

Ireland Project - 2012

Dermot O'Mahony became a follower of Jesus as a high schooler in Limerick, Ireland through a basketball coach/missionary. He started going to a small church (the entire metro area has only five or six evangelical churches, none larger than 100 people) in Limerick and being discipled. He stayed connected there and as a young adult he started a men's discussion group that was reaching up to 100 people. He felt he needed ministry experience and education, so he prepared to move to the United States to work with a growing church.

He met his wife, Marie, at the University in Limerick and she was from Arizona, so they moved to Phoenix and got connected at Christ's Church of the Valley. He started as an intern and then began on staff as an Outreach Minister. While he was there he studied at Hope International University and is close to completing his degree. His vision is to start new churches in the Republic of Ireland, beginning in his home city of Limerick.



Leaders from CCV asked Orchard Group to help him start the church. They are supporting him, but they know he will need other partners and good direction. We have agreed to help Dermot with coaching, management team, oversight, donor services, etc. The first step is helping to find financial partners. We're looking for several churches that will each commit up to \$1,000/month for up to eight years. Representatives from those churches will serve on the management team until the new church has local leaders to step into the role.

Dermot and Marie just relocated back to Limerick in the summer of 2011. They are building the core group through discussion groups and gatherings around the city. The goal is to start weekly services in the fall of 2012.



Dermot is a dynamic leader. He is well-connected through family and friends in his home city. There are a number of cultural similarities between Ireland and the Northeastern United States. We believe this will be a very healthy ministry, in spite of the obvious challenges.

Orchard Group has been committed to planting churches in New York and the Northeastern United States for decades. In recent years, we've expanded to help churches in other urban environments – Salt Lake City, Central Phoenix, Southern California. The Ireland Project is our first international endeavor. Please pray for us, for Dermot and Marie, and for the new church to be established in Limerick!

For more information, visit www.crossirelandministries.com and www.ecclimerick.com.