



# A Look at Evangelical Friends outreach in



**Making a difference--one life at a time!**

# Ireland

## A Look at Dublin, Ireland:

Dublin is the largest metropolitan area in Ireland, with a population of nearly 1,000,000. Our newly formed church is located in the economically distressed area of Ringsend. Many people in Ringsend live in apartment housing, owned by the city, where their families have lived for several generations.

## A Look at Ireland:

- Ireland is a Roman Catholic country.
- 70% of the population is under the age of 44.
- While many identify themselves as Catholic, they are uninvolved in any church and have no saving knowledge of Christ.
- Overall, the country has experienced a dramatic economic turnaround during the past 17 years.
- The country is becoming more secularized due in part to the expansion of high-tech companies.

## A Look at Ringsend

- Historically Ringsend has been an economically distressed area.
- Many of the family members work at the docks along the River Liffey, or were employed at the recently closed Irish Glass Bottle Company.
- Planting a new evangelical church in this community will significantly impact families now and for generations.



## A Look at Christianity in Ireland: Culture or a personal belief system?

98% of the Republic of Ireland are Roman Catholic.

1% are Protestant, (with only 1% of those professing Protestants to be born again believers.)

For the Irish, Roman Catholicism is more of a culture than a religion or a belief.

The terms *Catholic* and *Protestant* often cause political and cultural tensions.

The term *Christian* is seen as nonthreatening because most Irish would see that as different from Catholicism or Protestantism.

Our missionaries simply say they are "Christians" and they are welcome in both circles.

It is easy to talk to the Irish about God, because most have heard about God all of their lives. Many attended Catholic schools and come from strong Catholic families. Some of these people are Christians, but many are not. Many believe that they do not need a personal relationship with Christ as long as they do the things that the church tells them to do. Pray that they will see their need for a personal Savior and hunger for a relationship with Him.

# Evangelical Friends ministering in Ireland

Reaching our World for Christ



## A Look at our newest missionary to Ireland

**Kathi Perry**, who has had a lifelong call and heart for missions, joined the James family in late 2001. She has her Masters degree in social work and has taught for eleven years in both public and private school, including two years internationally. Kathi's focuses include working with women and children's ministries. She initiates outings with the teens, teaches crafts to local women at the community center, and recently started a weekly Women's Bible Study.

## A Look at the Todd James Family

**Todd and Celesta James** went to Europe in 1980 and have served most of the time since in Ireland under Greater Europe Missions. Beginning in 1998, they joined our Evangelical Friends Mission. Todd runs SportsLife, a program of evangelism through athletics. This is very appropriate since very few in South Ireland really understand what it means to be born again, and most Irish are very sports-minded.

Todd's evangelism tract, *"Meet My Head Coach"* has been translated into several languages and has proven an effective outreach tool around the world. (Check out the on-line version of the tract at the following web address: <http://toddjames.org/headcoach1.htm>)

Celesta has been invited three times to teach in universities. She graduated last summer with her Ph.D. The James family has taken Irish citizenship along with their American citizenship. They have four children: Ryan (26), Adam (23), Garrett (19) and Olivia (15). Ryan lives in the U.S., Adam is studying at medical school in Ireland, Garrett and Olivia are continuing their schooling while living at home.

## A Look at the Church Plant...

"It has been exciting to see individuals in the group begin to see how they can understand God's Word," explains Todd. "Please continue to pray for those who come who don't know Christ as their personal Saviour."

During the summer of 2002, their loosely formed fellowship became more committed and took three significant steps. First, they decided to meet weekly. Second, they adopted a formal name: Cairde Christian Fellowship. (Cairde means friends in Irish.) Third, they moved from Lansdowne Tennis Club to the Ringsend Community Centre.

Worshipping in the Community Centre provides a very large room which will seat about 100 people along with use of a smaller room and the kitchen. The smaller room serves as the Sunday School during worship. Children and adults meet together for the first half of worship which includes singing, sharing, and prayer. During the second half, the children go out for their own time of study and some type of craft related to their lesson. Children and adults normally return at the end of the worship time and share what they have been learning or doing. The worship service is generally followed by a time of fellowship over tea and some type of food where the members spend another hour talking to one another and catching up on one another's lives.



## Let's Pray! Praise Reports:

### From the New Church:

- Praise for their new location.
- Praise for fellowship with the great people of Cairde Christian Fellowship.
- Praise for outreach opportunities.

### From the James Family:

- Praise that Celesta finished her Ph. D.
- Praise that Adam had his choice of Medical Schools.
- Praise that Celesta's mom came to assist them after Celesta's second back surgery.
- Praise that God is opening doors to explain salvation through various ministries.

### From Kathi Perry:

- Praise that God is opening doors of fellowship with women in the community.

## Prayer Requests:

- Pray for Kathi as she works with the youth and plans activities for them. Pray that the kids would be bold and excited to invite their friends.
- Pray that the Christians in Cairde Fellowship be willing to take some of the leadership.
- Pray that the Christians would be active in inviting new people.
- Pray that God would direct Kathi and the James family to those people that He intends to reach.

For more information about Ireland, check out our website: [www.efcer.org/missions](http://www.efcer.org/missions)  
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