

OPERATION WORLD



THE DEFINITIVE PRAYER GUIDE
TO EVERY NATION

This free resource is a
**A One-Week, Seven-Stop
Prayer Tour around the World**
taken from the book *Operation World*.

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Completely Revised—7th Edition



Afghanistan

Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

Asia

Geography

Area 652,225 sq km. Dry and mountainous but with fertile valleys. This strategic land has been fought over by rival foreign empires for nearly three thousand years.

Population	Ann Gr	Density
2010	29,117,489	3.51%
2020	39,584,751	2.94%
2030	50,648,930	2.41%

Density 45/sq km
61/sq km
78/sq km

No comprehensive census or careful ethnic survey has been made for decades; a census is planned for 2010. Due to years of conflict, Afghan refugees are approximately 2 million in Iran, 2 million in Pakistan and smaller numbers around the world. As many as 4.5 million have returned to Afghanistan since 2001.

Capital Kabul 3,731,312. The civil war extensively damaged the capital and many villages. Significant reconstruction has been done in the capital. **Other cities** Kandahar 475,000; Mazar-e-Sharif 336,000. **Urbanites** 24.8%. **Pop under 15 yrs** 46%. **Life expectancy** 43.6 yrs.

Peoples

Iranian-Median 76.2%. 31 peoples. Largest: Pashtun (Pathan) 42.7%; Tajik 26.2%; Aimaq(6) 5.0%; Baloch 1.2%.

Turkic 21.5%. 9 peoples. Hazara 12.9%; Uzbek 6.4%; Turkmen 2.1%.

South Asian 2.1%. 28 peoples, all smaller in numbers. Brahui 0.8%.

Other 0.2%.

These numbers do not include the large number of military personnel nor the expatriate NGO workers in the country.

Literacy 28.1% (around 15% for women).

Official languages Pashtu (used by 50% of population), Dari (Afghan Persian, used by 70%). **All languages** 41. **Indigenous**

languages 38. **Languages with Scriptures** 1Bi 1NT 7por.

Economy

Shattered by decades of war. The countryside was bombed and still contains over 1 million landmines and other undetonated ordnances. The ongoing conflict destroyed much of the infrastructure, including housing and irrigation; rebuilding infrastructure and developing public sector buildings are focal points of redevelopment. Extensive gas and mineral deposits offer potentially lucrative exports. Investment of extensive foreign aid and millions of former refugees returning have generated an influx of funds and entrepreneurial initiative. The conflict with armed opposition groups, including the Taliban, continues to stunt recovery and growth. Despite efforts to eradicate its cultivation, as much as one-third of the nation's GDP has come from the production of opium, although this is decreasing.

HDI Rank 181st/182. **Public debt** 76% of GDP. **Income/person** \$416 (1% of USA).

Politics

The monarchy was overthrown in 1973. The republican government ended in a Marxist coup in 1978. Then followed an invasion by the USSR. Ten years of war ensued, culminating in the withdrawal of the Soviet forces in 1988-89. Civil war among ethnic, political and religious factions continued, with enormous damage and large numbers of casualties. The extreme Islamist (mainly) Pashtun Taliban gained control of over 90% of the country by 2001. The post-9/11 invasion by US-led forces allied with anti-Taliban Afghan factions has attempted to oust Al Qaeda and the Taliban. A new democratic government structure and a new constitution were established 2002-2004. Despite the increasing presence of NATO troops, the Taliban continue to operate and resist the foreign military presence. The re-election of the president in 2009 was widely recognized as tainted; Afghanistan still struggles with corruption.

Religion

The Taliban's takeover of the country imposed a deviant expression of strict Wahhabist Islam, particularly devastating for the lot of women in society. Since the entry of foreign military forces and the establishment of the Loya Jirga, the acceptable interpretations of Islam have been less strict, and while there is limited freedom to practice other religions (such as Shi'a Islam, Sikhism and Hinduism), there appears to be no freedom to propagate another faith or to convert from Islam. Shi'a Muslims are 20% of the population.

Religions	Pop %	Population	Ann Gr
Muslim	99.85	29,074,395	3.5%
Non-religious	0.07	20,382	15.8%
Christian	0.05	<15,000	14.6%
Hindu	0.01	<3,000	3.5%
Other	0.01	<3,000	-9.9%
Sikh	0.01	<2,500	1.1%

The “high” number of Christians is due to the increased population of resident foreigners. Foreign military have not been counted.

Answers to Prayer

- 1 **The ousting of the Taliban** from power by the alliance of US-led Western troops and Afghan warlords opposed to the Taliban has come at a great cost. Following the overthrow of the Taliban, the Afghan people, particularly women, have gained new freedoms and opportunities. These still occur largely within and are limited by the framework of traditional Afghan culture.
- 2 **The increase of Afghan believers** is impossible to document, yet undeniable. At least several hundred Afghans now follow Christ, when 20 years ago perhaps a few dozen were believers.
- 3 **Christian media** have been developed in many formats – audio/MP3, mobile phone memory, radio, video, literature and the Internet – for evangelism and discipleship. This is an area of real growth and excitement.

Challenges for Prayer

- 1 **The present political situation** – a foreign military working with a national government that is trying to be both progressive and conservative – is far from ideal, but it is an improvement from the tyranny of the Taliban. The Taliban imposed a harsh brand of Islam on the nation and continue to be a threat to national stability and security. The power of the warlords and tribal leaders is greater than that of the government forces or the US military; currently, most of them side with the NATO/Loya Jirga entente. Pray that the Afghan government might serve and govern with humility and wisdom. Pray that the people of Afghanistan may experience genuine freedom and an improved quality of life. Pray also that attempts by insurgents and warlords to destabilize the country might be thwarted and that a settlement might be negotiated.
- 2 **The upheaval of the last 30 years** reduced the country to ruin and destitution. The Soviets (1979–89), the Mujahedeen (1992–96) and the Taliban (1996–2001) all perpetuated different problems and failed to build up the nation. Over one million died and an estimated four million children were orphaned. Though the country still suffers from conflict, progress has been made in those areas where there is peace. The suffering takes many forms; Afghans perceive poverty and lack of security to be the greatest problems. Pray for practical, timely and sustainable solutions to each of these:
 - a) **Continued threat of violence.** The Taliban are very active and often operate from civilian buildings or in civilian guise. Hundreds of thousands of land mines and other undetonated ordnance still litter the country.
 - b) **Health risks.** Afghanistan is the world’s most dangerous place for a child to be born. Infant mortality rate is among the world’s highest. Many causes of death are preventable (diarrhoea, cholera, dysentery and pneumonia), but lack of health care and clean water (78% do not have regular access to clean water) causes many deaths. Refusal to allow women to receive medical care from men causes high maternal mortality rates.
 - c) **The disabled.** There are an estimated one million people suffering with disabilities, mostly with damaged or destroyed limbs as a result of war. In remote areas, many are still being injured by landmines. This is one of the world’s highest proportions of disabled people, in a nation with little provision for their care or rehabilitation.

d) **Poverty and living standards.** Most Afghans live in poverty. There is little employment. Many who fight for the Taliban do so largely to collect the wage offered. Some 80% of the population seek to exist by subsistence farming, but access to water is a problem, especially since almost all irrigation was destroyed by war. Fewer than 15% of homes have access to electricity. Yet employment opportunities are increasing, and the economy is improving in the stable areas.

e) **Drugs** are a scourge on the nation, and indeed the world, as Afghanistan grows 90% of the world's opium-producing poppies.

i) *Poppy cultivation* has long been the main internal source of income, peaking at one-third of the GDP (a proportion now greatly reduced due to the massive influx of aid). This lucrative harvest heavily financed the Taliban. Failure to find a sustainable alternative crop drives impoverished farmers to continue, despite its prohibition in Islam. Pray for the success and feasibility of alternative agricultural projects.

ii) *Heroin and opium addicts* abound in Afghanistan (up to one million drug users) and globally. Every year, more Westerners and Russians die from heroin and opium overdoses than there were fatalities during all the years of Soviet and then NATO occupation.

3 Recovery and rebuilding are occurring in many sectors of society. Among nationals, there is a real mix of optimism and pessimism as to whether genuine improvements can be made. Pray for the following issues:

a) **Billions of dollars in foreign aid** are being poured into the country – especially by the NATO countries, China and India. Over 1,500 NGOs are registered – only 350 of them are foreign. Inefficiency and corruption are very real threats, but the recent implementation of tighter government regulations has forced NGOs to be transparent and efficient with their funds and activities.

b) **A new generation of Afghans with a different attitude.** Sixty percent of Afghans are under the age of 20 and have known nothing but war; they long for opportunities in education and employment and some freedom of choice. Up to 4.5 million Afghans have returned after fleeing the country when it was under Taliban control. Many of them bring financial resources, international connections and an entrepreneurial spirit to help establish new businesses.

c) **National security.** Establishing well-trained, disciplined, Afghan-national military and police forces is vital. These institutions must build a reserve of trust with the people, but are themselves prone to corruption and infiltration by Taliban sympathizers.

d) **Physical infrastructure** was devastated by nearly 30 years of war. The reconstruction of roads, medical facilities, schools and other public service buildings is crucial for the nation's future.

e) **Human development** is equally vital. The infant mortality rate, although very high, is dropping rapidly as health services improve. A record number of children are enrolled in school. Micro-enterprise initiatives are giving many opportunities to start small businesses, earn a respectable living and provide for others.

f) **Christian involvement** in aid and development. Since 1966, a number of Christian relief and development agencies have ministered to the blind, maimed, sick, deprived, illiterate and needy, in the name and Spirit of the Lord Jesus. Many Christians – most of them in humanitarian capacities – work to serve the people of Afghanistan. Practical demonstrations of Christian care and love impress many Afghans, breaking down prejudices and preparing hearts for the gospel. In addition to the tragedies of lives lost, enforced reductions of personnel and even withdrawal of entire organizations from the country caused a great loss of many effective workers. Pray for both courage in the face of adversity and wisdom to know how best to demonstrate Christ's love to the Afghan people.

4 Afghanistan is one of the least reached countries in the world. There are 48,000 mosques but not a single church building. Pray for the 70 unreached peoples of this land, especially for the following groups:

a) **Pashtuns.** They number over 40% of the Afghan population and are politically dominant. Pashtun on both sides of the Afghanistan-Pakistan border comprise what has been called the largest Muslim tribal society in the world – as many as 46 million people in over 30 major sub-tribes. Christians among them remain few, though urban, educated Pashtuns in exile have shown some response. Pray that multitudes might be released from fear, prejudice, the

strongholds of Islam and pride in *pashtunwali* (their tribal code of honour); there is evidence of an intense spiritual battle for breakthrough among this people.

- b) **Tajiks** in the northeast. Speaking Dari (a form of Persian), they are closely related to the Pashtuns. Some Tajik groups were among the last people to resist the Taliban, yet they remain over 99% Muslim. Pray for their spiritual freedom.
- c) **Hazaras**, Shi'a Muslims of Mongol descent. Being a Shi'a group, they have been severely persecuted through the years and were even massacred by the Sunni Taliban. They have demonstrated greater openness to the gospel in recent years.
- d) **Uzbeks and Turkmen** of the north have shown encouraging responsiveness as refugees in other lands, but as in their namesake countries, only a tiny proportion are believers.
- e) **The six Aimaq tribes** of the west, of nomadic background, and the Baloch and Brahui of the south. There are very few if any believers from these isolated groups.
- f) **The nine Nuristani tribal groups** in the mountains north and east of Kabul. They speak five languages and 16 dialects; many of these are mutually unintelligible.
- g) **The five Ismaili Muslim Pamir people groups and the Kyrgyz** living in the far northeast of Afghanistan, along the high Pamir Mountain range. These people groups are isolated in small valleys, far from good roads. Ismaili Muslims tend to be more open to the good news, and a small community of believers was birthed some years ago. Praise God for good distribution of gospel audio materials among the Kyrgyz.
- h) **The numerous Dardic people groups** near the volatile border region with Pakistan. The largest of these is the Pashai, numbering in the hundreds of thousands of people.
- i) **The nomadic Gujar and Jugi/Kuchi/Ghorbat** people groups.

5 **The Church in Afghanistan** remains almost entirely underground, despite a slight improvement in the situation since the fall of the Taliban. Expat believers, who have increased greatly in number, must be very circumspect in their faith and witness. Pray for:

- a) **Afghan believers.** Their numbers are increasing, as are the resources available to help disciple them. There are probably several thousand indigenous Christians; no exact number is known. They can never meet publicly, and even their secret meetings must change times and locations to avoid detection. In rural areas, they often believe as family groups, even as extended families. Also multiplying are small groups of Afghan believers in South Asia, Europe and North America. Pray for the protection of these precious believers, and for the clarity and consistency of their witness.
- b) **Afghans being reached by the gospel.** Most are devoutly Muslim, but many, uncomfortable with terrorist actions in Islam's name, are interested in discovering more about Jesus Christ. The long-term presence of Christians working in aid, development and business, the return of former refugees who encountered the gospel while abroad, the presence of Christian radio as well as dreams and visions of Jesus have all moved mountains. The greatest difficulty is that of identity – many cannot see how to be both Afghan and openly Christian, especially when no such recognition is offered within the wider Afghan society. Pray that an expression of faith will emerge that allows them to be truly Afghan while truly following Jesus.
- c) **Safety and perseverance for believers** as severe repercussions and persecution loom. The inevitable discovery of spiritual movements among believers from a Muslim background received high profile media coverage in Afghanistan and promises of harsh penalties – even death – from both family members and the authorities. Pray that no attacks of the enemies of the gospel might discourage or destroy the Church, but that in the crucible of suffering, the body of Christ might mature and even grow.

6 **The status of women** especially warrants prayer. They were effectively banned from public life by the Taliban. Widows endure particularly harsh plights, and depression and suicide are common. Worse, they have a life expectancy of only 44 years, with one of the highest maternal mortality rates in the world. Female literacy is under 20%, over one-half of Afghan brides are under age 16, only 5% attend secondary school and one-third are subjected to violence. Many still suffer the traumas of years of war and of pressures such times brought upon women in Afghan society. Although employment and social engagement can be very sensitive issues, younger girls are increasingly attending school; one-third of primary students are girls. Special

radio programmes minister to women by communicating from the Bible the love and value that God holds for them. Pray for the disenfranchised women of Afghanistan, that they might receive justice, opportunity and freedom from fear and oppression, but especially that they might find Christ amid their suffering.

7 The need for the Scriptures. After decades of work, the whole Dari Bible is finally available (UBS); around 70% can understand this language. The NT in Pashto is available – albeit in a Pakistani and not an Afghan dialect and therefore not entirely understood. Work on an Afghan Pashto NT is underway. A full Bible translation does not exist in any indigenous minority language; pray that these might come to fruition. Praise God for translation progress in Hazaragi (Gospel of Luke), Kyrgyz (audio NT), Southern Uzbek (Genesis, Exodus and Matthew, with the full NT by 2012) and eight other languages either ongoing or beginning translation work. Pray also for the entry and distribution of God’s Word into this closed land; the government, the Taliban and even NATO forces and NGO groups oppose it.

8 Media is a strategic and indeed essential ministry. Pray that all appropriate methods of witness may be used in the most effective manner.

- a) **Literature.** Culturally appropriate discipleship courses and other training materials are being developed in the major languages of Afghanistan, in addition to many other types of evangelistic materials. These have been effective in reaching Afghans in exile and at home. Pray for those involved in producing, distributing and studying these materials.
- b) **Audio resources.** A set of 45 Scripture stories has been produced in Hazaragi, which can be an effective template for other languages. **GRN** made audio recordings in 65 languages and dialects; many need transmission into modern formats. Worship music on CD in Afghan styles and languages is now available. Several organizations have collaborated to make portable pre-recorded audio players – one evangelistic, one of the NT in Dari and one for discipleship. Pray for their widespread distribution throughout the country.
- c) **Radio** is a strategic way to proclaim the good news, since the majority of Afghans still listen to shortwave radio. FEBA, IBRA, and **GFA** Radio broadcast in the major languages of the country. Pray for the provision of and support for more Dari- and Pashto-speaking Christians to prepare programmes and answer mail. A handful of ministries have combined to develop many materials for radio and other media. “The Church in the Home” and other programmes have been especially helpful for national believers. Pray also for programming to commence in other languages.
- d) **The JESUS film** is available in Baluchi, Brahui, Dari, Hazaragi, Pashto, Tajik and Southern Uzbek. Pray for its widespread use.
- e) **TV**, a rapidly expanding medium. Pars, part of the **SAT-7** family, is growing fast and offers Christian programming in Farsi, the language of Iran closely related to Dari. A Dari programme is being developed.
- f) **Christian websites** have been very effective in reaching the global Afghan diaspora. Sites such as RadioAfghan.com, Sound of Life (sadayezindagi.com), The Voice of Christ (afghantv.com), afghanbibles.com and afghanbibles.org make available literally thousands of audio files and documents for download in several Afghan languages, developed for the evangelization and discipleship of Afghan peoples.
- g) **Video resources.** Culturally appropriate videos are being developed that present narrative Scripture portions as stories about the main Bible characters. These will be available in Southern Uzbek in 2010 and other languages in coming years, starting with Dari.
- h) **Mobile phones.** One of the fastest ways through which Scripture may be spread is sharing audio and audio-text Scripture files via mobile phone. This makes the mobile phone potentially the best evangelistic tool in the country!



Bangladesh

People's Republic of Bangladesh

Asia

Geography

Area 143,998 sq km. Occupying the delta and floodplains of the Ganges and Brahmaputra Rivers, with high rainfall and frequent flooding.

Population	Ann Gr	Density
2010	1.43%	1,142/sq km
2020	1.15%	1,289/sq km
2030	0.83%	1,411/sq km

Capital Dhaka 5,334,000. Other major city: Chittagong 2,023,000. **Urbanites** 28%. **Pop under 15 yrs** 35%. **Life expectancy** 65.7 yrs.

Peoples

All ethnic groups/cultures/castes 399. Muslims and Hindus have distinct cultures and dialects.

Bengali 94.3%. 136 peoples. Shaikh 85.6%; Namasudra 2.1%; Kayastha 1.2%; Rajbansi 1.0%.

Urdu Muslims 2.0%. 35 peoples. Ansari 0.8%; Sayyid 0.7%; Bihari Muslim 0.2%.

Other South Asian 2.6%. 180 peoples, including from the following people clusters: Hindi(65 peoples); Munda-Santal(10); Oriya(23); Punjab(19); Rajasthan(16); Tamil.

Other 1.1%. Including 46 Tibetan/Himalayan peoples, other Asians, Westerners, etc.

Literacy 47.5%. **Official language** Bangla; English also used. **All languages** 42.

Economy

Among the world's poorest nations, suffering from gross over-population and periodic natural disasters such as devastating floods and cyclones with enormous loss of life and property. Poverty is endemic and seems impossible to overcome entirely, but some progress is being made. Major sources of income are agriculture, textiles, clothing, jute and funds sent home from Bangladeshis working abroad.

Nearly half of the population lives on less than \$1/day. **HDI Rank** 146th/182. **Public debt** 39% of GDP. **Income/person** \$431 (1% of USA).

Politics

Part of Pakistan for 24 years. Independence in 1971 after a bitter civil war. Political instability thereafter with assassinations, 18 military coups and a nine year military dictatorship which ended in 1991. One of the Islamic world's only democracies is rendered ineffective by unrest and a bitter personal animosity between the two women who have led the two main political parties. The military and Islamist groups remain influential and ready to pick up the pieces should the state fail. Often rated as the world's most corrupt nation.

Religion

A secular state 1971-88. Islam became the state religion in 1988. Officially there is religious freedom, but this is being steadily eroded by Islamist pressure and a legal system which gives no safeguards to ethnic or religious minorities. Islamists are a strong and growing minority.

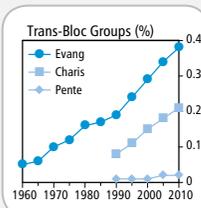
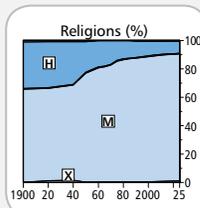
Religions	Pop%	Population	Ann Gr
Muslim	89.01	146,355,130	1.5%
Hindu	9.10	14,962,720	0.4%
Christian	0.66	1,085,208	3.1%
Buddhist	0.60	986,553	1.4%
Animist	0.49	805,685	0.2%
Non-religious	0.11	180,868	3.4%
Sikh	0.02	32,885	1.4%
Baha'i	0.01	16,443	1.4%

Christians Denoms	Pop%	Affiliates	Ann Gr	
Protestant	23	0.21	347,000	3.4%
Independent	21	0.26	435,000	3.7%
Catholic	1	0.19	311,000	1.9%

Included are tens of thousands of Jesus followers who have not left their culturally Muslim identities.

Church	MegaBloc	Congs	Members	Affiliates	
Catholic Church	C	85	170,879	311,000	
Muslim followers of Jesus	I	330	33,000	132,000	
Talitha Koumi	I	919	45,935	71,200	
Church of the Nazarene	P	800	27,000	45,000	
Bangladesh Bapt Sangha	P	335	18,000	39,000	
Seventh-day Adventist	P	137	28,800	38,880	
Free Christian Churches	P	321	18,300	38,500	
All One in Christ Fell	I	168	13,400	33,500	
Bangladesh Bapt Ch Fell P	P	400	13,156	32,100	
Garo Baptist Union	P	148	11,718	26,600	
Methodist Church	P	319	18,500	24,605	
New Apostolic Church	I	57	11,400	22,800	
Assemblies of God	P	108	7,483	22,000	
New Covenant Church	I	57	6,821	19,100	
Church of Bangladesh	P	67	6,084	17,400	
Free Baptist Ch (New Life)	I	186	4,655	15,500	
Evang Christian Ch	I	46	6,025	14,700	
Other denominations [32]		1,595	100,631	189,727	
Total Christians [47]			6,078	541,787	1,093,612

Trans Bloc	Pop%	Population	Ann Gr
Evangelical	0.4	632,067	3.6%
Charismatic	0.2	340,899	4.0%
Pentecostal	0.0	36,948	5.1%



Answers to Prayer

- 1 Progress in the fight against poverty has been made.** The thousands of NGOs operating have contributed immeasurably to this, and Bangladesh is the furthest along of all South Asian nations in progress toward meeting the UN Millennium Development Goals for 2015, which focus on poverty reduction, education, etc. Micro-credit has been the flagship strategy for this progress.
- 2 There is encouraging growth among believers,** both inside and outside of conventional church structures. Churches are increasing, especially indigenous denominations, but numbers of Christ-followers who remain in the traditional structures of their faith background are also growing.

Challenges for Prayer

- 1 The cycle of poverty will keep perpetuating itself** until some serious changes occur on a fundamental level. Pray for long term and deep level transformation in the following areas of desperate need:
 - a) The economy is sorely underdeveloped.** Bangladesh has little infrastructure, very few natural resources, and therefore few ways of making an income. Most people work in agriculture or textiles for scandalously low wages. The majority of Bangladeshis live in gripping poverty, with a very small wealthy minority.
 - b) A solid social foundation for progress is lacking.** Education levels are low (but improving), and overpopulation creates many problems in a nation already sorely lacking in land, resources and employment opportunities. Women have been the spine of the micro-credit success (80% of households participate in benefits from micro-credit), yet often suffer undignified and inequitable treatment.
 - c) A frightening vulnerability to changes in climate and economy.** With such widespread poverty, a large proportion of inadequate income is spent on food. Significant rises in food prices have a devastating effect, but not as devastating as the effect of flooding from swollen rivers and monsoons. With alarming regularity the nation is made to endure tragic loss of life and property.
- 2 The political situation offers little hope for significant change,** and seems a venue for feuding between two mega-wealthy clans rather than a means to improve the lot of the poor majority. Many see democracy as merely lip service to Western ideals in order to secure aid. Corruption is endemic and deeply rooted. Pray for governance that is just, transparent and effective at assisting those in need and at thwarting those seeking to gain at the expense of the nation.
- 3 Religious discrimination and tension is rising.** Islamists, while a small minority, are exerting increasing pressure to govern the nation by *shari'a* principles. Minority groups, even Muslim ones, find themselves in a vulnerable position. Christians, Buddhists and especially Hindus suffer as persecution intensifies, occasionally to the point of destruction of property and sometimes even loss of life. Forced reconversion to Islam is an increasing threat. Since independence, the percent of the population comprising minority sections of society has been reduced by more than half. Pray for the binding of the powers of darkness operating in the religious, social and ethnic realms. Pray also that

constitutional freedom for all to practise and propagate their own religions might be maintained.

B **4** **The churches have been growing** faster than the population rate for the last 50 years.

Pray specifically for:

- a) **The people-movement tribal churches.** Significant church growth (>10% evangelical) has occurred among the following peoples: Santal, Munda, Khasi, Garo, Maramei, Ralte, Mizo, Poi. Another 18 groups have greater than 5% evangelicals with multiplying churches. Pray that these churches may become strong and full of vision for mission.
- b) **The churches among sections of the Hindu population.** The majority of indigenous believers has traditionally been from a Hindu background, and usually from the less populous and lower caste peoples. The ill-treatment of Hindus in Bangladesh has made them more amenable to the gospel.
- c) **Believers from a Muslim background.** There are tens of thousands who now call on Jesus as Lord, but a wider breakthrough awaits. Some have found Christ through highly contextualized “Jesus mosques”, others through relational networks, even visions and dreams. Pray for these fledgling movements with such staggering potential to grow, spread and mature.

5 **The Church has many needs**, the greatest of which is spiritual awakening. Pray that the Holy Spirit may move in these areas:

- a) **Nominal Christianity.** Early people movements brought thousands from marginalized sections of society into the Church. Poverty, illiteracy and lack of trained and godly leadership have led to shallowness and nominalism.
- b) **Unity.** Imported and indigenous divisions have hindered the church’s witness to other faiths and make it easier to legislate against and intimidate Christians. Pray for the National Christian Fellowship of Bangladesh as it seeks to encourage evangelical unity and cooperative action in evangelism, teaching and aid programmes.
- c) **Outreach.** After years of little interest, there is growing involvement in reaching out to others. Once this occurs, it will be a major transition in the national Church.
- d) **Finance.** Christians generally come from lower classes and castes, which, along with belonging to a minority faith, limits their employment opportunities. This can create a situation of perpetual dependence on foreign aid. Many national Christian workers are drawn by the much-needed salary more than the desire to serve. Pray for means by which believers and churches can be self-sustaining.

6 **Leadership for the churches is much needed.** Many pastors minister in addition to holding down a full-time job. A lack of resources prevents not only full-time ministers, but also full-time theological students. Pray for creative and responsible methods of offering relevant instruction. Spiritually mature lay leaders are also in short supply; pray for both renewal and training opportunities.

- a) **The College of Christian Theology Bangladesh and the Christian Discipleship Centre** are key interdenominational residential schools. The CCTB and CDC also run TEE and short-term programmes, which are of great strategic importance.
- b) **Denominational Bible schools and seminaries** are also important in Bangladesh (**AoG, GFA, ABWE, Free Baptist, Anglican, Adventist, Lutheran and Church of Bangladesh**).
- c) **Indigenous Bible schools** offer training in local community outreach, tailored to the needs of Muslim followers of Jesus.

7 **There are over 20,000 registered NGOs** which have multiplied to meet the land’s deep social needs. Indigenous secular NGOs such as the Grameen Bank have significantly improved the lives of millions of the poor. The Bangladesh Rehabilitation Assistance Committee (BRAC) is the world’s largest NGO (2009), a status accompanied by both large-scale success in development work and growing criticism as a “2nd government” with too little accountability. Christian NGOs have administered aid since independence and, during the nation’s frequent natural calamities, have been generous and impartial. **HEED, World Vision, World Concern** and others seek to uphold Christian values and prepare the way for local church and mission involvement. **Tearfund** sends workers and helps in funding projects and in research.

8 **Bengali people** are by far the largest unreached people in the world, numbering around 240 million globally. The large majority live in Bangladesh and India, but large communities live in Britain, the US, etc. It was to the Bengali that William Carey went as a missionary. Although they revere Carey’s memory, the great breakthrough has still not come after 200 years. There are signs of the trickle becoming a flood, however. Pray specifically for:

- a) **Muslims, who number over 140 million in Bangladesh alone.** The Bengalis are claimed as Islam's greatest missionary success. But the majority follow 'folk' Islam — a blend of Sufi-influenced Islam, indigenous culture and Hinduism. Pray for:
 - i *Openness to the gospel* — the vast majority have never heard the true gospel.
 - ii *More workers* — given their population, the numbers committed to reaching them are pitifully few. There are perhaps only four Protestant missionaries for every one million Bengalis. Pray for a surge in Kingdom workers committed to the evangelization of Bengalis.
 - iii *Those who have responded* — many have remained in their cultural/religious context while committing their lives to Jesus. Pray for the nurturing of these followers; pray for leaders who model biblical values and lifestyles, for God-honouring worship patterns and for cultural relevance without compromise of biblical truth. There is often great social and family pressure to renounce Christ, as well as opposition from some Islamic leaders. Pray that new believers may learn dependence on God in poverty, firmness under persecution, evangelistic vision and unity with other established Christian communities from differing cultural backgrounds.
- b) **The Hindus who feel increasingly vulnerable** as a religious minority — there have been many incidents of violence and persecution against them. Pray for this to spark openness to Jesus. Some followers of Jesus remain within the Hindu context and do not link up with "foreign" Christian bodies. There are 228 Hindu people groups and/or castes, of which 204 are classified as "least reached/unreached". Only among 14 groups has there been any significant response. The upper castes have remained resistant to the gospel.

9 **The tribal peoples'** very existence is threatened as the Bengali population explosion pushes further into traditional tribal lands. Several peoples of the Chittagong Hill Tracts are suffering from this slow squeeze; their lands and even their culture are under threat as Islamization accompanies Bengalization. Pray for a just settlement; the granting of limited autonomy to the region has not improved the situation much. Pray also for Christian agencies seeking to bring the tribal peoples to Christ (**ABMS, ABWE, BMS, GFA, IMB-SBC**, Presbyterians and Lutherans). Some are almost entirely unreached while others have large Christian populations.

10 Other unreached groups:

- a) **Bihari Muslims** (Urdu-speaking) are unwanted by Pakistan and stigmatized as traitors in Bangladesh for their role in the 1971 war. Most still live in the dozens of former refugee camps. Pray for reconciliation with the Bengali people. Pray for a development plan for them, for Christian workers and for openness to the gospel.
- b) **Rohingya Muslims.** As many as 250,000 of them have fled persecution from the Buddhist Burmese government. Huddled into refugee camps and often subject to forced repatriation, they have never been evangelized. Pray for those seeking openings to reach them.

11 **Mission agencies have played a valuable role** with their social uplift programmes, hence the emphasis on institutions and aid programmes. Pray for the following:

- a) **Evangelism and church planting.** This core aspect is still not occurring on a level that will see the entire nation reached. Blatant proselytism is not tolerated but friendship evangelism is effective. Increasingly strict limitations have been placed on missionaries; some believe expatriate mission work may eventually be squeezed out altogether, especially if Islamists have their way.
- b) **Development/aid**, another area of rightful focus and one which bears good fruit. **ABWE, AoG, ELCA, Mennonite Central Committee, The Leprosy Mission, Interserve, SIM, OM** and **YWAM** are just a few of the many ministries providing much needed assistance for the millions who suffer whilst building good relationships with local governments.
- c) **At risk people.** Child labourers and sex workers are forced into involuntary servitude in tragically high numbers (hundreds of thousands and millions respectively). Gripping poverty and rampant corruption contribute to these structures of sin and create a living hell with no easy way out. Agencies such as **CMS, Salvation Army, Habitat for Humanity, Compassion**, and **Tearfund** minister into these situations.
- d) **Business ventures** started and run by Christians provide another avenue for serving those in need. Entrepreneurs and investors are currently welcomed by this country.

12 **Other Christian media** are important when so much of the population is illiterate. Pray for effective outreach through:

B

- a) **Radio.** Christian broadcasters (mostly **TWR, GFA, FEBA**, Adventists) transmit over 500 hours a week over shortwave in Bengali, Burmese, English, Hindi and a host of other tribal languages. Pray especially for the production of suitable and sufficient programmes for the non-Christian majority.
- b) **The JESUS film** has been used among Hindus and Muslims with good response. It is completed in Bangla, Sylheti, Assamese and 15 other languages. Pray for the spiritual growth of new believers coming to Christ through the JESUS film.
- c) **Audio ministry.** **GRN** has a staggering 91 languages and dialects with audio resources. The **HELP** (Health, Education and Leadership Programme) audio series prepares young people to serve God and their country.



Cuba

Republic of Cuba

Latin America

Geography

Area 110,861 sq km. The largest island in the Caribbean.

	Population	Ann Gr	Density
2010	11,204,351	0.02%	101/sq km
2020	11,193,470	-0.04%	101/sq km
2030	11,019,440	-0.23%	99/sq km

Capital Havana 2,162,000. **Urbanites** 76%. **Pop under 15 yrs** 19%. **Life expectancy** 78.5 yrs.

Peoples

Hispanic 99%. Mulatto 51%; White 37%; Black 11%. Racial lines are extremely blurred; most likely the black population is higher than given.

Other 1%. Haitian, Indo-Pakistani, Chinese, Russian, Palestinian.

Literacy 99.8%. **Official language** Spanish. **All languages** 2.

Economy

Sugar, along with the rest of the economy, collapsed with the Soviet meltdown as aid and subsidies dried up. The US trade embargo, devastating hurricanes, repressive centralized socialist planning, corruption and poor productivity hamper progress. Lack of many essentials (including food) still affects the country, yet there is a high standard in literacy, education and health. Tourism is becoming more and more economically important. **HDI Rank** 51st/182. **Public debt** 35% of GDP.

Politics

Independent from Spain in 1898. Castro's revolution brought Communism to power in 1959, replacing a corrupt and venal regime. After decades of exporting revolution to Latin America and Africa, Cuba is among the last protagonists of Communism. Fidel Castro and his brother, Raúl, along with those connected to the regime, ensure

that no change of system, either political or economic, is on the cards. All political opposition is illegal, despite increasing dissident activity.

Religion

Strict control of all church activities and repression of religious freedom in earlier years of Communist rule, but since 1990 the degree of pressure has lessened. A "secular" rather than atheist state, discrimination against Christians is illegal. But discrimination and harassment continue as the growing churches are often perceived as a threat to the regime's stability.

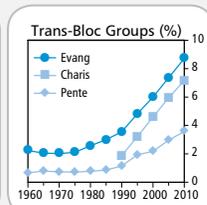
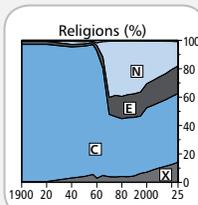
Religions	Pop%	Population	Ann Gr
Christian	56.53	6,333,820	0.8%
Non-religious	25.01	2,802,208	-1.9%
Animist	18.00	2,016,783	0.6%
Hindu	0.14	15,686	1.5%
Chinese	0.14	15,686	0.0%
Other	0.18	20,127	-1.1%

Christians Denoms	Pop%	Affiliates	Ann Gr	
Protestant	37	5.66	634,000	4.3%
Independent	17	1.76	197,000	4.3%
Anglican	1	0.12	14,000	7.0%
Catholic	1	48.37	5,420,000	0.5%
Orthodox	1	0.08	10,000	3.5%
Marginal	1	1.16	130,000	0.9%
Unaffiliated		1.6	176,000	-0.3%
<i>Doubly affiliated</i>		-2.19	-245,000	0.0%

Church	MegaBloc	Congs	Members	Affiliates
Catholic Ch	C	808	3,474,359	5,420,000
Assemblies of God	P	4,500	110,000	169,000
Jehovah's Witnesses	M	2,906	93,000	130,200
Bapt Conv of Eastern C	P	2,300	36,452	113,000
Evang Pentecostal Ch	I	306	55,000	110,000
Methodist Ch of C	P	533	16,000	60,000
Bapt Conv of Western C	P	1,118	19,000	45,600
Los Pinos Nuevos	P	250	27,000	45,090
Christian Pentecostal Ch	I	600	18,000	45,000
Seventh-day Adventist	P	262	25,100	33,000
Presbyterian Reformed	P	270	8,100	19,550
Pentecostal Holiness Ch	P	257	18,000	19,000
Ch of God (Cleveland)	P	65	4,100	14,637
Other denominations [44]		2,181	83,615	126,817

Total Christians [58] 16,410 3,992,621 6,159,894

Trans Bloc	Pop%	Population	Ann Gr
Evangelical	8.8	980,552	3.3%
Charismatic	7.2	805,675	3.6%
Pentecostal	3.6	402,688	3.4%



Answers to Prayer

- 1 The Church has continued to multiply at impressive rates.** The growth of the 1990s has continued and shows no signs of stopping. Praise God for a dynamic and expanding Church.
- 2 Opposition and hostility toward the Church has refined it,** causing believers to depend radically upon God, strengthening their prayer life (individually and corporately) and encouraging unity of the Body of Christ.
- 3 Numerical growth is accompanied by increased maturity and confidence.** The church is beginning to minister in innovative and bold ways, and members see no conflict between their “Cuban-ness” and their faith.

C

Challenges for Prayer

- 1 Cuba faces a difficult future.** Pray for the following needs:
 - a) Political.** This last bastion of Communism in the West defies fundamental change through the continued influence of Fidel Castro, his brother, Raúl Castro, President since 2008, and “old guard” Party leadership. Pray for their salvation and for wise leadership that governs in the best interests of the people.
 - b) Economics.** The current model is simply unsustainable in the long term, despite huge assistance from Venezuela, China and Bolivia. While the Castro family sits on a personal fortune, endemic poverty has led to a thriving black market where crime, drugs and prostitution are widespread. Black and mulatto Cubans suffer greater deprivation with fewer opportunities than whites. Only Haiti and the Dominican Republic are poorer in the Caribbean region. Pray for sensible reforms, economic freedom and that structural sins might be overcome by good.
 - c) Demographic.** Cuba has a top-heavy population, with large and increasing numbers of aged with too few in the younger generation to support them. This demographic time bomb will place further stress on an already fragile economy.
 - d) Ideological.** The wounds inflicted by Marxism need healing. More than 500,000 have been imprisoned for ideological reasons, and over one million have become ideological or economic refugees, many in Florida, US. Both the US and Cuba have used refugees as another weapon of war. Pray that forgiveness might abound between all Cubans and that relations might improve between Cuba and the wider world.
- 2 Catholicism** was the default religion before the revolution. Although the majority still confess Catholicism, huge swathes of the church are rife with syncretism; it is often hard to tell where Catholicism ends and Afro-Cuban spiritism begins. Less than 10% frequent mass. Priests and nuns are less than half the pre-revolutionary numbers. However, the Catholic Church is experiencing something of a comeback after some very difficult decades. True believers are few but growing in number within Catholicism. Pray for the Catholic Church, that it might be purified, revived and established as a place where millions will find Jesus.
- 3 Evangelical churches** were devastated by several waves of emigration to the US as well as persecution. Recovery has taken a long time, but the church is now a force to be reckoned with – Protestants alone have more than doubled between 1995 and 2010. Many of the new believers are young people. Charismatic/Pentecostal groups in particular report spectacular (albeit statistically dubious) growth. Pray that this dynamic faith community would be a light to the nation and have a powerful transforming effect on Cuba; the potential for positive impact is great.
- 4 Persecution of Christians,** more severe in the past, still continues in the form of harassment and discrimination as well as imprisonment of leaders. Following Jesus remains a sacrificial choice as the regime fears the church as a social movement like that which undermined communism in Eastern Europe and China. The government has tried to strangle Christian growth by making it nearly impossible to build new churches; the resulting house church movement has proved even more fruitful! Further attempts to reign in the house

churches have yielded much greater unity across many denominations. Infiltration by informers has yielded more stringent membership and baptism criteria, generating more committed and mature members. Pray for continued courage and perseverance for suffering believers.

5 Leadership for the churches remains an urgent need. Many had to flee or were expelled following the revolution. Praise God for those who stood firm and were trained in the school of suffering; many are weary from long years of service and need a fresh vision. There are now a dozen evangelical and two Catholic Bible schools or seminaries. Student numbers are limited by government interference and a lack of both material and human resources. TEE programmes, itinerant and visiting intensive teaching modules and hand-couriered laptops crammed with Bible resources are creative ways of addressing this challenge. Pray for a multiplication of visionary leadership for the churches that enables them to cope with the growth and change.

6 The less reached:

a) **Spiritism** has been actively supported by the government as “cultural”. Afro-Caribbean religions under a thin veneer of Catholicism have a greater following than the 18% attributed to spiritism. There may be more than three million devotees of *Santería* and other cults which resemble Haitian voodoo; “*Santería* tourism” grows as increasing numbers come on pilgrimage to Cuba. Pray that Christians may exercise love, understanding and spiritual power to see many delivered from this satanic bondage.

b) **The Indians, Chinese and Palestinians** have been largely assimilated into the Hispanic majority, but still retain much of their old culture. Little is being done to specifically reach them.

7 Foreign missions are largely restricted to tactful support and occasional visits from outside the country. A few workers are permitted to remain in a low-profile teaching ministry; others visit to teach and train church leaders in all aspects of ministry. The government has blacklisted dozens of foreign organizations, one way of denying precious resources to the national church. Pray that wise input from abroad will serve Cuba in an effective way.

8 There are over one million Cuban refugees (legal and illegal) living in the US, mainly from the white middle and upper classes and predominantly Catholic. Pray that they will not be victims of the temptations offered by the “free” society they sought so desperately. Pray that the Cuban diaspora will also find Christ and have a redemptive influence on their nation of origin.

9 Christian help ministries for prayer:

a) **Bible distribution** — the need remains urgent as church growth outstrips supply. Over one million copies of the Scriptures have been printed in country on the Cuban Bible Society press, and many thousands are imported every year. A new easy-to-read Spanish Bible will be very helpful in making the gospel more accessible to many, but it is still difficult for many Christians to get a Bible.

b) **Christian literature** has been extremely hard to acquire for years and is an intense need. As the church and its leaders grow, more materials are needed. More can now be imported, but permission for local printing is difficult to obtain. Pray that the wide range of Spanish-language resources would make its way into Cuba.

c) **Christian radio** remains an untapped potential. Although 878 hours/week are broadcast, almost all of it is over shortwave, which is very hard to receive as shortwave radios are illegal in Cuba. Some FM Christian radio can be picked up from other Caribbean islands. Local Christian broadcasting is still not permitted.

d) **Music** is a core aspect of Cuban culture and identity. The raising up and training of Christian musicians and worship leaders is hugely strategic. Some prominent musicians have become believers, increasing Cuba’s exposure to the good news.



Papua New Guinea

Independent State of Papua New Guinea

Pacific

Geography

Area 462,840 sq km. Eastern half of New Guinea, the second largest island in the world with many smaller islands in the north and east which make up the nation of Papua New Guinea (PNG). PNG is a land of high mountains, dense forests, lowland swamps, coral islands, torrential rainfall, many rivers, and great biodiversity.

Population	Ann Gr	Density
2010	6,449,889	1.84%
2020	7,602,117	1.63%
2030	8,783,577	1.37%

Capital Port Moresby 245,000. **Urbanites** 13%. **Pop under 15 yrs** 40%. **Life expectancy** 60.7 yrs.

Peoples

About 1,000 peoples speaking approximately 820 languages, 20% of the world's total. Ethnically and linguistically the world's most complex nation, whose cultures have been moulded by geography, successive immigrations, sorcery, fear and warfare, and more recently from outside by colonialism, Christian mission and modernity.

Melanesian 98.2%. Numerous tribal groups, over half of which are less than 2,000 in population. Largest: Enga 5.2%; Melpa 3.3%; Huli 1.9%; Kuman 1.9%; Papuan 1.8%; Kamano 1.7%; Golin 1.6%; Sinasina 1.6%; Tolai 1.5%; Ambulas 1.1%; North Waghi 1.1%; Benabena 1.0%; Kapau 1.0%.

Other 1.8%. Chinese, Caucasian, Polynesian, East and Southeast Asian, West Papuan refugees.

Literacy 57.3%. **Official language** English, Tok Pisin (Melanesian/English Creole) and Motu. **All languages** 830. **Languages with Scriptures** 11Bi 202NT 109por 222w.i.p.

Economy

Predominantly subsistence agricultural/fishing economy, supplemented by cash crops (tea, coffee and copra). Exploitation of natural resources is increasing rapidly – oil, gas, minerals and timber. Many problems (land compensation claims, rugged terrain, lack of infrastructure, greedy multinational corporations, violent upheavals) complicate the wise stewarding of the land's rich resources. Very dependent on trade (and aid) from Australia. High urban unemployment, and 70% of the population live in poverty. **HDI Rank** 148th/182. **Public debt** 32% of GDP. **Income/person** \$990 (2% of USA).

Politics

The northern and eastern parts (called German New Guinea) were under German control until World War I and the south (called British New Guinea) was under British rule until 1901. The latter then came under Australian rule and was called Papua. Australia continued to administer Papua and New Guinea until independence in 1975 when Papua New Guinea became a state within the British Commonwealth. The nation is governed by a democratic parliamentary system. The 1988-98 uprising of Bougainville has proved costly at every level, but a peace is being maintained and the island is effectively autonomous.

Religion

Freedom of religion. Almost the entire population has links to a Christian denomination, but the old ethnic religions remain a powerful underlying influence.

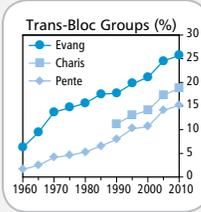
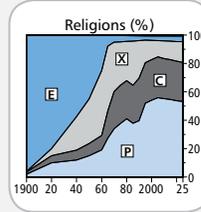
Religions	Pop%	Population	Ann Gr
Christian	95.84	6,181,574	1.8%
Animist	3.50	225,746	3.1%
Non-religious	0.30	19,350	1.8%
Baha'i	0.25	16,125	1.8%
Buddhist	0.05	3,225	-1.8%
Muslim	0.04	2,580	7.9%
Chinese	0.02	1,290	-6.1%

Christians Denoms	Pop%	Affiliates	Ann Gr
Protestant	57	3,558,000	1.6%
Independent	43	406,000	3.0%
Anglican	1	170,000	0.2%
Catholic	1	1,825,000	1.6%
Marginal	47	164,000	2.2%
Unaffiliated		6.7	433,000
<i>Doubly affiliated</i>	1	-5.81	-375,000

Church	MegaBloc	Congs	Members	Affiliates
Catholic Church	C	2,454	1,079,882	1,825,000
United Church	P	4,998	649,701	1,085,000
Evang Luth Ch of PNG	P	3,340	557,143	858,000
Assemblies of God	P	925	165,000	480,000
Seventh-day Adventist	P	968	268,000	348,400
Anglican Church	A	565	67,800	169,500
Gutnius Lutheran Ch	P	1,069	84,444	152,000

Christian Revival Crusade I	527	58,000	104,400
Foursquare Gospel Ch P	1,250	77,000	103,000
Bethel Pentecostal Tab I	297	44,500	89,000
Evangelical Ch of PNG P	252	29,000	81,500
Baptist Union (W Highl) P	316	34,737	66,000
Revival Centre I	44	17,500	49,000
United Pentecostal Ch P	130	44,286	46,500
Apostolic Church P	265	30,000	45,000
Indigenous Chs (NTM) P	243	22,300	42,370
Ch of the Nazarene P	540	15,700	26,700
Evang Bible Mission P	580	14,500	24,650
Other denominations [130]	2,660	231,083	482,131
Doubly affiliated	2	0	0 -375,000
Total Christians [150]	21,494	3,506,626	5,747,351

Trans Bloc	Pop%	Population	Ann Gr
Evangelical	26.7	1,721,598	3.0%
Charismatic	19.4	1,252,803	3.7%
Pentecostal	15.8	1,018,544	3.7%



Answers to Prayer

- 1 There is increased Christian influence in Parliament** as a result of recent elections. Every indication is that while most members of Parliament confess Christianity, less than half are actively practicing believers, but the prayer and pastoral presence in Parliament is encouraging.
- 2 Bible translation has seen great progress** in recent years, especially with the increased involvement of nationals in the process as translators and assistants. Over 200 projects are in progress and several new NTs are completed every year!
- 3 There is a growing mission vision** among the PNG churches. Although economically poorer and often less educated than their expatriate counterparts, they are full of faith, used to hardship and well aware of the wide cross-cultural contexts and the spiritual warfare that comes with mission work.

Challenges for Prayer

- 1 The nation faces many crises** just in order to prevent meltdown, never mind to over-see progress. Some groups and governments involved with PNG expect an impending failed state and social chaos. Pray for a government that will act with courage and foresight, moral integrity and wisdom.

 - a) The sheer ethnic diversity and geographic isolation** of most groups makes PNG monumentally more complex for attempting to mould a single national identity. Tribal fighting and revenge killings have been ongoing for millennia. Pray for a means to engender a peace that surpasses a mere absence of violence and an identity that transcends immediate tribal ties.
 - b) Economic development is an uphill struggle.** The vast wealth of natural resources is hard to get to, and is plundered by rapacious foreign companies and their national collaborators, an enriched elite. The impoverished majority (>75%) suffer and survive through subsistence farming. Corruption dissipates the majority of foreign aid and a significant amount of national expenditure meant to help locals.
 - c) Accelerating urbanization** has placed intensifying pressure on the job market, public utilities and health care, ethnic relations and social stability. Violent crime in the cities is rising. The traditional structures of village life are not present in the squatter camps, hence the attendant social decay.
- 2 The great success of missions to PNG over the past 130 years** started along the coast and then moved inland, reaching finally to the Highlands and to almost every tribe. In some, there have been mass movements to Christianity. Over 95% of all tribes claim to be Christian. Praise God for the presence of a living, vibrant Church today. But a deeper level of discipleship is lacking in many places. In some areas there is already disillusionment and a turning back to traditional customs, drunkenness, gambling, cargo cults or other syncretistic

groups. Revivals have occurred in many areas (e.g. East and West Sepik, New Britain, North Solomons and Highlands areas), but more are needed to see a lasting change.

3 AIDS is an impending scourge with HIV infection increasing at an alarming rate. Continued spread at these rates will lead to a pandemic with prevalence comparable to sub-Saharan Africa. Lack of awareness is a major challenge; the disease is mostly spread through sexual immorality, but attributed to all kinds of superstitious causes. TSCF(**IFES**) and the Baptists are just two ministries devoted to educating on the causes of AIDS, removing the associated stigma and cultivating Biblical lifestyles so as to eradicate the infection.

4 Witchcraft and sorcery are on the rise again, and “witch hunts” are likewise becoming more common, where those suspected of black magic are tortured into a confession and then killed. This gruesome trend is in part a reflection of the highly spiritually-attuned culture, but also a reaction to a rapid increase in AIDS. Pray for an end to occult activities and related violence; the existence of such problems in a 96% Christian nation illustrates both the failure of and challenges to the church.

5 There are many challenges facing the churches:

- a) **Effective discipling is the most urgent and prevalent need.** Nominalism, syncretism and the pollution of Christianity with spiritism and the occult are sadly too widespread. Culturally appropriate ways of building up biblical faith, character, lifestyle and worldviews need to be developed – pray for creative, insightful people and ministries to achieve this.
- b) **Failure to engage with Scripture.** A lack of available Scripture translations and widespread functional illiteracy generates spiritual stuntedness and vulnerability to both nominalism and theological error. Pray for more Bible and discipleship material specifically developed for oral learners.
- c) **Continued divisiveness based on ethnicity.** Strong tribal ties, ancient animosities and diversity of languages persist. These are barriers that hinder fellowship and flow of spiritual blessing.
- d) **Denominational division** is not as bad as in the past, but true unity and cooperation is far from achieved. The PNG Council of Churches draws together the mainline denominations, and the Evangelical Alliance does the same for most Protestant and many independent groups; they are seeing good progress at the leadership level. Pray for division to be broken down, particularly on the local congregational level.

6 Leadership training is a top priority. Many small Bible schools are run by churches and missions. There are a few denominational theological colleges. The Christian Leaders’ Training College (CLTC), with 120 full-time students and a community of 500 with an international faculty, trains leaders for churches from all over PNG and the Solomon Islands. Churches are recognizing the value of TEE as a tool for training the many marginally-literate rural pastors and church workers who have received minimal grounding in the faith. Pray for:

- a) **Men and women called of God** to full-time work as pastors, missionaries, etc. The lure of highly paid secular jobs is strong for those with good education. The primitive, isolated conditions of many rural areas puts off many from service, leaving believers in these areas without good teaching or leadership.
- b) **Bible teachers and pastors** who can impart a love of God’s Word to students and congregations in a way that applies to the local culture and helps shape the spiritual life of the nation.
- c) **Specialized urban training programmes** to prepare leaders for urban ministries (CLTC Centres in Port Moresby and Lae; Baptist Urban Pastoral Training Centre [BUPTC] in Port Moresby); increasing urbanization makes this a strategic ministry.
- d) **TEE programmes, run mainly by CLTC** to serve PNG and the Pacific. Over 1,000 students enrol annually and the influence of such education is inestimable. Pray for more and better-trained staff and for financial provision; inflation and increases in postage and air freight threaten the ability of many rural students to enrol. Pray also for the development of more TEE programmes in Tok Pisin developed by Melanesians with good theological education and understanding of local spiritual needs.

7 The vision of sending missionaries is growing. The indigenous PNG Missionary Association was formed in the early ‘90s and stimulated mission awareness, drawing on the image and model of the Deep Sea Canoe movement of the past. CLTC runs an annual mission

mobilizing conference called Launch Out. **OM** has a base in PNG and many nationals have already served on the MV Doulos and in other fields. **NTM** has also been instrumental in training and sending nationals to serve cross-culturally at home and abroad. Papua (the Indonesian side of New Guinea) is an area of particular interest as PNG natives have a potentially crucial role in helping Papuans withstand increasing Islamization.

8 **A land with a rich legacy of missionary success and sacrifice**, there is still a large missionary presence, mostly focused on health, education, development, translation, teaching, discipling, leadership training and support work. Pray for:

- a) **The gospel to take a more New Guinean shape.** Christianity must become more relevant and applicable to nationals if it is to have the much-needed leavening effect that PNG society so desperately needs.
- b) **Those working in building up the existing church.** Discipleship and leadership training are crucial tasks and the main challenges facing Christianity in PNG.
- c) **Those involved in health, education and community development programmes.** The pressures facing PNG society need addressing in a brave but loving way.

9 **Aircraft of missionary organizations are an essential lifeline** for the work of churches and missions. Many areas are only accessible by air and highly dependent on such ministry. Flying conditions are some of the worst in the world with thick forests, high mountains, dense clouds and treacherous weather conditions. Besides the dangers involved in flying, understaffing often reduces the number of flights. Pray for the flying staff of **MAF** (with 36 expat, 120 national workers and 14 planes), of **SIL/JAARS** (4 planes and 2 helicopters), **NTM** (3 planes and 1 helicopter), and all who service these planes and travel in them.

10 **The younger generation hangs in the balance.** Modernity, globalization and social crises could see generations of Christian heritage all but wiped out if young people are not properly discipled. Unemployment and the snare of gangs are two of the biggest challenges. **SU** has a good ministry among students in high schools. **TSCF(IFES)** has 66 groups comprising 10,000 tertiary student members. **YWAM** has valuable input in youth training and mobilization for evangelism and missions. Camps (especially at Easter) are very significant in youth ministry.

11 **Translation and literacy** programmes and the provision of appropriate Christian literature are fundamental for acculturating the gospel. **SIL**, **NTM**, the Bible Society and other indigenous groups are involved in over 220 translation projects, and about 210 languages have a NT, but only 12 or so have a complete Bible. Translation teams are definitely needed for 160 languages and possibly for a further 250. Pray for translators, for means of making the arduous task faster and more accurate, and for indigenous translators/language assistants. Pray also for literacy training – the translated Word of God is useless if no one is reading it.

12 **Christian help ministries for prayer:**

- a) **Local radio** is a vital tool for PNG. Isolation and illiteracy mean that radio is both a link to the outside world and a medium for learning. There are a number of stations operating nationally or regionally. Radio Light is collecting and recording indigenous Christian music, a particularly effective means of evangelism and teaching.
- b) **Christian Radio Missionary Fellowship** (CRMF) with 19 staff serves churches and missions by providing two-way radio contact for those in isolated areas.
- c) **Christian audio resources** are an effective tool for evangelism and teaching, especially for the large numbers of rural illiterates, many of whom speak only their tribal languages. Language Recordings (**GRN**) has produced materials in 650 languages and dialects, and flip charts are effectively used in conjunction with them.
- d) **Christian literature.** There are five main publishing groups: Christian Books Melanesia (Brethren), Evangelical Brotherhood Church (Swiss Brethren with five bookshops), Kristen Press (Lutheran), the interdenominational Melanesian Institute and the Bible Society. There are Christian bookstores in most towns — including **CLC** with two stores and a mail order ministry. Christian songbooks and Bible memory books have proved effective means of learning biblical truth.

Bougainville

Geography

Area 9,300 sq km. The most northerly of the Solomon Islands but arbitrarily linked in colonial times to PNG.

Population 230,000. About 20,000 lost their lives in the fighting during the 1990s. Thousands more became refugees.

Peoples

Approximately 25 Melanesian and Polynesian peoples.

Economy

A copper mine was the source of most of the island's income (and of much tension with PNG) until it was closed in 1989. Now Bougainville largely survives

through subsistence farming, although reopening the mine is a possibility if political stability improves. Highly dependent on Australian aid and development.

Politics

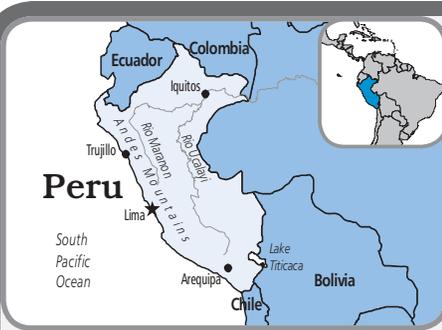
Local opposition to incorporation in PNG at independence in 1975 led to a war for Bougainville's independence in 1988. After intense fighting, a cease-fire was finalized in 1998. In 2001 a peace deal was signed, in 2004 a constitution was drafted, and provincial elections were held in 2005. Effectively autonomous, a referendum will be held post-2015 regarding complete independence.

Religion

Almost entirely Christian. Roman Catholics 83%, United Church 8%, also Adventists, Pentecostals and indigenous marginal sects. Many are nominal with much syncretism.

Challenges for Prayer

- 1 Pray for long-term peace between PNG and Bougainville** after decades of bitterness and hatred between the PNG government and the Islanders. There is still a need for forgiveness and reconciliation, although progress is being made. The slow move towards independence is being handled cautiously. But the reopening of the copper mine could reopen old wounds and grievances as well.
- 2 The island's economy and social structures** are depressed, and most of the few services that existed before were damaged or destroyed by the civil war. There is little by way of education and healthcare, and most people economically exist in subsistence mode.
- 3 The spiritual need of Bougainville** is much greater than in PNG, as the evangelical presence is quite small. Pentecostal churches such as Foursquare (21 congregations) are growing and beginning to do mission work in neighbouring Solomon Islands. Syncretism and nominalism abound. There is one **CLC** bookshop on the island.



Peru

Republic of Peru

Latin America

Geography

Area 1,285,216 sq km. Three main zones – dry coastal plain in the west where most of the cities and industry are located, high Andean plateau which is more agricultural, and Amazon jungles in the east.

Population	Ann Gr	Density
2010	29,496,120	1.17%
2020	32,880,637	1.06%
2030	36,005,627	0.84%
		23/sq km
		26/sq km
		28/sq km

Capital Lima 8,445,000. Other major cities: Callao 877,000; Arequipa 785,000; Trujillo 683,000; Iquitos 371,000. **Urbanites** 72%. **Pop under 15 yrs** 31%. **Life expectancy** 73.0 yrs.

Peoples

The mixing of ethnicity, cultures and languages makes a clear breakdown difficult.

Amerindian 52.3%. **Highland peoples** 51.1%. Quechua(33 groups) 46.8%, including Detribalized Quechua 27.7%; Cuzco 7.3%; Ayacucho 3.6%; Ancash(6) 3.5%; Aymara(4) 4.3%. **Lowland peoples** 1.0%. 51 peoples, including 19 Amazonian groups.

Latino/Hispanic 46.3%. Mestizo 32.0%; White Peruvian 13.5%; Afro-Peruvian(3) 0.7%.

Other 1.4%. Japanese 0.6%; Chinese 0.6%.

Literacy 87.9%. **Official languages** Spanish, Quechua. **All languages** 92. Spanish-speakers 80.3%. Most Amerindians are Spanish-speaking or bilingual; 16.5% of the total population speak Quechua. **Languages with Scripture** 3Bi 40NT 16por 23w.i.p.

Economy

Fishing, mining, and increasingly agriculture (especially coffee) and tourism are the mainstays of an economy which saw strong growth from 2000. There is still much untapped potential to improve, but corruption, a flawed tax structure, military

spending and especially vast economic inequalities have held Peru back. Over 50% live in poverty and nearly 20% in extreme poverty. There are no quick fixes; long-term stable growth and addressing the aforementioned problems are the way forward. Cocaine production and ruthless oil exploitation in the Amazon basin remain serious issues as well. **HDI Rank** 78th/182. **Public debt** 24% of GDP. **Income/person** \$3,846 (8% of USA).

Politics

Fully independent from Spain in 1824. A long history of dictatorships and repressive military rule. Democratic government between 1980 and 1991 was not able to reform the inequalities in society nor deal with the corrupt judiciary and police. Two violent, extremist and Maoist terrorist movements brought the country to its knees in 15 years of guerrilla warfare. Around 70,000 perished through the terrorism or the equally cruel military reactions. Repairs to the infrastructure will take large amounts of time and money. President Fujimori dealt strongly with terror and the economy, but is now imprisoned for murderous abuse of power. Future governments must deal wisely with poverty, corruption, ecology and continued instability in neighbouring lands.

Religion

Religious freedom is guaranteed in the 1978 constitution, but the Catholic Church as the officially recognized state church receives some degree of preferential treatment. This was used in the past in a discriminatory manner against non-Catholics in taxes, property, education and politics.

Religions	Pop%	Population	Ann Gr
Christian	96.75	28,537,496	1.3%
Non-religious	1.48	436,543	-7.7%
Animist	1.35	398,198	2.4%
Buddhist	0.20	58,992	1.2%
Chinese	0.10	29,496	1.2%
Baha'i	0.10	29,496	1.2%
Jewish	0.02	5,899	16.2%

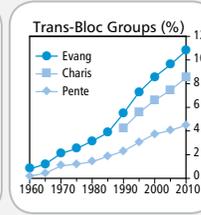
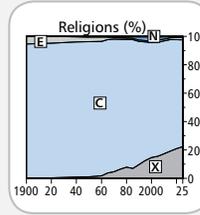
It is estimated that 25% of Peruvians are Christo-pagan, believing more in animism and witchcraft than Christianity.

Christians	Denoms	Pop%	Affiliates	Ann Gr
Protestant	57	8.07	2,380,000	3.0%
Independent	98	5.07	1,495,000	3.9%
Anglican	1	0.01	2,000	-1.1%
Catholic	1	85.43	25,200,000	0.9%
Marginal	4	3.98	1,175,000	2.9%
Unaffiliated		0.1	35,000	3.8%
Doubly affiliated		-5.93	-1,750,000	0.0%

Church	MegaBloc	Congs	Members	Affiliates
Catholic Ch	C	2,769	13,846,154	25,200,000
Seventh-day Adventist	P	1,591	700,000	880,000
Latter-day Saints (Mormon)	M	1,159	266,484	485,000
Indig Pentecostal	I	1,877	112,613	375,000
IEP-Evang Ch of Peru	P	2,433	121,667	365,000

Jehovah's Witnesses	M	1,150	105,105	350,000
Israelite Ch of New Cov	M	1,700	170,000	340,000
Independent Churches	I	1,500	110,000	275,000
Assemblies of God	P	2,450	152,695	255,000
Christian & Miss Alliance	P	510	53,000	183,000
Evang Pentecostal Ch of JCI		1,020	52,000	130,000
Ch of the Nazarene	P	1,020	53,000	123,490
Evang Pentecostal Ch	I	1,049	41,958	120,000
Evang Miss Movement	I	290	57,500	115,000
FAIENAP (Natv Ev)	I	525	42,609	98,000
U. of Baptists of S.Peru	P	263	24,800	62,000
Assoc of Indep Pente Chs	I	240	24,000	57,600
Ch of God of Prophecy	P	598	22,727	50,000
Indep Baptist Church	P	400	20,000	50,000
World Miss Movement	I	290	24,000	48,000
Other denominations [94]		5,911	287,164	689,860
Doubly affiliated		2	0	0 - 1,750,000
Total Christians [161]		28,745	16,287,476	28,501,950

Trans Bloc	Pop%	Population	Ann Gr
Evangelical	10.6	3,112,0	3.5%
Charismatic	8.3	2,454,8	3.9%
Pentecostal	4.4	1,299,5	3.5%



Answers to Prayer

- Socio-political and economic progress** have witnessed the crippling of the Maoist terror groups in Peru, the bringing to justice of abusive and corrupt politicians from previous regimes, and notable economic growth after many lean years. For a nation subject to so much suffering, these are welcome and praiseworthy developments.
- The emergence of evangelicals** as a force to be reckoned with. From less than 1% in the 1960s to more than 10% in 2010, Peruvian believers are now significant in both number and influence. More and more they are engaged in social and political issues, recognized by the state as a force for positive change and involved in bringing the fullness of the gospel to all peoples in Peru and beyond.
- The remarkable flowering of Christianity** among many indigenous peoples, especially the Quechua and Amazonian groups. The exceptional Bible translation and literacy work of **SIL** and others played a significant part in this.

Challenges for Prayer

- Peru remains a nation facing many urgent challenges.** Among them are:
 - Political stability.** A stable government able to implement just and strong policies is needed after decades of dictatorships, corruption and threats to the nation's security (such as the Shining Path terrorists).
 - Economic progress.** Peru has greatly improved in the past decade, but vast economic disparity and widespread poverty still hamper the nation. Further increases to the GDP and income are little improvement if they do not assist the neediest segments of society.
 - Social change.** There are still many who suffer in the aftermath of the leftist terror groups, the death squads, and from gross racial injustice against the Amerindian minority groups. Rapid urbanization has created a new underclass of poor migrants from rural areas. Pray for justice and righteousness for those who have been downtrodden and oppressed.
- The complex and ruthless issues of foreign exploitation.** This manifests itself particularly via oil, mining and cocaine. With oil and mining, foreign companies are willing to endanger pristine environments and threaten the very existence of vulnerable peoples for their own grotesque profits. With cocaine, foreign demand for an illicit drug in turn drags poor farmers into cultivating the coca leaf for profit. Collateral damage from drug wars and attempts to eradicate the crop, as well as massive amounts of drug money being laundered through the country, create a complex situation with no easy solution. Pray for

structures of sin to be cast down, for evil to be exposed and for a godly solution to be found.

3 The Catholic Church faces a crisis. There has been a large loss of membership to evangelicals, foreign sects, atheism and revived Andean paganism. Those who remain are polarized between the traditionalists and those who espouse liberation theology. The majority of clergy are foreign. Only 5% of Catholics are regular in church attendance; many are syncretistic Christo-pagans. The charismatic movements (such as the Christian Life Movement) have had a widespread impact, but those touched have often formed autonomous groups or joined evangelical churches. Pray for many to come to the light and liberty of the biblical gospel.

4 Evangelical churches have grown dramatically since the first evangelical congregation was started a century ago. Evangelicals have multiplied 40-fold from 78,000 in 1960 to 3.1 million in 2010. Some estimate they may number over four million. The greatest growth was in the worst times of violence and social breakdown, as both the leftists and the army regarded evangelicals as being each on the other side. Over 750 evangelical leaders were martyred and some sentenced to imprisonment on trumped-up charges. Growth has been notable in the **CMA**, **IEP(SIM-Latin Link)**, **CoN**, and **AoG** but more so among the myriad indigenous Pentecostal groups. After peace came, growth slowed. Pray for a new and deeper work of the Holy Spirit to re-ignite the Church.

5 The recognition of evangelicals as a genuine religious presence and social force has accompanying expectations and challenges. Pray for:

- a) **Unity.** Evangelicals have become a significant source of leadership, stability, social aid and hope since 1980. There are sharp divisions within and between some denominations, and with recent “success” has also come pride. There are also countless new congregations springing up with little or no wider accountability or fellowship. Pray for a national body that will be able to bring together all the diverse groups of believers.
- b) **The deeper issue of discipleship.** All the euphoria and self-congratulation at growth will be for naught if believers slide into nominalism, remain immature or are picked off by cults. Churches need to make discipleship, accountability and quality teaching priorities, but implementation will require both great commitment and resource availability.
- c) **The prophetic role of the church in society.** The many and widespread social ills should be actively opposed, especially as believers’ political and social influence have grown. A poor record in this area and unwise political allegiances have compromised the reputation of evangelicals. There are serious issues to be tackled – societal transformation, economic injustice, ethnic inequality, the ravages of oil exploitation and the cocaine industry, corruption, the neglected poor, etc.
- d) **Ministry to the poor.** Political and economic upheaval, climate change, urbanization add pressure to years of entrenched poverty. Many Christian ministries (**WVI**, Food for the Hungry, Compassion International, Agape Network, **Tearfund**) have also contributed to programmes for both rural and urban slum areas.

6 The Quechua and Aymara peoples, the descendants of the Incas, are emerging from centuries of oppression, cultural deprivation, grinding poverty and isolation. Quechua was recognized as an official language in 1975. The Quechua Church is flourishing as Christianity at last becomes indigenized in Scriptures, structures, worship and music. Whole villages have been turning to Christ. Pray for:

- a) **Millions of mountain Quechua and Aymara** who are still bound by superstitions of pagan and “Christian” origin. Massive urbanization has seen many drift into the cities; pray for ministry to both urban and rural populations.
- b) **Bible translation,** which has been a major factor in the Quechuan renaissance and church growth. The Cuzco and Ayacucho languages have the whole Bible. The NT in Huaylas, Lambayeque, Caquinte, Wana, Urarina, and Asheninka have all been completed in recent years (**UBS, SIL, IEP, SBC**); several more translations are underway. Pray for the teams at work and for the widespread use of these new resources.
- c) **The full reconciliation between** Quechua and Spanish-speakers at the foot of the cross, and the full integration of all ethnic groups into national Christian life.

7 The Lowland Amerindians have responded to the ministry of **SAMS**, Swiss Mission and others. Lately, native missionaries have become very active in reaching their own and related tribes. The three Lowland provinces of the upper Amazon still have the highest

percentage of evangelical believers in the country. A network of Amerindian churches is developing and growing (FAIENAP) in 17 peoples. The problems they face are huge — ecologically insensitive oil, mining and logging companies, terrorism and drug trafficking and their very extinction as a people. Pray for the ministry to these peoples, for the training programmes among them and for the translation projects underway. **SIL**, using mainly local workers, is focused on making the NT and much of the OT available for the majority of groups.

8 **A lack of trained leaders is so acute** that both future growth and current discipleship are threatened. The lack of solid biblical theology amongst pastors is apparent in the churches as doctrinal confusion, false teaching and the influence of marginal sects grow. A culture of autocratic leadership style hampers not only the congregation but the potential impact of the pastors themselves. A new paradigm of leadership formation is essential. Pray for:

- a) **Academic training.** There are over 10 seminaries, some of which are strategic for all Latin America. At least 20 other Bible schools are preparing workers for the ministry. Poverty and lack of finance seriously limits the number who can receive such training.
- b) **TEE is a valuable alternative**, but is hampered by lack of teaching personnel and materials. **SIM** missionaries are involved with 700 TEE students. *Segadores* trains rural pastors and potential missionaries. But even this form of learning excludes the majority, who are not literate and tend to learn through orality and mentoring.
- c) **The raising up of humble and godly role-model pastors** who walk with Jesus and lead by example. Their mentoring role could have a greater effect than all the academic courses combined.
- d) **Sunday school teachers and youth leaders.** The majority of congregations provide no special teaching or programmes for young people, a major deficiency that must be rectified.

9 **Foreign missions** have passed through difficult times, especially missions from the US; anti-US bias, accusations of espionage, occasional lack of cultural sensitivity, the active hostility of anthropologists regarding Amerindian groups and the widespread activities of Mormons and JW's have not helped. The majority of the missionary effort is rightly directed to pioneer work in the eastern jungle, Bible translation, leadership training and to the developing of holistic ministry.

10 Challenge areas for ministry:

- a) **Lima is Latin America's fifth-largest city.** Almost two-thirds of the population live in slums that ring the city where abject poverty, unemployment and malnutrition are rife. The evangelization of the sprawling slums of Lima and the nurture of churches in that difficult environment is a challenge, although Pentecostal groups, **SAMS** and Latin Link (LL) are seeing real progress. Praise God for the remarkable church growth in Lima through the work of many foreign missions as well as many new Peruvian churches and ministries.
- b) **Less reached Amerindian tribal peoples.** There are still a number of unreached peoples (at least 12); their populations are often only a few hundred per group. They are very wary of outsiders and inaccessible; reaching them is extremely sensitive work and must be undertaken with great wisdom and patience.
- c) **The business/professional and upper classes.** They are traditionally staunchly Catholic and are rather isolated from most existing evangelical witness. This is changing with the work of **SIM** and the influence of the emergent charismatic mega-churches.
- d) **Ethnic minorities.** The 9,000 **Gypsies** are coming to Christ in significant numbers. The nearly 200,000 **Chinese** have only a few established churches, and the **Japanese** (declining in number) need more of a witness.
- e) **Street children** have multiplied in number, especially in certain areas of Lima. Poverty, social breakdown and war have led to many being abused, exploited and forced to work long hours for a pittance. **SU** and others have been working in their midst.

11 **Student ministry** is a necessary investment for any bright future in Peru. The future generation of leaders in society and the Church are being formed here, but the 900,000 students have a lower proportion of evangelicals among them than possibly any other major section of the population. Pray for the ministry of AGEUP(**IFES**) and **CCCI** as well as **SIM**; their handful of workers are inadequate to effectively impact the 50 universities and hundreds of other higher educational institutions.

12 **Peruvian missions interest is growing** but is still “punching below its weight”. Indigenous mission agencies have multiplied — such as AMEN (*Asociación Misionera Evangélica a las Naciones*), ATOCRI, IMA (*Impacto Mundial de Avivamento*). A wide number of Western agencies have also begun sending Peruvians. The large majority still serve in Peru itself, albeit often cross-culturally. There is a post-graduate faculty of Mission at CEMAA in Lima and a growing number of mission training programmes run by many groups. Pray for continued growth in the Peruvian mission sending movement.

13 **Christian media.**

- a) **Radio** has a wide audience, both the local *Radio del Pacífico* (**TEAM**) in Lima, and the large international stations of **HCJB** and **TWR** with thousands of hours of broadcasting per week in Spanish and 360 hours/week in Quechua and Aymara dialects. Satellite and internet radio are catching on, and small local stations run by newer charismatic and Pentecostal churches are multiplying.
- b) **Christian programmes on local secular channels** are proving important for reaching many, including those living in well-guarded high-rise apartments.
- c) **The JESUS film** is in use in seven languages. Pray for progress in the translation and production of the JESUS film in the remaining languages among the smaller, isolated people groups who currently have little or no access to Scripture in their mother tongue.
- d) **Christian literature.** **CLC** has a bookstore and mobile ministry. **SIM** has launched a large pastors’ mini-library project. **EHC**, the Bible Society and the Baptists are all mass-distributing literature.
- e) **Audio resources** have made recordings available in 60 of Peru’s languages and dialects. **WBT**, Faith Comes by Hearing and other groups have helped translate and record many of these.



Ukraine

Europe

Geography

Area 603,700 sq km. A flat, fertile, forested plain with few natural boundaries.

Population	Ann Gr	Density
2010	45,433,415	-0.65%
2020	42,945,414	-0.56%
2030	40,188,380	-0.70%

Capital Kyiv (Kiev) 2,677,000. Other major cities: Kharkov 1.4million; Dnepropetrovsk 1mil; Donetsk 980,000; Odessa 983,000. **Urbanites** 68%. **Pop under 15 yrs** 14%. **Life expectancy** 68.2 yrs.

Peoples

Inter-mingling of Ukrainians and Russians blurs ethnic divisions.

Eurasian 97.1%.

Slav 95.2%. Ukrainian 72.1%; Russian 13.2%; Polish 2.3%; Ruthene 1.1%; Belarusian 0.9%.

Other 1.9%. Moldavian/Romanian 0.9%; Hungarian 0.4%.

Turkic/Altaic 1.0%. Crimean Tatar 0.7%.

Other 1.9%. Gypsy(4) 1.5%; Jew 0.3%.

Literacy 99.4%. **Official language** Ukrainian, but Russian widely spoken. **All languages** 13.

Languages with Scripture 1Bi 1NT 1por 2wip.

Economy

Rich in mineral deposits (especially coal and iron ore) and with highly arable land, Ukraine has great economic potential. A sustained post-independence economic plummet was reversed by several years of growth, but many Ukrainians hover on the edge of poverty. The transition to a market economy has been blighted by corruption, cronyism and highly uneven progress – the cities grow while the smaller towns wither and fade. Dependent upon Russia's oil and gas. **HDI Rank** 85th/182 **Public debt** 10% of GDP. **Income/person** \$3,035 (7% of USA).

Politics

For centuries Ukraine was dominated and fought over by a succession of powers. Independence was

declared in 1991, and although political freedom came to all, a small cadre vastly enriched and entrenched themselves. Since then the country has been deeply divided between those who want to reassert links with Russia and those who look westward for the future. The "Orange Revolution" in 2005 won Ukrainians national dignity, press freedoms and open political mechanisms, but infighting and rivalries crippled progress. Promises of rooting out corruption have borne little fruit as it is deeply entrenched.

Religion

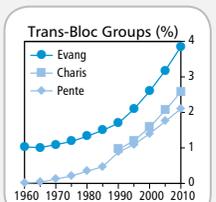
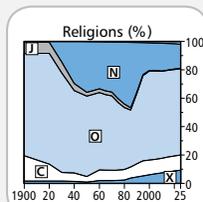
The Church was severely persecuted under Communism. Freedom of religion since 1990, but some prejudice remains towards non-traditional groups.

Religions	Pop%	Population	Ann Gr
Christian	79.01	35,896,941	-0.7%
Non-religious	19.48	8,850,429	-0.4%
Muslim	1.05	477,051	2.5%
Jewish	0.30	136,300	-6.2%
Other	0.14	63,607	2.5%
Animist	0.02	9,087	-0.7%

Christians Denoms	Pop%	Affiliates	Ann Gr
Protestant	43	3.76 1,708,000	2.2%
Independent	17	2.02 919,000	1.9%
Catholic	2	10.14 4,607,000	-0.7%
Orthodox	7	61.15 27,781,000	-1.0%
Marginal	2	0.72 326,000	2.1%
Unaffiliated		1.8 818,000	0.6%
<i>Doubly affiliated</i>		-0.58 -261,000	0.0%

Church	MegaBloc	Congs	Members	Affiliates
Ukrainian Orth (Moscow)	O	11,300	15,931,034	23,100,000
Ukrainian Orth (Kiev)	O	3,550	2,758,621	4,000,000
Eastern-rite Catholics	C	3,470	2,692,308	3,850,000
Latin-rite Catholic	C	920	491,558	757,000
Autocephalous Orthodox	O	1,150	414,935	639,000
Ev Chr & Baptists	P	2,517	151,000	452,000
Old Believers Ch	I	51	248,503	415,000
Evan Pentecostal Union	P	1,309	144,000	374,400
Jehovah's Witnesses	M	1,000	150,000	310,000
Other denominations [34]		1,051	206,670	409,328
Total Christians [71]		28,300	23,669,621	35,081,328

Trans Bloc	Pop%	Population	Ann Gr
Evangelical	3.8	1,736,395	3.1%
Charismatic	2.6	1,161,405	3.8%
Pentecostal	2.1	946,520	3.0%



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Answers to Prayer

- 1 Thank God for the rich Christian heritage of Ukraine.** This was the Bible belt of the Soviet sphere, and the churches here suffered greatly until independence. Their faithful perseverance is bearing fruit today as the church is coming of age and having an increasing impact on society across all spheres. There is today a spiritual ambition and vision previously not present in Ukraine.
- 2 The sustained growth of evangelicals,** in particular the newer charismatic groups. Many of these dynamic churches were planted by foreigners, notably Africans, but they resemble the Ukrainian soil in which they were planted.
- 3 Praise God for the emergence of many dynamic and visionary Ukrainian mission agencies** who minister both at home and all over the former Soviet Union. Ukraine is the Antioch of the Slavic world.

Challenges for Prayer

- 1 Communism fell two decades ago, but its effects are still deeply felt.** The market economy has actually driven many to poverty while lining the pockets of those connected to the elite. Corruption reaches to the highest levels while pensioners, teachers, doctors and other state employees barely survive on their paltry income. The moral vacuum of post-Communist freedom has led to rapidly increasing rates of alcoholism and AIDS. Combined with poverty and Chernobyl radiation, this makes a deadly cocktail for a demographic disaster in the very near future. Pray for righteousness, justice and compassion to shine forth into this situation.
- 2 The Orange Revolution** displayed both the incredible potential and predictable humanity of Ukraine. After non-violent mass demonstrations which forced new elections and greater freedoms, many felt Ukraine was on the road to real transformation on many levels. Sadly, much remains the same after opposing political leaders undermined each other, and the nation remains deeply divided between east and west. Pray for this fault line to be healed and genuine reconciliation to occur.
- 3 Ukraine is a key state,** a bridge between East and West, Orthodox and Catholic. Kyiv was where Slavic Christianity was born 1,000 years ago. Most Ukrainians are of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church, but the Orthodox Church is torn by strife as factions proclaim loyalty to competing patriarchs based in Kyiv and Moscow. The Autocephalous Orthodox Church condemns both for compliance with the Communists, but is itself beset with schisms. The Greek or Uniate Catholic Church, which follows the Orthodox liturgy and structure but accepts the leadership of the Pope, is also large. There is much competition for limited resources, reacquired buildings and dwindling populations. Superstition and superficiality are widespread, but there are also those with a love for God and the Scriptures. Pray that spiritual life and renewal rather than power-politics may govern structures and relationships within these large bodies.
- 4 Ukraine has a strong Christian heritage,** and evangelicals have emerged stronger and more numerous from 130 years of sustained persecution in which millions of Christians were killed. Freedom of religion is vastly improved these days, but not yet totally enshrined in both law and practice. Pray for the Church to address this new context with boldness. There are several challenges:
 - a) Reconciliation and unity.** There are deep divisions in Ukrainian religious life – among and within the major groups. Competing schisms within Orthodoxy in particular, but also factions within Catholicism and Protestantism, blunt the effectiveness of religious faith. The Communist era is over, but the scars of intimidation and betrayal need further healing – all three major confessions were split between collaborators and resisters. Pray for the right response of those who yielded to pressure, those who stood firm but often remain inflexible today, and those who have emerged on the scene since independence. Often divisions are the result of personal pride, unforgiveness and financial disputes rather than theological differences alone.

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- b) **The emergence of the newer churches** has been a great blessing, but has also upset the balance of the religious establishment. The dynamism, Western style, and African leadership of some of these churches have ruffled some feathers amongst more traditional groups. Pray for sensitivity and gracious attitudes for all, and for ways to maximize both the spiritual fervour of the newer groups and the great spiritual heritage of the more traditional ones.
- c) **Growth is somewhat limited** by current needs such as training, infrastructure, adequate facilities and active input from lay Christians. There are many opportunities, especially in holistic and compassionate ministries, and to miss this window of opportunity would be a shame. Pray for a mentality of abundance and generosity that will provide for the material needs of church growth without too much recourse to foreign funds, which bring with them their own complications.

5 Leadership training is probably the primary spiritual need in Ukraine. The sustained growth of the last 20 years has created thousands of new congregations requiring leadership formation. There are dozens of seminaries, Bible schools and institutes, the capacities of which must grow to meet current and future demands. Western agencies are contributing helpfully in this area, including **SGA, GEM, Calvary Chapel Mission, Baptist and Pentecostal groups** and others. Pray for them to serve professionally and humbly. Ask for God's provision for good academic resources and textbooks, for building projects and also funding for students' scholarships.

6 Expatriate agencies. Some such as Light in the East, **SGA, SEND** and others faithfully served the persecuted church before 1989 and continue to do so today. More have flocked in to the country since then, but all too often with great insensitivity to the local situation regarding cultural and financial issues. There is still a place for long-term workers willing to learn the language and culture, most particularly in Bible teaching, leadership training and to serve in facilitating/assisting Ukrainians in setting up their own ministries and missions.

7 Indigenous agencies. Since independence there has been a blossoming of Ukrainian agencies working in outreach (evangelism, literature, media), with children (in summer camps and schools), and especially in humanitarian work (with prisoners, hospitals, orphanages and soup kitchens). Pentecostal/charismatics and Baptists minister in many ways both in Ukraine and by sending missionaries to other former Soviet states. Pray for the burgeoning Ukrainian missionary movement – for further growth, for provision and for fruitful partnership with Western and other agencies.

8 Outreach challenges:

- a) **Students.** CCX(**IFES**), **CCCI**, the **Navs** and others have active campus ministries, and student groups are multiplying. CCX has groups meeting in 16 different cities, and most student missions have a mix of expatriate and national workers. Youth work (**YFC** and many others) and summer camps (often held in former Communist Youth facilities) have proved fruitful. Pray for continued responsiveness from students; there are allegedly 300,000 students in Kyiv alone.
- b) **Children at risk.** There are tens of thousands of street children, over 100,000 living in orphanages and many others in precarious living situations. Many of these suffer health complications from Chernobyl. The majority of orphans will become involved in drugs, crime or prostitution unless they can be lovingly reached by Christians. The CoMission for Children at Risk brings together dozens of ministries dedicated to doing just that.
- c) **Crimea** – a region in contrast to the rest of Ukraine. Communist beliefs and a strong Russian connection persist here, and churches have not grown as much as in other parts of the country. More than 250,000 previously exiled Crimean Tatars have been welcomed as well. The vast majority are Muslim (although often nominally) and are being sought by Muslim missionaries from Turkey and the Arab world. There are significant numbers of Christians specifically reaching out to them with substantial fruit (Russian Ministries/River of Joy, Crimean Tatar Partnership, **YWAM**). The increasing number of Tatar believers are noted for their fiery faith.
- d) **Ukrainian Jews.** Many have emigrated to Israel and the West, and the population continues to plummet by 7% annually. Chosen People Ministries have planted several Messianic synagogues, and a Messianic Bible school has been formed. Ukraine's Jews are amongst the most responsive in the world to the gospel.
- e) **Foreign immigrants,** often students – most are from the Middle East and Asia. Many of these immigrants are lonely and subject to hostile or racist attitudes from xenophobic elements in

Ukraine. A large number are very open to the gospel, and Ukraine's evangelistically-minded churches are reaping a harvest.

- f) **Cults** remain a serious issue. From Jehovah's Witnesses and Mormons to Hare Krishna to indigenous pagan groups such as RUNVira and the Perunists, churches must realize there are other groups at work in Ukraine. Pray for the apologetics and research centres whose goal is to promote greater discernment among Christians and encourage outreach to cult followers.

9 Christian media ministries for prayer:

- a) **Bible ministries.** The Ukrainian Bible Society (**UBS**) was restarted in 1991. The need for biblical truth and a restoration of moral and absolute values in society have drawn partners from across the confessional spectrum – Orthodox, Catholic and Protestant. The ministry has grown greatly in the past decade and now distributes hundreds of thousands of copies of Scripture every year. More could be done with the provision of further finances; pray for their release.
- b) **Literature**, a great need since most Christian literature was destroyed during the Communist occupation. With Russian literature plentiful, it is a struggle to get good materials published in Ukrainian. **EHC** has distributed over 6 million pieces of literature through the Ukrainian churches. **UBS/Faith Comes by Hearing**, Bible League, Mission Without Borders and others all work to get the printed Word of God into the hands of Ukrainians, especially children and students.
- c) **Radio and television.** These are open for Christian programmes. **FEBC** and **TWR** broadcast several hours a week in Ukrainian and Russian with good response. **HCJB** has partnered with **CMAssociates** to set up recording and radio studios and has been instrumental in helping to found Radio Emmanuel, a local Christian station. **CBN** has a major television network based in Kyiv, and some of the newer, larger churches are developing their own television programmes.
- d) **The JESUS film** is shown in seven major languages in Ukraine – pray for more workers to show the film at Family Festivals throughout the country.



Zimbabwe

Republic of Zimbabwe

Africa

Geography

Area 390,759 sq km. Landlocked state in south-central Africa.

Population	Ann Gr	Density
2010	13,760,411	0.96%
2020	15,257,927	1.01%
2030	16,628,170	0.81%

These UN-projected figures fail to account for the massive emigration that has followed the economic and social meltdown of Zimbabwe, or for the massive scourge of AIDS. Estimates suggest 25–40% of the population have fled the country, mostly to neighbouring African states, even if only until things improve.

Capital Harare 1,436,000. Other major cities: Bulawayo 677,000. **Urbanites** 38%. **Pop under 15 yrs** 39%. **Life expectancy** 43.4 yrs.

Peoples

Over 42 peoples.

Bantu peoples 97.8%.

Shona 68.2%. 9 major peoples. Central 23.0%; Karanga 15.4%; Zezuru 13.2%; Manyika 6.8%.

Nguni 14.0%. Ndebele 12.2%, 3 other peoples.

Chewa-Sena 8.2%. Nyanja 5.2%, 6 other peoples.

Other 7.4%. Sotho–Tswana(5) 3.3%; Venda 1.1%; Tonga 1.1%; Tswa 1.3%.

Other African 0.6%.

Other 1.6%. European, South Asian, East Asian, Coloured.

Literacy 89.4%. **Official language** English. **Trade languages** Shona is widely spoken, Ndebele in the west. **All languages** 19. **Languages with Scriptures** 2Bi 3NT 1por 2wi.p.

Economy

An unmitigated economic disaster despite rich agricultural land and mineral deposits. Mugabe's mismanagement, corruption, the devastation of AIDS, costly military adventurism in the Congo

and the land redistribution programme which seized white farms – a crucial pillar of the economy – combined to plunge the nation into an economic death spiral. Hyperinflation (at one point calculated at 230 million percent) and mass unemployment (over 90%) ensued. Direct foreign investment and tourism have plummeted, and the education and health systems are paralyzed to the point of non-existence. **Public debt** 266% of GDP. **Income/person** \$261 (1% of USA).

Politics

The Rhodesian declaration of independence from Britain by the white minority in 1965 led to intense guerrilla warfare and eventually independence as Zimbabwe in 1980. Effectively a one-party state and dictatorship until 2008, presided over by Mugabe's ZANU-PF. Various elections in 2000, 2002, 2005 and especially 2008 were widely seen as rife with fraud and intimidation, preceded and followed by thuggery, murder, torture and destruction of property. A compromise of a fragile power sharing agreement with opposition party (and likely 2008 election winners) MDC saw Morgan Tsvangirai (a former trade union leader) become Prime Minister with Mugabe retaining the Presidency. The desperate socio-economic situation, Mugabe's age and the influence of ZANU-PF's Joint Operations Command make for an uncertain future.

Religion

Freedom of religion exists but has been compromised by political interference in church affairs, political appointments of ecclesiastical positions and state disruptions of Christian events on political grounds.

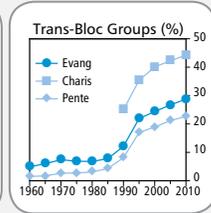
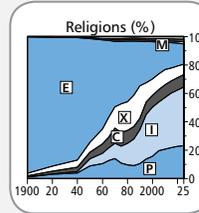
Religions	Pop%	Population	Ann Gr
Christian	77.99	10,731,745	1.8%
Animist	19.20	2,641,999	-2.1%
Non-religious	1.40	192,646	2.5%
Muslim	1.10	151,365	1.9%
Baha'i	0.20	27,521	1.0%
Hindu	0.08	11,008	-1.4%
Jewish	0.02	2,752	-12.1%
Buddhist	0.01	1,376	1.0%

Christians	Denoms	Pop%	Affiliates	Ann Gr
Protestant	50	20.79	2,860,000	2.1%
Independent	98	41.12	5,659,000	1.6%
Anglican	1	2.67	367,000	1.0%
Catholic	1	8.88	1,222,000	1.2%
Orthodox	1	0.04	5,000	0.0%
Marginal	12	1.24	171,000	1.9%
Unaffiliated		8.0	1,097,000	-0.9%
Doubly affiliated	1	-4.72	-650,000	0.0%

Church	MegaBloc	Congs	Members	Affiliates
Zim Assem of God, Af	I	5,625	1,125,000	2,250,000
Catholic Church	C	216	646,561	1,222,000
Af Apos Ch J Marange	I	343	412,000	1,030,000
Seventh-day Adventist	P	1,417	598,000	897,000

Zion Apostolic Churches	I	1,483	445,000	890,000
Zion Christian Church	I	2,181	261,667	785,000
Apostolic Faith Mission	P	2,973	148,649	495,000
Anglican Church	A	1,468	146,800	367,000
Baptist Convention	P	335	119,500	239,000
Methodist Church (UK)	P	1,643	115,000	230,000
Evang Lutheran Church	P	300	72,072	160,000
United Methodist (US)	P	1,210	98,000	129,000
Reformed Church in Z	P	211	42,400	106,000
AoG-Back to God	I	297	49,000	98,000
Jehovah's Witnesses	M	960	39,640	88,000
Other denominations [147]		5,021	669,692	1,297,778
Doubly affiliated		2	0	0 -650,000
Total Christians [164]		25,683	4,988,981	9,633,778

Trans Bloc	Pop%	Population	Ann Gr
Evangelical	28.7	3,953,140	2.5%
Charismatic	44.3	6,091,953	2.0%
Pentecostal	22.7	3,126,117	2.5%



Answers to Prayer

- 1 The Church has grown** in numbers and passion in the midst of great trials and even as the country disintegrates all around. The state has failed the population, and while many are finding refuge in spirituality and faith, churches are also working hard to meet the many desperate physical and social needs they encounter.
- 2 Target 2010** is the follow-up to the successful saturation church planting vision of Target 2000 which saw 10,000 new churches planted. Target 2010 aims to address the realities facing today's church: leadership development, community transformation, prayer and mission mobilization, research, and sustainable, healthy church planting and church growth. Meeting such lofty goals in the midst of such deprivation will take great commitment and faith across the entire evangelical spectrum.

Challenges for Prayer

- 1 Zimbabwe's desperate situation** would be farcical were it not for its tragic nature. Suffering has reached unprecedented levels; intransigent misrule and deluded finger-pointing have prevented solutions from being found. State-endorsed murder frequently occurs; human rights are routinely violated, with members of non-ZANU-PF parties, the media and social activists targeted. Pray for Zimbabwe's leadership, that God might bring humility and a servant attitude or else put leaders in place who will govern for the sake of the people and for the restoration of the nation.
- 2 Urgent human needs abound.** A web of inter-related disasters combined to create a state of emergency. Pray especially for the following issues:
 - a) The economy.** Regardless of the reasons, hyperinflation and economic meltdown have driven millions into gripping poverty from which there seems no escape.
 - i Hyperinflation has reached ridiculous proportions*, possibly up to 1 billion percent per year and printing \$500 trillion notes! The government has knocked 16 zeros off the currency, but to no avail; Zimbabwean money is regarded as worthless, and people demand payment in South African or US currency. The economy cannot stabilize without inflation being tamed.
 - ii Unemployment is over 90%*, and those few with employment rarely get paid in a useful currency. No recourse to meaningful or gainful work not only impoverishes a nation, but destroys its morale as well.
 - b) The educational system**, once one of the best in Africa, has ground to a halt. Enrolment has plummeted from a once admirable 92.5%, as many are unable to afford the \$4 a term school fee. Entire terms are being cancelled as schools and universities shut down altogether. The paralysation of education robs Zimbabwe of its future.
 - c) Health care is also in meltdown.** Due to power failures, lack of supplies and inability to pay workers, hospitals are not working, and even basic health care is under siege, now being

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provided more by NGOs than by the state. The cholera epidemic which began in 2008 prompted the declaration of a state of emergency, and the government has not had the resources to prevent its spread. Over 100,000 may have been infected.

3 The calamitous land redistribution has changed Zimbabwe from a food exporter to being food-import dependent. Under apartheid, white settlers built agricultural output and employed and housed up to two million people. The Mugabe-endorsed seizure of 5,500 white-owned farms allowed over 100,000 “war veterans” to settle over 10 million hectares. This process descended into anarchy and has wrought devastation as squatters camp on once fertile farmland. Not only does the nation rely on international aid to feed itself, but over two-thirds of the wildlife have been killed since 2000, mostly for food. Pray for the rule of fair law and for justice to prevail for all parties involved; pray for wise policies that will not impoverish the land’s future.

4 The AIDS catastrophe in Zimbabwe is one of the world’s worst cases. A combination of government neglect, lack of healthcare resources, traditional (and modern) practices that exacerbate its spread and the failure to address the stigma result in a failure to address the needs. Around 3,000 are dying per week, there are around one million AIDS orphans, and adult prevalence remains at 20%. Pray for:

a) **A radical change** in hearts and attitudes to sex and to AIDS itself. Figures demonstrate that this is beginning to happen as NGOs and churches lead the way in education and awareness. Prevalence rates are decreasing but still remain tragically high.

b) **Effective and specific programmes** to address the issue. Pray that all churches might face up to the moral, spiritual and economic implications of the pandemic for their ministry, and that pastors would lead the way in endorsing helpful initiatives, holy and transparent lifestyles, and loving compassion for those afflicted.

5 Demographic upheaval is the disaster that hides in plain sight.

a) **The exodus of literally countless millions** from Zimbabwe to neighbouring African nations and beyond. This “brain drain” includes much of academia, the business community, opposition politicians and spiritual leaders. With a mixed welcome abroad, their emigration, even if only temporary, is a serious loss to Zimbabwe. Pray for a swift and safe return and reconciliation of these people, to help rebuild a nation on its knees.

b) **The millions of deaths, past and future, due to AIDS.** Massive numbers of deaths and plummeting life expectancy (from over 60 down to near 40 years) robs the nation of trained professionals and leaders, and steals from the productive working lives of millions. Pray for wise forward-thinking that will enable the nation to cope with the inevitable loss.

6 As the Church has grown, so have the challenges. Pray for:

a) **The relationship with the government.** The Church needs to be a prophetic voice engaged in the politico-economic life of the nation. Any such engagement has brought heavy-handed reprisals from the government with the intimidation and harassment of pastors and Christian events, and the destruction of hundreds of church buildings. Some denominations have compromised their testimony by blindly endorsing Mugabe; others have spoken against government policies and suffered for it. The Zimbabwe Christian Alliance and the Save Zimbabwe Campaign are examples of churches engaging in the political process to catalyze change.

b) **Social action.** With much of the country in meltdown, it is increasingly falling to churches to feed the hungry (in partnership with international aid groups), care for orphans, protect the vulnerable and heal the sick. With assistance from ministries based in South Africa and around the globe, Zimbabwe’s churches are doing this, but they could benefit from further mobilization, training, and of course financial resources.

c) **Theological training and education** – crucial as the church grows but threatened by the widespread instability and want. There are at least 23 Bible colleges and seminaries, but the real growth is in modular training and TEE. Pray for effective teaching and discipling of those called to serve the Lord.

d) **Spiritual unity.** Divisions and splits still occur, especially within the Apostolic and charismatic groups. The gap between evangelicals, mainlines, and AIC churches can make collaborative efforts very difficult. The Evangelical Fellowship of Zimbabwe links together over 121 denominations and 20 organizations, and *Fambidzano*/EFZIM links African Initiated Churches for fellowship and theological instruction.

e) *The purity of the church* is often compromised by traditional African practices that are incompatible with the gospel, often by outright witchcraft and occult activities. The growth of Africa Initiated Churches is commendable for cultural relevance but not at the expense of theological Orthodoxy. Pray for churches to know the right path that roots Christianity in Zimbabwean forms but stands firm against compromise.

7 **Young people** have watched idealistic visions become empty slogans and oppressive misrule. They constitute a huge swathe of the population, but have little reason to hope for any improvement to their difficult lot. Pray for the ministries of:

a) *Student movement Fellowship of Christian Unions – FOCUS(IFES)* has 50 groups with 5,000 students served by 5 full-time and 1 part-time staff. In the midst of the dysfunction of Zimbabwean society the students continue to declare the gospel, as well as help where they can to serve the practical needs of the people.

b) *Scripture Union*, which has had a decisive impact on the educated via their work in the secondary schools. They impart life skills to younger students, and work with orphans and children at risk, as well as doing HIV/AIDS education. The camp ministry has been especially fruitful. Pray for more Christian teachers to be raised up to nurture this work in their spare time.

c) *African Enterprise* impacts about 50,000 people and hundreds of churches per year with their youth-oriented Foxfire ministries. This ministry, going since 1980, has shaped the spiritual lives of many of the nation's top Christian leaders.

8 **Pray for the less-evangelized.** Zimbabwe has been extensively evangelized, but areas of need remain:

a) *The rural areas*, which often get neglected in terms of church planting and sending qualified workers; pray for more to be called to this humble but vital task. Pray also for evangelistic outreaches and suitable literature distribution specifically to these areas.

b) *The burgeoning cities*, swollen with hundreds of thousands of rural migrants looking for non-existent jobs. Squatter settlements are multiplying and crime is on the increase. Outreach to the unemployed is a major challenge.

c) *Less-reached peoples.* There are some congregations in every indigenous people, but relatively few among the Tonga, Nambya and Dombe of the Hwange-Kariba area in the northwest (where the AoG have made a significant impact), the Kunda in the northeast, and the Tswa in the southeast.

d) *Muslims.* They are a small minority but wield disproportionate influence on the country through foreign aid “with strings”, mosque-building and scholarships in Muslim universities. Most are Yao from Malawi, some are South Asian immigrants and a few are indigenous Shona-speakers. Little Christian outreach has been made to win them, and churches are ill-equipped to do so.

9 **The expatriate mission force has steadily declined** due to government obstruction and the growing maturity of the indigenous church. There are still a wide range of ministries where input is helpful. **MAF** serves Zimbabwe from South Africa, as do many other missions.

10 **Christian media** is needed now more than ever with Zimbabwe's troubled existence.

a) *Scripture distribution.* The Bible Society continues to print and distribute Scripture even in these difficult times, when the demand is greater than ever. Significant developments include new modern translations of the Bible in Ndebele and Shona as well as translations in Ndau (by **SIM/UBS**) and Chikuna as well as an audio version in Shona.

b) *Audio-visual tools* are extremely valuable. Good News Media and **GRN** combine to produce gospel materials in 65 languages and dialects. **CAVA**(Christian Audio Visual Action) produces literature and audio-video which focus on evangelism and discipleship to peoples with primarily oral traditions. They remain the only major publisher of literature in Shona.

c) *Radio programmes* are broadcast on the national networks (**FEBA**), but in decreasing amounts due to government control and increasing charges for air time. Internationally, **TWR** Swaziland broadcasts into Zimbabwe in English, Shona, Ndebele and Ndau.

d) *The JESUS film* has been extensively used in 16 languages for church planting, especially in rural areas where it has yielded much fruit.

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