

WORLD OUTREACH

TRAINING LEADERS. TRANSFORMING LIVES. IMPACTING NATIONS.

“When we go to meet [for school] and we have a southern registration on our vehicle, we just have to be very careful where we’re going.”

—Craig Jamison, director of Charis Belfast

IRELAND ON THE BRINK OF REVIVAL?

Imagine a country racked with ethnic and religious unrest that goes back centuries. This same country’s civil unrest reached a boiling point in the 1960s, but lately the same problems have resurfaced. Sound familiar? No, this is not America. This is Ireland—that beautiful, green island off the coast of Great Britain.

One of the first things to understand about Ireland is that it is a country divided by more than faith or culture; it is also divided into two different regions: Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. But even in the northern region there is division. “Northern Ireland is

retained within the United Kingdom,” explains Craig Jamison, director of Charis Belfast. “Roughly half of the people there want to remain with the United Kingdom and consider themselves British. The other half consider themselves Irish and want a united Ireland. So, it’s a very soft border at the minute, with some heightened political tension currently because of Brexit.”

Craig elaborates on the nature of the tension Ireland is currently undergoing. “It’s just hundreds of years of . . . ethnic and religious tension. Some people think it’s the worst conflict that’s ever happened because it’s all we hear about.”

So, how can the Gospel penetrate a country with strained relations between its people? We already have, starting with the establishment of Charis Belfast in 2006. Craig and his wife, Maud, live in the southern region of Ireland and talk about what it’s like for them to frequently travel between their home in Carlow and where the school is located in the northern region. “For us as Charis Belfast, a trip to the Republic of Ireland is a cross-cultural mission trip. It’s on the same island, but it’s a like a different country,” Maud says. Craig adds, “When we approach somebody, we’re sensitive in how we identify

ourselves. Even to say that we're born again, we're saved—which are biblical terms—certain parts of the country, they would profile us as Protestant.”

Being labeled as a Protestant in the Republic of Ireland could get you in big trouble. The tension between the north and the south has even cost lives. But Craig explains, “There are certain cross-border cooperations, so in the long term, we want to set up a Charis in southern Ireland [as well]. . . . I think the population would justify it. People need to see the Gospel, the true simple message of the Father.”

How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, Who bring glad tidings of good things!
Romans 10:15, (NKJV)

However, there are challenges in breaking through with the Gospel in a country where the religious terrain has remained the same for generations. Craig says, “The majority of people

of the counties that were retained under the United Kingdom would have a Protestant background and church attendance, whereas in the South, the vast majority are Roman Catholic. That is kind of the elephant in the room and that thing that nobody talks about.”

But Craig wants to start talking about it. He believes Ireland is on the brink of spiritual renewal and that Charis will be the catalyst. “I think Charis . . . is very good at presenting the Gospel in a nontraditional way. People, particularly in the Republic of Ireland, are getting fed up with tradition. They've had enough of it.”

This pivotal point for the future of Ireland is an opportune time for the message of God's love and grace to do what years of conflict and politics could not: finally bring peace. The people are ready! We must meet those who are hungry for the truth of the Gospel. Craig and Maud were specially picked for this

urgent call. They are training leaders, transforming lives, and impacting nations—regardless of the risk of danger. As graduates of Charis Belfast themselves, they know that it is worth it because they have experienced firsthand this same message that has changed their lives.

You are making the work we're doing in Ireland possible through your monthly support of Charis World Outreach. As a partner, we thank you for helping us reach as far and as deep as possible with the Gospel to both of this country's regions. Establishing Charis locations is the key, so we will keep you updated as we plant new schools around the world!

If you are not currently a partner with us, please consider becoming a *Charis World Outreach Partner* today. You will be blessed knowing you are a part of sending this nearly-too-good-to-be-true news to those waiting to hear it!

UPCOMING EVENTS: Find out about all upcoming events and register at **AWMI.net**

Phoenix Gospel Truth Conference 2021
January 7-9

Orlando Gospel Truth Conference 2021
February 11-13

New Hope Ministries (Naples, FL)
February 14

The Encounter: OKC 2021
March 5-6

Legacy Community Church (El Reno, OK)
March 7

Charis Men's Advance 2021
March 11-13

