

PROVIDENCE CHURCH Prayer for the Nations

Jamaica

General Information

- Population: about 3 million.
- Jamaica is the third largest island in the Caribbean. Discovered by Christopher Columbus in 1494.
- England seized the island in 1655 and established a plantation economy based on sugar, cocoa, and coffee. The abolition of slavery in 1834 freed a quarter million slaves, many of whom became small farmers.
- Jamaica attained full independence by leaving the UK in 1962.
- Christianity is the largest religion practiced in Jamaica and according to the 2001 census; the country's largest denominations are the Church of God (24% of the population), Seventh-day Adventist Church (11%), Pentecostal (10%), Baptist (7%), Anglican (4%), Roman Catholic (2%).

Challenges

- Jamaica has had one of the highest murder rates in the world for many years, according to UN estimates.
- Seventh-day Adventist Church is especially active.
- Deteriorating economic conditions during the 1970s led to recurrent violence as rival gangs affiliated with the major political parties evolved into powerful organized crime networks involved in international drug smuggling and money laundering.
- Violent crime, drug trafficking, and poverty pose significant challenges to the government today. Nonetheless, many rural and resort areas remain relatively safe and contribute substantially to the economy.

Prayer

- Judy Carpenter of IMB asked for prayer in these areas: Pray that the literature ministry will continue to reach people in the Caribbean Islands. Pray for wisdom as editors and other staff members prepare the lessons.
- Pray that God will intervene in the crime that now plagues Jamaica and will replace it with His peace.
- Pray for the many people who don't know Jesus.
- Pray that God will continue to give me health, strength, and wisdom to do His work.

Reference

- <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jamaica#Crime>
- <http://americanpeoples.imb.org/countries/jamaica>
- http://www.lifeway.com/lwc/files/lwcF_kids_vbs_mission_wave_1.pdf