



# GHANA

## OPERATION WORLD

the definitive prayer guide to every nation

March 2017



As the first black African country to gain independence from European rule, the Republic of Ghana today is a country relatively free of internal conflicts with a population that includes many diverse ethnic and religious groups. The former British colony known as Gold Coast has achieved this in part due to a reasonable constitution and a strong educational system that has bridged ethnic and religious divides. Bordered by Cote d'Ivoire and Togo in West Africa and with a coastline along the Gulf of Guinea, Ghana has substantial natural resources. Lake Volta in eastern Ghana is the largest artificial lake in the world, and provides electrical power from the Akosombo Dam on the Volta River.

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**Ghana has multiple ethnic groups and faiths, but it remains largely peaceful. Praise God!**

Ghana's independence in 1957 was followed by a time of corruption and a series of military coups. A new constitution in 1992, however, established a democratic government and Ghana has transitioned successfully to a democratic system. Gold, prominent in Ghana's political and economic past, continues its economic influence today. Ghanaian cocoa production, second only to Cote d'Ivoire, timber products, and recently discovered oil reserves are also generating income. This well-run country is often used as an economic and political model for reform in Africa.

Christian missionary work began in Ghana in 1828. Today about 63% of Ghanaians call themselves Christians, yet many are nominal in their faith. A dual spirituality influenced by traditional African religions challenges much of the church. The strong Muslim presence in the north of Ghana has launched an aggressive outreach to the rest of the country and is making serious inroads. Current economic struggles have put people in need and many are open to receiving the gospel of Jesus Christ. Ghanaians under the age of 15, representing over 40% of the nation's population, are spiritually open and when reached could have a profound impact on the Ghanaian church.

[PRAY FOR:](#)

- Ghana enjoys a rich Christian tradition. Pray for mature leaders for the Church. Traditional African practices present the greatest challenge to Christians. Pray for a clear break from all bondage to charms and the occult, and pray for true liberty in Jesus.
- Pray for a Christian Vision for the nation. Indigenous churches took up the challenge of the unevangelized in their own country. But thousands of villages in Ghana still have no church at all.
- Islam has set out to conquer Ghana and has made progress. Praise God that some Muslims find Christ. Pray for loving witness by believers and for the Holy Spirit to win many more Muslims for Jesus.
- Pray for the cross-cultural workers to increase the northern-language congregations in the southern cities.

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## JOSHUA PROJECT

### THE UNREACHED

*Although there may be a few believers or even a few churches, they are a people group among which there is no indigenous community of believing Christians with adequate numbers and resources to evangelize their own people group.*

**A total of 19 People Groups are Unreached – 1,480,000** people who have limited or NO access to the Gospel.

- **Trokosi** (girls in servitude to fetish priests) number up to 20 000. Ghana made this practice illegal in 1998, but priests hold significant spiritual power, and people need courage and faith to openly oppose them.
- **Street children** number over 30 000.
- **Young people** hold the key to revival in Ghana. Over 40% of the population are under age 15. Many feel open to spiritual matters. Islam and African traditional religions have the most influence in the villages.

### PRAY FOR THE MUSLIM WORLD



Islam has set out to conquer Ghana, and has made progress. Muslim numbers grow through births, immigration and conversions (especially non-Muslim women who marry Muslim men. Most Muslims now live in the southern, traditionally non-Muslim areas. Praise God that some Muslims, even some imams, find Christ.

Mature Christian leaders remain at a premium. As churches multiply, biblical faith is challenged and doctrines become confused.

Compared with some other countries, however, Ghana is blessed by the number of training institutions. Among the many schools are Christian Service University College in Kumasi started by WEC, Maranatha University College (SIM), Ghana Christian University College and Good News Theological College & Seminary.

There are over 30 other accredited denominational and interdenominational Bible schools as well as a range of TEE and lay training programs run by different denominations and agencies, including a growing number in the AICs.

Evangelism among the unreached, especially the northern peoples (in the north, and northern migrants in the south), is increasing as indigenous churches adopt the challenge of the un-evangelized in their midst and send missionaries of their own.



REDEMPITIVE GIFTS OF THE NATION

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