

A BURDEN FOR MIGRATION—BIRMINGHAM

WINTER 2018

What is the channel of the gospel? Human beings are the mouthpiece of the gospel, and the homes are the channel of the gospel. Every saint should open his home to preach the gospel. (*Guidelines for the Propagation of the Lord's Recovery*, p. 62)

Another channel of the gospel is to spread through migration...We need to take care of the testimony in "Jerusalem," and then we can spread to other places—to other cities and to other countries—and deliver the gospel to them. This is the way that we should take today. We must receive this burden to rise up to preach the gospel and save souls. (*Guidelines for the Propagation of the Lord's Recovery*, pp. 63-64)

The History of the Church in Birmingham

The church life in Birmingham began in the early 1990s when a group of mainly overseas students were gathered by a postgraduate student from Taiwan and his family. A family from Hong Kong moved there in 1996, and in 2006 the church acquired a meeting hall large enough for 200. A one-day conference with Brother Ron Kangas was held there in 2009.

The Church Life in Birmingham Today

Currently, the average adult attendance on the Lord's Day in the church in Birmingham is 40. There are 35 children under the age of 11 and 16 young people between the ages of 11 and 18. There are young people's meetings and children's meetings on Saturday in the homes of the saints as well as two home meetings in two areas of Birmingham. There are also times for children's and young people's coordination, brothers' fellowship, and sisters' fellowship.

The Significance of the City of Birmingham

Birmingham has a population of 1.1 million people, and it is the cultural, social, financial, and commercial centre of the Midlands region of the UK. Due to its central location, Birmingham is a major transport hub on the motorway and rail networks (1 hour 23 minutes by train to London; 49 minutes with HS2), and it has an international airport seven miles from the city center. The city is growing rapidly with large-scale development in the city core. Investments in improving transport links and facilities throughout the city are being accelerated for the upcoming 2022 Commonwealth Games.

The wider metropolitan area (including Bromsgrove, Coventry, Kidderminster, Nuneaton, Redditch, Tamworth, Warwick–Leamington, and Wolverhampton) is the second largest in the UK, both in terms of population (3.7 million) and economy. Birmingham's six universities make it the largest center of higher education in the country outside of London.

There is a burden among the churches in the UK to strengthen the testimony in Birmingham as the UK's second largest city and the key to central England through:

1. **Blending:**

The saints across the UK have begun to endeavor to blend with Birmingham on a regular, weekly basis. As we enter the spring, we anticipate that we will progress from primarily attending the Lord's Day meeting to also helping with many gospel activities.

2. **Migration:**

We hope that as we visit, many saints, especially from London, would pray about migrating to Birmingham—either by working or studying—in order to open their homes for the gospel and experience the rich enjoyment of the church life with all the saints.