

## Spiritual Climate

A survey in the early 1990s found that Poland was one of the world's most religious countries. Roman Catholicism is very strong and very conservative, and while all religions have equal rights in Poland, the Catholic church has been aggressive since 1989 in trying to shape the society on Catholic principles. The small number of Protestants and even smaller number of Evangelicals tend to be viewed as sects. However, many things are converging to make the next 2-3 years incredibly significant for Poland. Not only do we have the massive changes such as the death of Pope John Paul II; the entry of Poland into the European Union; the huge amount of money that is being pumped into the Polish economy as a result of their successful negotiations; the social upheaval and widespread disillusionment with the current religious panorama - there is also a universal sense among church leaders that 'something is going to happen for Poland': God is at work!

Evidence for this can be seen from the fact that the Luis Palau organization had a recent successful evangelistic outreach campaign in Poland; a number of denominations have declared 2007 as a year for evangelism; the European Evangelical Alliance has chosen Poland as the venue for its Annual Conference not just for 2006, but also for 2007- they have never done that before for any country! ECM is also seeking to respond to these new opportunities.

Religion:

- Catholic - 78%
  - Unaffiliated - 10%
  - Non-Religious 10%
  - Orthodox - 1%
  - Protestant - 0.4%    Source: Operation World 2001
  - Bible Schools
  - National Organizations
  - Warsaw Baptist Theological Seminary
  - The Evangelical Higher School of Theology in Wroclaw
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- Evangelical Alliance