



Finland

Finland is one of the five Nordic Countries, bordering Norway and Sweden to the north and Russia to the east. It is a land of lakes, with extensive pine and spruce forests. Finland is rated as one of the top ten industrialized nations of the world and belongs to the European Union, using the Euro. They enjoy a high standard of living and pay high taxes to support a comprehensive welfare system. Education is highly valued, and Finns have the highest percentage of university degrees in the EU countries.

NEEDS

Today roughly 75 percent of the 5.2 million Finns belong to the Lutheran state church. They are familiar with the gospel, but they believe that “grace” dispensed through participation in the sacraments forgives their sin. The church collects taxes directly from members’ paychecks, and only about 2 percent of the church members attend services. Half of the members are atheists or agnostics. Tradition keeps most in the church, even though less than 50 percent believe that Jesus is the Son of God. They are amazingly disinterested in spiritual matters. This, together with the false assurance given to them by participation in the church’s sacraments, makes them very hard to reach with the gospel.

HOW YOU CAN SERVE

Finland needs evangelists and church planters. The Finnish language is difficult, so to be effective it takes career missionaries to learn the language and live there.

Finland is a place where missionaries can easily become discouraged for lack of visible progress. Thus, great patience and faithfulness are necessary to minister effectively in Finland.



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