



Belize



Introduction to BELIZE

BELIZE is a small country bordering Mexico, Guatemala and the Caribbean Sea. Part of the former Mayan civilization, Belize is heavily dependent on tourism – mainly ecotourism – which employs many of its citizens. Independent from Britain in 1981, Belize has been involved in border disputes with Guatemala for years.

The BELIZEAN people

Total population:	307,899
Children under 15:	116,579
Average Life Expectancy:	68.2 years
Per capita annual income:	\$8,400
% children in primary school:	96.94%
Average years of education:	13 years
Literacy rate:	76.9%
Internet users:	34,000
Cell phones in use:	160,000
Major/official language(s):	English, Spanish, Creole, Mayan and other dialects

Risk issues impacting children:

- Most rural households lack adequate sanitation.
- Stunting due to malnutrition affects many children.
- Highest rate of HIV/AIDS in Latin America.
- High rates of crime and violence, trafficking and dropping out of school.

More about BELIZE

Capital city:	Belmopan
Type of government:	Parliamentary Democracy and Commonwealth realm
Square kilometers:	22,966
General terrain:	Most of the country is heavily forested with various hardwoods; mangrove swamps give way to hills and mountains in the interior
Major industries/jobs:	Garment production, food processing, tourism, construction, oil, bananas, citrus
National motto:	"Under the shade I flourish"
Major airport(s):	Philip Goldson International Airport in Belize City

Reaching BELIZE

Currently classified as World C: Christian

Major religions:

- Christian - 76.6%
- Other - 14%
- None - 9.4%

Christian groups:

- Roman Catholic - 61.8%
- Protestant - 22.8%
- Anglican - 6.3%
- Other - 6.2%
- Independent - 3.3%

Unreached People Groups:	1 (0.9% of pop)
Average annual Christian growth:	0.0203
Average annual baptisms:	6,678
Foreign missionaries:	420
Per million:	1,524.25
National Christian workers/pastors:	400
Per million:	1,451.66
Number of churches/congregations:	695

Children's ministry in BELIZE

Specific children's ministry information has not been provided for Belize. The following information regards general children's ministry in the Central America, and may not all be applicable to this nation.

- Overview:** • The nations of this region are predominately Christian, mostly of Roman Catholic background. There is also a steadily growing, active Protestant minority.
- There is a strong missionary presence in many Central American countries, with much of the outreach focused on children. A variety of children's work already exists, with a strong emphasis on Sunday School and Bible memorization.
 - Most of the resources and trainings are centered in the larger cities and bigger church denominations.
 - Ongoing violence in some regions of Central America can hinder the growth of work with children.

Focus for Prayer

Training children's leaders for outreach in
695 congregations

Strategies for reaching and discipling
116,579 children for Christ