



BELIZE

OPERATION
WORLD

the definitive prayer guide to every nation



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Most Belizeans profess Christianity. Evangelicals have steadily grown from 4.6% in 1960 to 19% in 2010.

Once a British colony, Belize is a flat, swampy nation located between Mexico and the Caribbean Sea. Although there is still much dispute concerning the specific borders of Belize with Guatemala, their location makes them subject to many hurricanes that often destroy the coastal plain. Though Belize gained its independence in 1981, it continues to be an active member of the Commonwealth of Nations and maintains the British monarch as the head of state. While its constitution guarantees widespread media freedoms, Belize continues to be one of few countries without a daily newspaper.

Tourism reaps the highest amount of revenue for this Latin American nation, though Belize has recently been added to the list of countries known to produce large amounts of illegal drugs and has become associated with the Mexican drug cartels. Though English is the official language, most Belizeans speak Spanish due to the increased Mestizo population--those who have Mayan and Spanish ancestry--in the 1980s. Creoles make up one quarter of the population, and a Creole dialect of English is also popularly spoken. More than four out of ten people in Belize live in poverty, and the family structure has been decimated, with many children orphaned or left to support themselves.

Most Belizeans profess Christianity but often combine it with other religious practices including superstitions, paganism, and black magic. This diluted form of Christianity is exemplified by the ten percent of people who attend church weekly, and the 70% of pastors who are bi-vocational. Belize is a common destination for short-term mission trips, and while this provides many benefits to the nation such as reading skills, health care, and childcare, it also causes a dependent and reliant spirit amongst the nationals.

[PRAY FOR:](#)

- **Widespread legalism** in churches, where appearances and knowledge hold sway over true spiritual transformation. Pray for revival and a holy dissatisfaction with the spiritual status quo.
- **Pastors are stretched**, with 70% of pastors forced to work bi-vocationally. They recognize a great need for training – but distance and cost prohibit centralized, formal training programs.
- **Belize is an “over-evangelized” nation** with few true disciples and little fruit. A high proportion of Christians are claimed by multiple denominations, but only 10% of the population attend regularly – indicating that nominalism is a problem, even among evangelicals.
- **Unity is an uphill battle** against significant cultural and denominational diversity. Barriers among churches are formidable and persistent. Pray for initiatives that will break down these walls and draw together Hispanic, English, German and Mayan-speaking believers.

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JOSHUA PROJECT

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 1 People Groups are Unreached –
3 300 people who have limited or NO access to the Gospel.**

The less-reached peoples need clearer and more culturally appropriate ministry. These include the Garifuna, Mayans, Indians (almost entirely Hindu or Muslim) and Chinese.

- Pray for nominalism and syncretism in the church to be shattered with the reality of the living Christ.
- Pray for doctrinally-sound, affordable, and centralized training programs for pastors.
- Pray for ministries diligently working to educate and care for those suffering from HIV/AIDS.



Belize Prayer Network issues global prayer alerts and covers the nation of Belize in prayer campaigns for 7 mountains of influence: Family, Spiritual Life, Education, Economy, Government, Arts, and Media.
<http://belizeprayernetwork.com/about/>



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