



Writer and Christian apologist, C. S. Lewis, also from Belfast, has become best known for 'The Chronicles of Narnia', symbolic stories now turned into films. Other

books – such as *Mere Christianity*, *The Screwtape Letters*, and *The Problem of Pain* – are recognised as classics. He became a Christian when he was an academic at Oxford University. Once an atheist, Lewis describes what changed him. 'You must picture me alone in that room ... night after night, feeling, whenever my mind lifted even for a second from my work, the steady, unrelenting approach of Him who I so earnestly desired not to meet ... In the Trinity Term of 1929, I gave in and admitted that God was God, and knelt and prayed: perhaps, that night, the most dejected and reluctant convert in all England!'

THOUSANDS OF ORDINARY PEOPLE IN NORTHERN IRELAND HAVE DISCOVERED THE SAME FORGIVENESS AND NEW LIFE IN JESUS.

Thousands of ordinary people in Northern Ireland have discovered the same forgiveness and new life in Jesus. Their simple belief is that we are all answerable to God, our Creator. But our sin and wrongdoing have separated us from Him, leaving us lost and without hope. However, God's perfect Son, Jesus Christ, came into this world so He could pay for our sin by His death on the Cross. Defeating death by rising again, He – by the Holy Spirit – transforms all who turn from their sin and trust in Him.

Even during 'The Troubles' there were remarkable demonstrations of God's love. Four journalists and a historian compiled

the book 'Lost Lives'¹ which details the story of each of the 3,000+ people who were killed in those traumatic times. At one funeral it was said of the murderers, 'Such people, if they do not answer for their crime here, will surely have to answer in a Higher Court – the Court of God. As the Scriptures say, "it is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God."²



In all the sadness there have been glimpses of the difference that Jesus makes even in trauma and tragedy. At the funeral of the first lawyer to be murdered, the preacher said, 'There used to be a Cornish tin miner who prayed every day "Lord, if anyone is to die today in a mining accident, let it be me for I am ready but my friends are not..." John Donaldson was ready to die! Aged 15 he had asked Jesus

¹ *Lost Lives*, by David McKittrick, Seamus Kelters, Brian Feeney, Chris Thornton, and David McVea. Published by Mainstream Publishing.

² Funeral of Bernadette Martin, 18-year-old factory worker.

to be his Lord and Saviour, and was living for Him day by day!'

THE BRIDGE

Not far from the Giants Causeway is the Carrick-a-Rede rope bridge. For some 350 years, fishermen used it to reach Carrick-a-Rede island during the salmon fishing season. Today, it is a popular tourist attraction. However, crossing the bridge is not for the faint-hearted: people have been known to cross to the island and then hesitate to make the return journey!

The Bible reminds us that there is a greater bridge: Jesus Christ, the Saviour who died on a cross outside Jerusalem many years ago, paying for our sin and bridging the yawning chasm between God and man. Take courage and step out, turning away from sin and putting your trust in Him. Forgiveness and eternal life will be yours.

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I would like to know more about Jesus Christ.

- Please send me a free DVD about the life of Jesus.
- Please send me a free copy of John's Gospel (a book of the Bible that describes Jesus' life).
- Please send me a free booklet on how to become a Christian.

Name: _____

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ULSTER

LAND OF SAINTS AND SCHOLARS

By Philip & Catherine Campbell

PEOPLE USED TO STAY AWAY FROM NORTHERN IRELAND. BUT THE PERIOD IN OUR RECENT HISTORY KNOWN AS 'THE TROUBLES' IS NOW SOME YEARS IN THE PAST.

Political accommodation has brought relative peace, illustrated by the fact that cruise ships are now regularly seen docking in Belfast, bringing visitors from many parts of the world.

Thankfully there is so much more to Northern Ireland than contentious politics, and it's not just the famous 'Ulster fry'.

SPORTS

Northern Ireland has its sporting heroes of the recent past – Mary Peters in athletics; Barry McGuigan in boxing; Alex Higgins and Dennis Taylor in snooker; George Best in football. Then, of course, there's golf... One sign on the north coast announces: 'Welcome to Portrush: Major Golf Capital of the World' – this bold claim is justified by the names of Fred Daly, Graeme McDowell, and Darren Clarke, and further enhanced by its selection as the venue for the Open in 2019, and, of course, the former world No. 1 golfer, our own 'Holywood Superstar' – Rory McIlroy comes not from Hollywood, USA, but from Holywood, County Down.

Golf has been memorably described as 'spoiling a good walk', and there are plenty of places to walk in the Province, without a little white ball getting in the way! Just a few miles along the spectacular north coast from golf courses

in Portstewart and Portrush is the well-known Giant's Causeway – a strikingly unusual rock formation made up of hexagonal basalt columns. Visiting geologists marvel at the uniqueness of the Causeway, while the Visitor Centre reminds tourists of the legend of the giant Finn McCoull.

ENGINEERING

In Belfast, Northern Ireland's capital, the Titanic Centre recalls the story of the ill-fated Titanic. The White Star liner, constructed at Harland and Wolff, struck an iceberg on its maiden voyage across the Atlantic in April 1914. Before the ship departed from Southampton, someone on the docks – impressed by such a remarkable feat of engineering – was heard to say: 'Even God Almighty couldn't sink that ship!' Some 2,200 people boarded the Titanic



at Southampton and, tragically, 1,500 of them perished in the freezing waters off Newfoundland.



The 'Back to the Future' trilogy of films has made the gull-winged DeLorean car immediately recognisable. Few people realise that the car that became a time machine was manufactured in Belfast. The agricultural tractor hardly compares with a sleek sports car, but it has stood the test of time and has transformed farming across the world, thanks largely to its development by skilled Ulster inventor Harry Ferguson.

Also made by a Belfast firm was the iconic golden roof on the Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem – which instantly identifies Israel's holy city on many TV news reports.



MUSIC

In Northern Ireland, the kind of music people enjoy goes beyond marching bands or traditional Irish music – with dancing girls in colourful dresses. Belfast is very proud to own James Galway and Van Morrison and few would fail to be moved by the haunting melody of well-known folk song 'Danny Boy'.

FAITH

In this Province of 'Saints and Scholars', you will discover a multiplicity of church buildings. It has been said that there are so many churches in East Belfast, that – if it was raining – you could walk out of the door of one straight into another without getting wet! It is also quite common to see Bible texts on lampposts, trees, and even barns.



Since the days of Patrick, Christianity has played a prominent role in Northern Ireland. Church attendance is high and many who have put their trust in Jesus as Lord and Saviour have travelled to many parts of the world to proclaim the love of God and the reality of knowing God in a personal way. Amy Carmichael went from Millisle to India, rescuing children from cruelty and religious exploitation. Maud Kells served as a missionary in the Democratic Republic of Congo for 53 years. On a return visit in 2015, she was shot through the shoulder. Lying on the ground in a pool of blood, she prayed 'Oh God, please don't let me die; I have so much more I want to do for you yet.' She survived and continued sharing with everyone she met that 'Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.'

