



# Jamaica



## Introduction to JAMAICA

JAMAICA, an island in the middle of the Caribbean Sea, boasts strong ties to its African heritage. Many of the nation's citizens are direct descendants of slaves freed in the first half of the 1800s. Though a popular travel destination and generally known as a safe country to visit, unemployment, poverty, and violent crime are persistent problems.

## The JAMAICAN people

<b>Total population:</b>	2,825,928
<b>Children under 15:</b>	887,776
<b>Average Life Expectancy:</b>	73.53
<b>Per capita annual income:</b>	\$8,600
<b>% children in primary school:</b>	85.3%
<b>Average years of education:</b>	12 years
<b>Literacy rate:</b>	87.9%
<b>Internet users:</b>	1.54 million
<b>Cell phones in use:</b>	2.723 million

**Major/official language(s):** English, English patois

### Risk issues impacting children:

- Violence and abuse against children is prevalent.
- Many children live in institutions, and about 20% of children are born to teenage mothers.
- Jamaica has low education outcomes, and little access to health education.

## More about JAMAICA

<b>Capital city:</b>	Kingston
<b>Type of government:</b>	Constitutional Parliamentary Democracy and a Commonwealth realm
<b>Square kilometers:</b>	10,991
<b>General terrain:</b>	Mostly mountains, with narrow, discontinuous coastal plain
<b>Major industries/jobs:</b>	Tourism, bauxite/alumina, agro processing, light manufactures, rum, cement, metal
<b>National motto:</b>	"Out of many, one people"
<b>Major airport(s):</b>	Donald Sangster International Airport in Montego Bay Norman Manley International Airport in Kingston

## Reaching JAMAICA

*Currently classified as World C: Christian*

### Major religions:

- Christian - 64.9%
- None - 20.9%
- Other or unspecified - 14.2%

### Christian groups:

- Protestant - 46%
- Other - 26.4%
- Roman Catholic - 12.3%
- Independent - 10.3%
- Anglican - 4.9%
- Orthodox - 0.1%

<b>Unreached People Groups:</b>	1 (negligible% of pop)
<b>Average annual Christian growth:</b>	0.0069
<b>Average annual baptisms:</b>	16,084
<b>Foreign missionaries:</b>	740
<b>Per million:</b>	275.87
<b>National Christian workers/pastors:</b>	3,000
<b>Per million:</b>	1,118.37
<b>Number of churches/congregations:</b>	5,519

## Children's ministry in JAMAICA

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

- Overview:**
- The nations of this region are largely Christian.
  - Though there are many missionaries working in these nations (including those focused on children and families), the local church does not always realize the importance of ministry to children. Therefore, ministry leaders do not always get the organizational support they need to move forward with children's ministry initiatives.
  - Those denominations and churches that have recognized the importance and value of including children in ministry often lack of training and resources, especially in rural areas.

## Focus for Prayer

Training children's leaders for outreach in  
**5,519** congregations

Strategies for reaching and discipling  
**887,776** children for Christ