

***For God so loved
the world...
shouldn't we?***

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***Praying for the World
One Country at Time***



**ESTONIA
February 5, 2012**

ESTONIA

Full Name

Estonia

Capital

Tallinn

Location

On the eastern shores of the Baltic Sea

Leadership

Chief of state: President Toomas Hendrik Ilves (since 9 October 2006), Head of government: Prime Minister Andrus Ansip (since 12 April 2005)

Cabinet: Ministers appointed by the prime minister, approved by Parliament

Economy:

Formerly part of Soviet Union, Estonia now has the highest GDP per person among former Soviet republics. Estonia adopted the euro in January 2011.

Overview

Estonia declared independence from the Soviet Union in March 1990. Soviet resistance ensued, but after recognition by European and other countries, the Soviet Union acknowledged Estonian nationhood on Sept. 6, 1991. UN membership followed on Sept. 17. The newly independent nation embraced free-market reforms. Fueled by foreign investments, economic advances continued. In 2004, Estonia became a member of the European Union as well as of NATO. In Sept. 2006, Toomas Hendrik Ilves was elected president, defeating incumbent Arnold Rüütel.

Religion

The dominant religion in Estonia is Evangelical Lutheranism. Orthodox Christianity is the second largest faith. Other denominations include Baptists, Methodists, and Roman Catholics.

Population

1,291,170

Prayer Concerns

Estonia remains one of the poorest countries in the European Union, with incomes half the average. But it also has one of the Union's fastest growing economies.

