

BRITAIN



Romans, Celts, Catholics and Pilgrims

As early as the 2nd century Christians were found among Roman occupiers, later also among the Celts that had settled in Britain earlier (after warring through Europe). Then Catholic Missionaries spread Christianity in Britain. When Europe was overrun by Barbarians, and Spain became ruled by Moslems, Britain remained largely unaffected and sent missionaries to the Germanic and Gaelic tribes, successfully evangelizing North-West Europe.

When Latin came to reign Christian-Europe, Wycliff broke that tradition by preaching in local languages again (after him Huss and Luther). Early Baptists came from Britain, the Pilgrim fathers fled religious persecution coming to America. The first Baptist Missionary agency was formed in Britain (BMS) with William Carrey (followed in 1814 by ABFMS, now "International Ministries", the first protestant mission in the USA with Adonairam Judson). Revival and other movements (especially influencing American Evangelicalism) came from Britain, such as Plymouth brethren (dispensationalism), Wesley, Spurgeon, William Booth with the Salvation Army, the YMCA, etc.

Continues ethnic diversity,

With and after the Celts, Gaelic, Welsh, Anglo-Saxons, Scotts-Romans, Normans, Britons lived in the country the first millennium. After that, Britain has been governed by Normans, Danish, Britons, Dutch, Hanoverians, and it has ruled 60 countries. In the 18th century, Britain ruled about 25% of the world through the "Commonwealth".

When these countries (some Islamic) got independence from the UK, many of its citizens moved to England. With about 15% immigrant population, England has probably the most pluralistic society in the world. It is said that literally all nationalities live in the UK. More than 50 nationalities have more than 10,000 persons in London alone. Second-generation Moslems are easy targets for radicalization, but also the immigrant stream brings many lively evangelical Christians, especially from Africa.

With a rough coastline, sloping green hills, frequent rainfall, and about 50,000 square miles, England (the size of New York State) makes up about half of the UK. Average income is almost the same as the U.S., and the population is over 51 million (UK: 62 mil). In cities, more than 1 in 5 persons are from foreign ethnic background.

Points of Praise:

- The UK's contribution to global Christianity has been significant, with early (medieval) and recent missionaries, reformers, revivalists, and church-renewers.
- The church is growing among ethnic minorities.

Challenges for Prayer: Pray4 --

- 6% of people regularly attend church but rarely engage with the unbelieving minority yet.
- London is one of the world's hub-cities, good to be a witness to the world. 60% of London church-goers are of ethnic minorities, *causing church growth*
- Inner-cities are seeming to become physical and spiritual wasteland; pray4 "street pastors" and other outreach initiatives.
- Moral breakdown and loss of purpose since the 'freedoms' of the 60s; Pray4 national repentance.
- Consider immigration, integration, terrorist threats, but also 'reverse mission' from 1,500 foreign missionaries to England
- Multicultural pluralism leads to paganism and New Age; pray4 return to Christ that shaped Britain for the better.
- There was a revival just about every century in the past 800 years; pray4 one today again.
- Pray4 the disorientated 'privileged' Anglican Church.
- Pray4 renewal, younger generation movements, and new initiatives, such as the 'Alpha course'.
- Pray4 Unity, confidence, and ambition to reach out.
- Good teachers in the mandatory RE (Religious Education) classes in primary schools, and university outreach groups.
- Pray4 outreach to the South Asians, Caribbean and African peoples, Middle Eastern and Northern Africans, the Chinese, and the Jewish community in Britain.
- Pray4 Pakistani, Bangladesh and other Moslem groups.
- For Christian literature, broadcasting, and Internet outreach.
- Pray4 our colleagues, IM missionaries the Damasceno's, working with Portuguese immigrants in Britain.

Volunteer options:

Register through International Ministries or download application form from: www.kalkmaneuropa.org, and look for highlights to be listed late summer 2011.

Prayer and Support for IM Missionaries the Kalkmans:

Assigned to work as liaison and volunteer coordinators from International Ministries with the EBF (European Baptist Federation), Britain is one of our 50+ partners.

Your help and support to do our ministry is needed. If you feel God is leading you to partner with us in reaching out to Europe, please pray for us and consider financial support by sending a check to International Ministries (with "Target Kalkman" in the memo) to: P.O. Box 851, Valley Forge, PA. 19482; or go: www.internationalministries.org/missionaries/70 to give on-line; or call IM office at: 1-800-222-3872 ext. 2324

Contact us at: www.kalkmaneuropa.org by clicking on "Send us an e-mail" in the top bar, asking for prayer information and newsletters. Thank you for your prayers! Thank you for your support!



-- Pieter & Nora Kalkman