectiveness; pray also for those impacted by such media to plug into means for them to be disciplined.

England

Geography

Area 130,400 sq km.

Population 51,460,000; 395 people/sq km.
Capital London 8,631,325. **Other major cities**
Manchester 2.3 million; West Midlands/
Birmingham 2.3mill; West Yorkshire 1.5m;
Tyneside 891,000; Liverpool 819,000; Nottingham
666,000; Sheffield 647,000.

1 **England is the most secular** of the four countries that comprise the UK. The steady decline in belief and church attendance is of deep concern. Only 6% of people regularly attend church; those who do attend rarely engage with the unbelieving majority. Notional Christianity is giving way to atheism as the main barrier to true faith; the trappings of inherited cultural forms of Christianity are being discarded. This presents both a great challenge and a new opportunity for a fresh start to the re-evangelization of England. Pray that the Holy Spirit may break into lives and bring a sense of the reality of God and the truth of the gospel.

2 **London** is one of the world's hub cities for finance, travel, politics, culture and such. The spiritual life of London also has global impact. As the destination of a high proportion of the inflow of migrants over the last 50 years, London has a strong claim to be the world's most international city. Pray for these:

a) Church life in London, in many senses, is rich and vibrant. The percentage of Londoners (especially 20- and 30-somethings) who attend church is higher than the national average. London's churches are on average twice as large, more diverse and more engaged in outreach and projects of many kinds. London offers a host of vibrant church options – large Pentecostal churches (especially among Africans), flagship churches (such as Kensington Temple, Holy Trinity Brompton, All Souls and Hillsong), charismatic networks with large numbers of smaller congregations (Pioneer, Ichthus, New Frontiers) and even house church networks. Even so, in London, the majority are unchurched, other religions are assertive and growing and churches would be in notable decline were it not for London's many church-going immigrants.

b) Ethnic minorities, increasingly, are becoming the majority in many boroughs. In London, over 50 nationalities have communities of over 10,000 people, and every nationality in the world is represented in some number. Nearly 60% of church-goers in London are ethnic minorities. These provide incredible opportunities for witness and evangelism of otherwise unreached people groups.

3 **England's inner cities** are in threat of becoming physical and spiritual wastelands, riddled with drugs and crime. Dying congregations, closed churches and churches converted into Muslim mosques, Hindu temples or Sikh *gurdwaras* are commonplace. Most white evangelicals moved to comfortable, middle-class suburbs and towns a generation ago. Whites trapped in inner-city poverty and joblessness usually have fewer prospects than even their ethnic-minority neighbours. Pray that God may raise up an army of workers with effective ways of meeting the many needs of these impoverished and often troubled areas. Ministries such as The Message Trust (in Manchester) and Street Pastors (in many cities) are brilliant examples of what can be done.

Northern Ireland

Geography

Area 14,100 sq km.

Population 1,775,000; 126 people/sq km.

Capital Belfast 737,000.

Politics

The problems of Northern Ireland today are a continuation of the centuries-old tension between the Celtic Irish and Anglo-Saxon Scots-

English. It is partly a historical coincidence that the former are Catholic and the latter largely Protestant. The partitioning of Ireland between the 26 counties of the South and the 6 counties of Ulster in the north did not solve the problem, since a notable minority of Catholic Irish in Ulster agitated for union with the south. Their civil rights campaign in the late 1960s degenerated into civil violence waged by extremist IRA and “Loyalist” factions. The impact on social, economic and political life in the Province and the UK was large, resulting in over 3,600 deaths. The 1998 political agreement led to a cease-fire, Ireland-wide consultative structures and a power-sharing government in Belfast. The peace that has remained largely intact since then significantly benefits the economy.

- 1 Peace has prevailed in Northern Ireland** since the 1998 Good Friday Agreement and especially since a power-sharing agreement in 2007. Only a small number of dissidents persist, but through them, the threat of violence remains. Greater risks to long-term peace are the mistrust and resentment that can remain in people’s hearts. Pray for repentance and forgiveness of past transgressions and crimes and for reconciliation between communities. Pray for those who work to uphold the peace, especially politicians and police.
- 2 Segregation and sectarianism remain**, despite the prevalent peace. Separate confessions, separate churches, separate schools, separated communities keep Ulster a divided land. Pray that both Catholics and Protestants may take initiative in instigating reconciliation. Northern Ireland’s history has long been used as an example of religion’s destructive influence; pray that it may become a testimony of faith’s power to heal and restore.
- 3 Church attendance is in decline**, even though it remains higher in Northern Ireland than in the rest of the UK. The frequency of attendance is dropping, even as the number rises of those who claim to be non-religious. As elsewhere in the West, materialism and hedonism grip the hearts and souls of many. However, within a 50 km radius of Belfast is one of the highest concentrations of evangelical churches in the world, and most Protestant congregations remain stoutly evangelical. Pray that the emptiness of the “new paganism” might be exposed and that churches would be able to offer a dynamic alternative full of life and relevance.
- 4 The missionary burden** of Northern Ireland’s churches is higher than elsewhere in the UK. Pray that this generosity in giving of money and personnel for world evangelization may continue!

Scotland

Geography

Area 78,800 sq km.

Population 5,169,000; 66 people/sq km.

Capital Edinburgh 482,000. **Other major cities** Glasgow 1.2 million; Aberdeen 201,000.

Politics

After nearly 300 years of representation only in London, Scotland re-established its own parliament in 1998. A strong minority (and a slim majority in some polls) continue to press for full independence within the EU.

1 Scotland faces a potent cocktail of social ills. Nearly half of all children are born out of wedlock. Alcohol and drug abuse are high. The country has the inauspicious title of the worst-performing Western European nation, based on economy, employment, health and education. Increasingly, Christian groups are engaging these problems; pray that the transforming impact of the gospel may be evident through loving witness and ministry.

2 Revivals in past centuries, localized revivals of the northeast coast in 1925 and Lewis in the Hebrides in the 1950s – as well as notable missionaries such as David Livingstone, Robert Moffatt, Mary Slessor and Eric Liddell – brought blessing to Scotland and the world. May new revivals and a new wave of God's servants make a great impact on this land; 27.5% of Scots claimed no religion in the last census.

3 The Church of Scotland is Presbyterian in structure and is the established church. Membership is in steep decline – half of what it was 50 years ago – and attendance a tiny fraction of membership. There is a shortage of clergy; many current clergy are out of touch with the needs of their congregations. Nominalism is widespread, liberal theology still dominant and Freemasonry influential. Still, there are stirrings of new life through those evangelicals who remain. Pray for the Church of Scotland to return to its biblical roots and to the radical but biblically grounded faith of its early martyrs.

4 Church growth is evident among the non-institutional groups – Pentecostals, Baptists, Brethren and the Salvation Army. Pray for the effective re-evangelization of Scotland. The Aberdeen area has the highest percentage of non-church-goers.

Wales

Geography

Area 20,800 sq km.

Population 2,990,000; 144 people/sq km.

Capital Cardiff 346,000. **Other major city** Swansea 268,000.

Politics

Wales has had a national assembly since 1998, but for the nationalists, this falls far short of their dream of Welsh independence.

1 Economic changes have had a profound impact on the nation. The decline of the coal and slate industries led to much depopulation and depression in industrialized areas. These, coupled with the acceptance of a social gospel, have led to empty chapels and a spiritually hardened population. Pray for those church leaders and fellowships with a clear vision to witness and serve faithfully, many of them in hard and unreceptive areas.

2 Wales is known as the land of revivals and the land of song. From early in the 18th Century, Wales experienced a consistent series of revivals, the last of these occurring in 1904. Since then, decline in church attendance and closure of churches in Wales have been higher than in any other part of the UK. Although many congregations remain, most are small churches of 25 people or less. National weekly attendance of religious services is 7% and only 3.5% among under-30s. In recent years, though, pockets of growth have appeared, especially within evangelical congregations that both proclaim the gospel and demonstrate it through community involvement. Pray that revival may come again and that the entire country will again sing the praises of Jesus.

3 Wales struggles to preserve its own language and culture. About 22% of the population speak Welsh, and Welsh-language education is flourishing. With ageing congregations, however, the decline in Welsh-speaking churches is dramatic. Pray that the Holy Spirit might breathe upon the Welsh culture and revive congregations to again be a blessing to the world.

Isle of Man

Geography

Area 588 sq km.

Population 80,000; 136 people/sq km.

Capital Douglas 26,000. **Pop under 15 yrs** 17%.

Politics

The Isle of Man is a self-governing, British Crown dependency. It is governed by Tynwald, arguably the world's oldest continuous parliament. However, it relies upon the UK for defence and foreign relations.

- 1** **The Isle of Man has a long Christian tradition**, but just as in the UK, nominalism is rife and non-religion is growing. Pray that the Church will continue to strive to bring people back into the fold and that the Isle of Man might see an awakening.

Channel Islands

Geography

Area 194 sq km.

Population 150,000; 773 people/sq km.

Capital Jersey: St Helier 28,310; Guernsey: St

Peter Port 16,488 (UN data). **Pop under 15 yrs** 16%.

Politics

The Channel Islands are an archipelago of British Crown dependencies, divided into the two separately administered bailiwicks, Jersey and Guernsey; the Bailiwick of Guernsey includes the islands of Guernsey, Alderney, Herm and Sark. Though not part of the UK, both bailiwicks rely on Britain for defence and international representation.

- 1** **Guernsey and especially Jersey rely upon the financial sector** for their economic growth, leading to accusations they are used as tax havens. Relative prosperity and an emphasis on material wealth have inevitably blunted the spiritual life of the islands; pray for an awakening.
- 2** **The island of Sark** was the last feudal state in Europe. In 2008, they held their first democratic elections, which led to a great deal of controversy and to the closing of many businesses. Though all businesses reopened within a few weeks, the economy was negatively impacted, and the political situation remains somewhat uncertain. Pray that the island will be able to build a just government while continuing to protect its delicate ecosystem.