

## BELGIUM

### General Information

- The Kingdom of Belgium is a federal monarchy in Western Europe.
- It is a founding member of the European Union and hosts the EU's headquarters as well as those of several other major international organizations such as NATO.
- Belgium's 11 million people speak Dutch, French, and/or German, an indication of its geographic borders, with the Netherlands to the north, France to the west, and Germany to the east.
- Belgium was occupied by Germany in 1940 until liberated by the Allies in 1944.
- Belgium was the place of the largest and bloodiest battle fought by the United States in World War II, the Battle of the Bulge.
- Belgium has a soccer/football team that will be playing the USA in the World Cup Tuesday.



### Challenges

- Belgium has three officially recognized religions: Christianity (Catholic, Protestantism, Orthodoxy and Anglicanism), Islam and Judaism.
- Roman Catholicism has traditionally been Belgium's majority religion. Despite the drop in church attendance (11% in 1998 to 5% in 2009), Catholic identity nevertheless remains an important part of Belgium's culture.
- Islam is growing in Belgium. A 2011 estimate claims 1,000,000 inhabitants of Muslim background and Muslims constitute 30–35% of the population of Brussels, the capital city.

### Prayer

- For the Spirit of God to overcome the secularism of Belgium with a revival among believers.
- For a clarity of true Christianity versus cultural traditions.
- For the conversion of the incoming Muslims to the one true God, through faith in the Lord Jesus.

### Reference

- <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Belgium>
- [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle\\_of\\_the\\_Bulge](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_the_Bulge)
- <http://www.101airbornemuseumbastogne.com>
- <http://www.operationworld.org/belg>