

MISSIONS ATLAS PROJECT CARRIBEAN AREA

B E R M U D A Snapshots Section

Country Name:

The Bermuda Islands
(A territory of the United Kingdom, the official name is The Colony of the Bermuda Islands.)

Country Founded in:

Intentionally founded in 1612 by the English settlers, Bermuda became an official self-governed territory of the United Kingdom in 1968.

Population: 66,163 (2007)

Government Type:

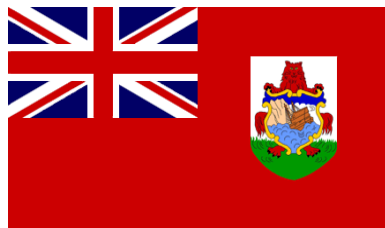
Parliamentarian: oldest self-governing territory of the United Kingdom. Bermuda makes its own laws and does not adhere to any laws of the United Kingdom.

Geography/location in the world:

North America, group of 130 islands, approximately 21 sq. miles (54 sq. km) in area. The archipelago is 570 miles east of Cape Hatteras, North Carolina, USA. Geographic coordinates: 32.20N, 64.45W—neither near the West Indies nor the Caribbean Sea with which Bermuda is inaccurately identified.

Number of people groups: 9

Picture of flag



Adopted in 1910, Bermuda's flag represents its territorial protection from United Kingdom and the history of Bermuda set on a red ensign. (Most UK territories are on a blue ensign.) The Union flag is in the upper left—hoist side quadrant with the Bermuda coat-of-arms on the right—outer half. The coat-of-arms depicts a white and green shield with a red lion holding a scrolled shield that portrays the sinking of the Sea Venture ship in 1609 off the Bermuda coast.

Religion Snapshot

Christianity (87.2%), primarily,
Buddhism 0.6%,
Ethnic 0.8%,
Hinduism 0.2%,
Islam 0.1%,
Roman Catholic 16.5%,
Orthodox 0.2%,
Non-Religious 7.8%.

Christianity segments:

Anglican 26.9%,
Independent 13.0%,
Protestant 27.5%,
Other 15.1%

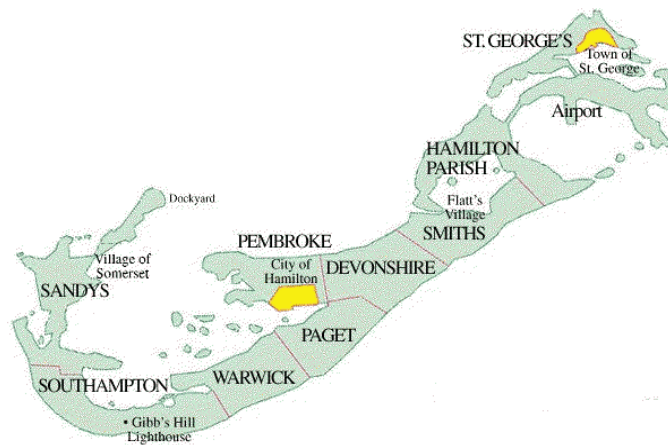
www.joshuaproject.net/countries.php?rog3=BD

Government interaction with religion:

In 1974, Bermuda disestablished their relationship with the British Church of England to form their own Anglican Church of Bermuda. Professing Anglicans make up 30% of population. After the British Church was disbanded in 1974, the nonreligious number of Bermudians was doubled by the end of the 20th century.

Bermudian government respects freedom of religion. It has neither governmental office nor department in charge of churches or religious affairs. Freedom of religion is preferred by all.

MAP OF BERMUDA



Map of Bermuda with parishes, shown here geographically from west to east, in the shape of Bermuda in the northwestern Atlantic Ocean. Parishes (counties) are Sandy's, Southampton, Warwick, Paget, Pembroke, Devonshire, Smith's, Hamilton, and St. George's, each with only 1500 acres of landmass. (accessed in July 2008, available at the following site)

<http://www.bermuda-online.org/bermudaparishes.htm>

Country Profile

Basic Facts

Country Name:

The Bermuda Islands: formerly the Somers Islands. The Bermuda Islands may consist of 100-180 islands and islets, depending on who is counting. The general rule is about 130 islands with bridges, causeways, and ferries giving access to most and private boats to others. The nine parishes (counties) are from west to east (pictured above): Sandy's, Southampton, Warwick, Paget, Pembroke, Devonshire, Smith's, Hamilton, and St. George's. Each parish has approximately the same area mass of 2.3 square miles (about 6.0 km² or 1500 acres). The following summary of the parishes, plus the two municipalities, show Bermuda from origination in the 17th century to 21st century relevant information for today.

In clarifying the term "parish"—each original tribe of the 1600s eventually transferred its name to parish when the Church of England formed religious parishes in each settlement. Please note that many parishes and communities have names that cross over the parish lines. An example is Hamilton city located in Pembroke Parish and not in Hamilton Parish; yet, St. George's town is located in St. George's Parish and is the holder of St. George's church and Paget Island. Paget Island is not in Paget Parish. It may sound confusing, but further reading will help clarify these issues and locations.

Demographics:

Bermuda has a population of 66,536 (July 2008 est.). The age structure shows 0-14 years at 18% with 6,055 males and 5,954 females. The 15-64 year group makes up 69.1% with 22,795 males and 23,189 females. The third phase of life at 65 years and over comprises 12.8% with 3,728 and 4,815 of Bermudians. The median age is 41 years with males at 40.1 and females at 41.8. The population growth rate is 0.546% (2008 est.) with the birth rate listed at 11.15 births/1,000 population. Death rate is listed at 7.98 deaths/1,000 population. Net migration rate for 2008 is estimated at 2.28 migrants/1,000 population.

Infant birth rates show a mortality rate of 7.89 deaths/1,000 live births. The male mortality rate at birth is 9.31 deaths/1,000 births with female rates at birth revealing 6.4 deaths/1,000 births. The total fertility estimate for 2008 is 1.88 children born per woman.

The sex ratio at birth is 1.02 male/female with the same ratio holding for the under 15 age group. By ages 15-64, the ratio drops to 0.98 male/female. The eldest group shows a 0.77 male/female ratio. The estimate ratio for 2008 is 0.96 male/female. Life expectancy in Bermuda is 78.3 years and shows the average for males at 76.15 years and females at 80.48 years.

In all cultures, one must examine the HIV/AIDS rates. Bermuda had a 0.297% prevalence rate for adults in 2005. The estimate of people living with the HIV/AIDS is 163, with a reported 392 deaths of the syndrome. (CDC 2008, CIA 2005).

Currency:

\$1 BMD = \$1 USD at par. Banknotes include \$2, \$5, \$10, \$50, \$100 with other frequent uses of the 1, 5, 10, 25 cents, \$1.

Cities:

Only 2 municipalities are developed in Bermuda, the capital city of Hamilton in Pembroke parish and St. George's (town) in St. George's parish. Unincorporated municipalities include Flatt's village and Somerset village.

History

Juan de Bermudez, a Spanish seaman, originally charted the group of islands named for him in 1503. Because of the treacherous reefs, no attempt was made to go ashore. The first settlers arrived in 1609 from the shipwrecked Sea Venture from Britain enroute to the Jamestown, Virginia settlement in the Americas. Sir George Somers led the assembly who remained in Bermuda for ten months before sailing to Virginia. The group arrived in time to save the new Jamestown colony from starvation with animals, fruits, and vegetables they brought from Bermuda in 1610.

A charter was issued by King James I of England to include Bermuda in the Virginia charter in 1612. Sixty British colonists founded the town of St. George which today is the oldest continuously occupied English-speaking settlement in the West. Bermuda became a self-governing colony in 1620 when representative government was introduced. In 1815, Hamilton became the current capital city of Bermuda.

The first settlers were of British Anglo-Saxon ancestry. The mixture of races in Bermuda, however, started quite early in their history. In 1616, the first West Indian and first black man arrived as indentured servants to dive for pearls.

Slaves were brought to the islands early in Bermudian history, however; there were no plantation crops for slaves to work. The slavery reported seemed more composed than that of other countries in that era. The slaves brought to Bermuda were predominately from Africa via the West Indies where the slave trade was legal. Slave trade was outlawed in Bermuda in 1607 and all were freed in 1834. Today, over half the population in Bermuda is of West Indies-African descent.

Bermudians are a blend of cultures and races. Even though the color barriers are now reported as 55% black and 34% white, the racial disparities often seen in other cultures are not as definitive in Bermuda. The charm and grace that one finds in the Bermudian people is a result of ethnic and cultural blending that relieves distress of racial conflict.

Pirates have been a source of contention for centuries for the Caribbean with their sacking and plundering, but not so 1,000 miles north in the Atlantic Ocean at Bermuda. Most pirates found smuggling more acceptable to the hanging gallows that awaited those caught stealing. The

British built a permanent post in Bermuda as early as 1701 to protect their interests with both the British Royal Army and Royal Navy dispatched. Many old forts remain standing on the eastern coast of Bermuda.

<http://www.hegewisch.net/blindkat/pirates/bermudapir.html>

<http://bermuda-online.org/forts.htm>

Travelers made their way to Bermuda to escape the harshness of winter in North America during the Victorian times of the 19th century. Mark Twain (1835-1910), the beloved American writer and satirist, found himself promoting Bermuda as a social paradise for tourists. Twain is quoted as saying, "sometimes a dose of Bermuda is just what the doctor ordered."

He also regarded Bermuda as his second home. Twain and friend, soon-to-be United States President Woodrow Wilson, were instrumental in keeping automobiles off the islands to preserve the "Isles of Rest" qualities. The Motor Car Act of 1908 kept private motorized vehicles off the islands until 1948.

<http://bermuda-online.org/twain.htm>

<http://www.bermudarailway.net/brc/HistoryPages/nocarsforbermuda.html>

History to 21st c. by Parish

- Sandy's Parish (pronounced sands)

Sandy's Parish is named for Sir Edwin Sandys (1561-1629), who was knighted in 1586 and accompanied King James through a tour of England. Yet, Sandys was condemned as a nonconformist and spoke out in Parliament. As a member of the 1607 Virginia Council, Sandys was very influential in emigration of many families. In 1615 he was a part of the gentlemen Adventurers who founded the Bermuda Company and was the largest shareholder in the Sandys Tribe. His speeches and nominal other reasons landed him in prison from 1621-1629. He was released not long before his death that same year.

Sandy's Parish forms the most western end of the Bermuda Island archipelago. The 21 named islands of Sandy's include Somerset, Boaz, Ireland, and Watford, all connected by bridges and are serviced by buses and ferries. Today, the most popular attraction in Sandy's is the Royal Navy Dockyard (King's Wharf) on the northern point of Ireland Island. Included are the Maritime Museum, a dolphin-swimming program and a snorkel park. Mangroves and calm swimming waters are open to the public with a glorious Audubon nature preserve. On Tuesday evenings, a street festival is held and all are welcomed. Many attractions and information are available at the following web addresses, including a ferry map and schedule.

<http://www.bermuda-online.org/seesandy.htm>

http://bennettkids.homestead.com/files/mangroves_in_bermuda.ppt



(http://www.naplesnet.com/turks/bermuda_9beaches_hotel.htm)

- Southampton Parish

The Third Earl of Southampton, Henry Wriothesley (1573-1624) lends his title to the name of the Southampton tribe. The Earl is described as a colorful figure of the Elizabethan court and his patronage of the arts, including a friendship with William Shakespeare. King James bestowed upon Wriothesley the Knight of the Garter. As an overseas explorer, he invested in the Virginia Company in 1605, the North West Company of 1612, and the Bermuda Company in 1615. He was a member of the gentlemen Adventurers who founded Bermuda. Earl Southampton died in 1624 in the Low Countries where he had once again returned to the battle against the tyranny of Spain.

Southampton Parish is located between Sandy's and Warwick parishes. Eight islands make up the parish of Southampton which form the west end curve of the archipelago. It is most noted for the Gibb's Hill Lighthouse, which is also the highest elevation in Bermuda. Luke's Farm is located in this parish. He produces the "best of Bermuda" local meats, fruits, and vegetables. Rising Sun is another store of notability as it carries specialty items that most stores do not handle—accessible via the Middle Road.

St. Anne's Church (Anglican) claims to be the holder of the oldest baptism (1619) and marriage records of Bermuda. It is on South Road at Church Road.

<http://www.bermuda-online.org/seesouth.htm>

- Warwick Parish (pronounced warik, the second "w" is dropped)

Warwick Parish is named for the second Earl of Warwick, Robert Rich (1587-1658). He was heavily decorated as a young man because of his involvement in the colonizing of Bermuda, Guinea, New England and Virginia companies. His Puritan beliefs estranged his favor in court; however, it encouraged his associations in the colonies. He was imprisoned for his condemnations of illegal taxation. His death in 1658 was said to have been mourned by friend Oliver Cromwell, the Lord Protector.

Located between Southampton and Paget parishes, at least 23 named islands, many with names of the Greek alphabet, compose Warwick Parish today. Each is defined at the web link below. Warwick is described as a busy suburban area in Bermuda and heavily populated. The South Shore Park beach area is spectacular with 1.5 miles of coastal park that extends from Warwick Long Bay to Horseshoe Bay. Horseback riding and golf are other primary attractions in Warwick Parish.

<http://www.bermuda-online.org/seewark.htm>



Jobson's Cove at Long Bay beach in Warwick Parish

- Paget Parish

Named for William Paget (1572-1629), Fourth Lord Paget, the parish is on the Main Island. Paget was of nobility and service to King James I (1605) with an interesting past. He left his father's beloved Roman Catholicism to become Protestant. He later in 1612, became a member of the Virginia Company and was a member of the gentlemen Adventurers that helped colonize Bermuda. These investors used their own monies to form the Bermuda Company.

Between Warwick and Devonshire, Paget Parish is centrally located south of the City of Hamilton yet includes 26 acres of prime marsh preserve. Lover's Lane leads to the paths through the Paget Marsh Nature Preserve. It is owned and co-operated by the Bermuda National Trust and the Audubon Society with a 315-foot boardwalk providing vistas of 5 separate areas. More information on Paget, the Parish, and the Marsh may be linked at the following sites.

<http://www.bermuda-online.org/seepaget.htm>

<http://www.audubon.org/chapter/bmu>

- Pembroke Parish

English aristocrat William Herbert, the (third) Earl of Pembroke (1580-1630) gave his name to the parish that includes the City of Hamilton, North Shore and Hamilton Harbor. Beloved writer and dramatist William Shakespeare knew the Pembroke family well and dedicated his first folio printing (1623) to Pembroke. Other Renaissance artists of Pembroke's patronage included John Donne, Inigo Jones, and Ben Jonson.

Favored by King John I, Pembroke was awarded the Knight of the Garter which led to his joining the Virginia Company in 1609 and Bermuda Company in 1615. As the largest shareholder in Pembroke tribe, he was one of the illustrious band of gentlemen Adventurers. Suffering with feeble health and melancholy/depression, Pembroke died of apoplexy, a bleeding stroke, after a night with "a full and cheerful supper."

The 21st century shows Pembroke Parish as a cultural and historical hub in Bermuda. West of Devonshire and north of Paget, Pembroke Parish contains sites like the Bermuda Underwater Exploration Institute, the Black Watch Pass dedicated to the Scottish regiment of 1849, Butterfly Nature Reserve, even a tennis stadium are just a few places of interest. Others may be accessed at the following site which includes grocery store and restaurant information.

<http://www.bermuda-online.org/seepemb.htm>

<http://www.bermudacruises.net/bermuda-parishes/pembroke.htm>

- City of Hamilton

Hamilton is the capital of Bermuda. The port city in Pembroke Parish is named for Henry Hamilton, a former Governor in 1788-1794. Hamilton was born in Dublin, Ireland, in 1734, of Scottish noble ancestry traced through to Mary Queen of Scots. His father's position took the family from Scotland to Ireland as Sir Frederick Hamilton; Baron Paisley was Governor of Ulster.

Today, Hamilton is the thriving center for business in Bermuda. Only 1,800 residents claim city life. Accounts show 13,500 adults commute to Hamilton each day where 90% of the employers are based. This does not account the number of school children that commute for education purposes. On school days, the bus service caters to the school-aged children from 8:00-8:45am and 3:30-4:30pm—tourists may not be allowed on the bus, unless space is available. See bus schedules and other transportation issues at the following links:

<http://bermuda-online.org/getround.htm>

<http://www.bermuda-online.org/seecity.htm>

The Anglican Cathedral of the Most Holy Trinity is on Church Street in Hamilton. Bermuda's laws protect its imposing power by guaranteeing that no building may be built that is taller than the Cathedral, nor allowed to block the view of it. William Hay of Edinburgh, a Scottish architect, started the Gothic masterpiece in 1886 on the site of the Trinity Church that succumbed to arson in the 1880s. The Anglican (Episcopal) Cathedral is the easiest for visitors and tourist to reach during their stay in Bermuda. The Cathedral Tower presents beautiful views and is open 6 days a week. In 1995, 30% of Bermudians claimed the Anglican faith.

- Devonshire Parish

Devonshire Parish is named for the First Earl of Devonshire, William Cavendish. He was a gentlemen Adventurer who invested some of his vast fortune in the Council of the Virginia Company of 1612 (including Bermuda) and in 1615 in the Bermuda Company. In 1619, he was the largest shareholder in the original Cavendish Tribe (Devonshire Parish). He died in 1626.

Located between Paget and Smith's, Devonshire Parish is heavily occupied in tourism and sporting events. Oceanview, one of the three golf courses owned by the government, is located in Devonshire. The National Sports Center is located in Devonshire on Frog Lane. This multi-sport arena holds events in soccer, cricket, and rugby. The first international soccer games were held at the center in 2001. Soccer is a major sport in Bermuda and usually called football by the players.

Numerous areas of the Bermuda National Park & Reserve and historical sites are found in Devonshire. Many of the parks and beaches are described as peaceful—except during rush hour traffic. The United States Consul is located at "Crown Hill", 16 Middle Road.

<http://bermuda-online.org/seedevon.htm>

<http://www.bermudashorts.bm/glencam/>

<http://www.oceanview.bm/ourcourse>

- Smith's Parish

Sir Thomas Smith (or Smythe) lends his name to the Smith's Parish of Bermuda. Smith (1588-1624) was knighted by King James and became the Governor of the East India Company and later the Governor to the Somers Isles Company. He invested heavily in Virginia with 80,000 pounds and 60,000 pounds in Bermuda with faith his speculations would show profit. Smith's Parish is on the Main Island between Devonshire and Hamilton parishes, with an additional four islands included in the parish. Spittal Pond Park & Nature Reserve is touted to be the best spot in Bermuda for bird watching. Notable is the Harrington's Hundred Grocery on South Road near Spittal Pond, which carries the island's best source of health foods.

<http://bermuda-online.org/seesmith.htm>

- Hamilton Parish

Originally called the Harrington Tribe, for a notable Elizabethan, Lucy Harrington, her name continues to be used in Hamilton Parish government and schools. The title of Hamilton was adopted after James Hamilton, the second Marquis of Hamilton (1589-1625). Being the largest shareholder in the Bermuda Company in 1615, the tribe adopted the Scottish aristocrat's Hamilton name. He was on the Council of Plantations in New England (1620) and later rewarded as a Knight of the Garter. He died in 1625, which is said to have hastened that of his friend, King James VI.

In the 21st century, nine named islands are included in the list for Hamilton Parish, which is located between Smith's and St. George's parishes. One finds active conservation and research at the Bermuda Aquarium, Museum and Zoo (BAMZ) and at the Bermuda Bee Museum, in addition to both the Bermuda National Parks and Railway Trail in Hamilton Parish. Bermudians are committed to the preservation of their history and culture. Flatt's Village is the home of BAMZ.

At Blue Hole Hill, the Causeway meets to form a notable landmark that many use for directional purposes. The Blue Hole area is a unique place to swim and investigate hidden caves. *Note please, wear old sneakers to protect from the submerged rocks and clam shells. Also, avoid areas where the sand blends in deep mud and sink holes.

Other areas of interest include the inland lake called Harrington Sound, named for Lucy Harrington, and the Anglican Holy Trinity Church which dates back to 1623. St. John's AME Church was formed by former slaves and free blacks in the mid-1800s.

Underwater caves filled with stalactites and stalagmites set the stage for spooky adventures in Hamilton Parish with deep crystal clear pools. In the photo of Crystal Cave, the water is 55 feet deep—yet, the bottom can easily be seen.



<http://www.bermuda-online.org/seehamph.htm>

- St. George's Parish

Admiral Sir George Somers (1554-1610) gave the name of the patron saint of England, St. George, to the parish of St. George's. (Many think he named it for himself.) An Elizabethan and the credited founder of the Bermuda Islands, Somers led the first settlers in 1609 from the sunken Sea Venture. He was the first to explore and map the area then known as Virgineola and later known as the Somers Islands.

The first settlers stayed in the Somers Islands for 10 months before going on to the Jamestown settlement in the Virginia colony in America. Notables included John Rolfe whose first wife and child died in Bermuda—later married Princess Pocahontas. Sir Thomas Gates, a future Governor of Jamestown, Virginia, was responsible for the building of one of the ships in Bermuda that arrived in time to save the colonist in Jamestown from starvation in 1610.

Today, St. George's Parish amasses at least 34 named islands including all islands in St. George's harbor, all of St. David's Island, and is part of the Main Island. A fabulous map of sites and locations in St. George's P. are available at the following site:

<http://www.bermuda-online.org/seestgeo.htm>

- City of St. George's

Claiming the 5th oldest township in the Northern Hemisphere is the town of St. George's on St. George's Island, Bermuda. In 2007, 1,199 registered voters lived in the City.

St. Peter's Church on Duke of York Street holds a record as the oldest continually occupied church of the Western Hemisphere and was built by Governor Moore before Christmas 1612. The church's oldest Bible is dated 1594.

Cruise ships up to 700 feet in length are allowed to dock between April and October at Ordnance Island. It is man-made of three different islands consisting of 1.75 acres and the only island in the town.

<http://bermuda-online.org/seetown.htm>
<http://bermuda-online.org/seetown2.htm>

Society/Culture

Pink sand beaches, turquoise waters, hilly terrain in subtropical climate, and lush foliage elementally describe the archipelago of islands that compose Bermuda and set the stage for living in this beautiful Eden. Bridges and causeways with over 100 smaller islands and islets reachable only by boat connect the seven major islands. With only 21 square miles of livable area, Bermuda's 66,000 people reside graciously in limited space. Tourism and services provide the primary source of income for most islanders. Outdoor, indoor, underwater, and underground entertainment awaits visitors to Bermuda where English is the primary language and 90% of the tourists arrive from the United States. When discussing independence from the United Kingdom in 1982, the Premier, Sir John Swan was quoted saying, "With the Americans to feed us and the British to defend us, who needs independence?" By an overwhelming 73%, the referendum for independence from the UK was defeated in 1985; although, it is still a hot topic.

Bermuda has one of the highest rates of income in the world per capita of people at \$70,000; however, this does not apply to the majority of Bermudians. There is a vast difference in the upper echelon and the everyday man. The cost of housing in June 2003 was \$976,000 for an average home, with most stand-alone family homes averaging \$1.9 million by the year 2007, for 2 bedrooms and 1-2 baths on a 0.25 acre lot. An undeveloped lot sells at \$1.6 million per acre.

Of the developed countries, Bermuda has the lowest rate of home ownership at only 42% compared with 64% in most countries like United Kingdom, Canada, and United States. The government stipulates that only Bermudians can own property that costs below the upper 5% of the real estate market value that currently averages \$4.8 million. The Government is by far the largest landholder in Bermuda with its ornate historical buildings dating the 400 years of Bermuda's inhabitancy.

Cleanliness is next to godliness in Bermuda. Huge palmetto bugs (2-3" (6-7cm) long reddish-brown roaches that even fly) and ants will overtake a home that is not kept clean. An example is made from pet food bowls. The food bowl is set afloat in a larger bowl of water to keep the ants from engulfing it before the dog can eat his portion.

Transportation is a major issue in Bermuda! Non-Bermudians are not allowed to own automobiles, nor rent them—for one simple reason—no space. A scooter pictured below is a primary form of transportation other than the pink & blue bus system. The pink buses are government run, but others are available at a higher cost. Taxis are available and much more costly. An additional note, distance is shown in meters, not miles and petrol (gasoline) is measured in liters, not gallons.

No license is required for scooters, but the driver must be 16 years old. Please read the links provided to insure your knowledge is correct. (Unlike the photo below, children under 16 years may not legally ride as a passenger on a scooter.)

http://www.bermuda4u.com/Transport/bermuda_transport_moped_rental.html
<http://www.bermuda.com/transportation/>
<http://www.bermuda-online.org/getround.htm>



Taxes, taxes, taxes ... Bermuda derives much revenue from many taxes both on visitors and natives. True, there are no capital gain taxes, but there are hidden taxes levied on everything else. The cost of living in Bermuda overall is stated to be at least 280% more costly than the UK or Canada and 380% that of living in the United States. Also note, at most restaurants, a 15% gratuity is generously added to the bill for the diners.

<http://www.bermuda-online.org/homes.htm>
<http://www.bermuda-online.org/bdagovt.htm>

As an offshore financial haven, many businesses of insurance, investment holdings, and finance have boosted Bermuda to an international financial center. Foreign tourism, financial remittances, international business and financial services have advanced the island's highly developed economy. Over 18,000 foreign companies are registered in Bermuda and greater than 600,000 visitors each year give this small island country its financial fortitude.

Services are the primary source of income for Bermudians. Tourism being the number one service industry, catering to the traveler produces 90% of the GNP. The laws of Bermuda have strict hiring practices. Do not take a vacation and search for a job in the islands—you can be deported. First, it is prohibited by law and second, a worthy business person would not give you the opportunity to make this mistake. All hiring must be done off-island, if and only if a Bermudian cannot be found suitable for the position. The employer must apply for the Bermuda work permit upon hiring a candidate outside Bermudian soil.

Agriculture is limited to only 20% arable land with only 1-3% of the labor force involved. Fruits and vegetables in Bermuda are not grown as commercial agricultural products. Local crops include citrus, guavas, papayas, strawberries, loquats, and Suriname cherries. Bermuda onions, cassavas, and sweet potatoes are used in local specialty dishes with West Indian, British, and Portuguese flavors. Local fishing includes a catch of cod, wahoo, local tuna, and rockfish.

Let's talk—Golf! Bermuda has some of the most beautifully designed golf courses in the world and of course, more courses per square mile than any other place on Earth. Charles Banks, Deveraux Emmett, Robert Trent Jones, and Charles Blair MacDonal are some of the designers of Bermudian links. The Government owns and maintains 3 of the local courses. At least 19 golf

events occur on a yearly basis, many with renowned golfers from the PGA. *Note—golf clubs are not allowed on public transportation—a taxi must be hired.

<http://www.oceanview.bm/ourcourse>

Bermuda is one of the more formal islands of the Atlantic. Upon arrival, tourists are often amused to see the Bermuda style shorts worn by business men and women daily between April and November. Further observation shows a traditional Bermudian clothing style that is popular worldwide. The Bermuda shorts are tailored to 1-3 inches above the knee with cuffs or without. A blazer of a different color is worn with shirt and tie then completed by coordinating socks that fit right below the knee. Colors vary from khaki or gray to vivid yellows and blues of breathable fabrics like cotton or linen. This style was originated from that of the British army to accommodate soldiers in the subtropical weather, and one the British navy continues in the 21st century.

Today, one may see the police, officials in the House of Assembly, and business executives wearing these dressy, yet comfortable Bermuda shorts to ward off the heat and humidity. The Olympic team can be seen in traditional Bermudian attire wearing their Bermuda shorts at the following link.

<http://www.olympics.bm/commonwealthgames.htm>

The Bermuda collar is described as a narrow, pointed collar on feminine dresses or blouses. Made popular in the 1960s, clothiers added this style to fashions for women. In the 21st century, the collar may be seen on girl's uniform shirts for many schools throughout the world.

<http://www.rubylane.com/shops/ogees/item/8061>

Bermuda Onions were developed from their introduction in 1616 as an agriculture crop. A flat, sphere shaped non-pungent white or red onion, it is mild and crisp in flavor. The Bermuda Onion seed led to the development of the Texas Sweet Onion from a farming community called the Bermuda Colony in Dimmit County Texas on the Nueces River in 1898. The Texas style was grown and sold without tariff of import and eventually overtook the Bermuda Onion trade.

In the 21st century, the onion is Texas #1 leading crop. The Bermuda is not as sweet as the Texas style and recipes call for adding an extra tablespoon of sugar if substituting the Bermuda for a Texas Onion.

<http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/plantanswers/publications/onions/onionhis.html>
http://www.plantanswers.com/garden_column/oct04/1.htm

Good Friday brings a grand tradition in Bermuda. Eating fish cakes with hot cross buns and flying Bermuda-style kites have become a regular custom on the island. A story about Christ's ascension to heaven was made clearer with a story of a kite. The Bermuda kite carries the form of a cross on it and is a very popular design. More information on this specialty is available at several websites.

http://www.bermudanationallibrary.bm/admin/uploads/bda_traditions_easter.pdf

http://members.chello.nl/h.hagg3/Bermuda_Kite_1.htm

In the 17th century, Bermuda based their economy on the islands' red cedar trees for shipbuilding and trading salt. The Bermuda Sloop was designed early in the 1800s which is the basis of design for most sailing yachts still in the 21st century. It remains one of the fastest sailing ships today with speeds up to 16.5 knots.

http://www.modelships.de/Bermuda_Sloop_Herk/Bermuda_Sloop_1_eng.htm

The Bermuda Triangle is well known to most, and a myth to many. The area in the Northwestern Atlantic Ocean encompasses the tri-points from Miami, Florida, USA; San Juan, Puerto Rico; and the Bermuda Islands. Christopher Columbus and his men recorded strange events in the area as far back as 1492. Their compasses would go off the North point to Northwest and records show the men were depressed during this time in the Sargasso Sea. On the night before discovering the Americas according to the log, Columbus witnessed a "strange light" in the distance that could have been neither land, nor natives on the beach. Also known as the Devil's Triangle, popular culture has shown laws of physics, paranormal, or even extraterrestrial beings as explanations to the disappearances of planes and ships for centuries. More can be found on the facts and myths at the following sites:

<http://dsc.discovery.com/convergence/bermudatriangle/links.html>

<http://www.bermuda-triangle.org>

Bermuda holidays include New Year's Day, Good Friday, Bermuda Day (May 24), Queen's Birthday (June 16), Emancipation Day (first day of Cup Match), Somers' Day (second day of Cup Match), Labor Day (1st Monday of September), National Heroes Day (October 13), Remembrance Day (November 11), Christmas Day (December 25), and Boxing Day (December 26).

Holiday trading licenses must be obtained to operate business between the hours of 1:00pm to 6:00pm on traditional holidays. Restaurants in hotels and some small convenience stores are allowed to operate on these days; otherwise, government offices are closed, with shops and restaurants not allowed to sell goods or merchandise. Buses are on a limited Sunday schedule and most taxi services are not available. See link for further information on holidays.

<http://www.bermuda-online.org/pubhols.htm>

Language

English is the primary language of Bermuda but many speak Portuguese to preserve their roots from the Azores and Madeira. As with most primary languages, there are colloquialisms unique to that area. In Bermuda, a "greezing" is eating a meal. Many visitors have difficulty in understanding the Bermudian English, but with patience and genteelness locals will help clarify your questions. By the way, good manners are important in Bermuda's culture, as evidenced by speaking to everyone you see with "good morning" or "good afternoon."

In a linguistics study of Bermudian English, it shows that “a” is pronounced like “e” and “e” is like “a.” Thus, [æ] in HAT becomes [ɛ]: RAT [rɛt], EXACTLY [ɛ'gzɛli]. The "v" and "w" have frequent transposition which follows tradition of the early British settler's vernacular. Further information including a table of examples is available in a paper by Luke Swartz at the following link with more Bermudian dictionary of colloquialisms found on the other link.

http://xenon.stanford.edu/~lswartz/bermudian_english.pdf

<http://pdos.csail.mit.edu/~decouto/bvurds.html>

Government

With a parliamentary representative democratic dependency, Bermuda's government and laws are completely separate from the laws of United Kingdom. They have been a self-governed British territory since 1968. Queen Elizabeth II is the official head of state and she appoints the Governor of Bermuda. Sir Richard Gozney has been Governor since December 2007. His responsibilities include jurisdiction over police and defense, as well as the external affairs of the country and internal security.

The House of Assembly and the Senate make up the Legislature of Bermuda. Elected by popular vote, 36 members are elected at least every 5 years. The party winning the most seats provides the Premiere and the Governor asks him to appoint his government/cabinet. The minority party is called the Opposition party with its own leader and shadow cabinet. The Senate is made of 11 members appointed as follows: 5 on advice by the Premier, 3 from the Opposition Leader, and 3 by the Governor.

Bermuda is over-governed with more representation per people than most countries with far fewer politicians per voter. Bermudians support 17 times the international average of the ratio of legislators to voters. The higher taxes Bermuda requires for residents and visitors goes to paying all these representatives. In Bermuda, 108 Government Boards employ over 800 part-time workers who report to the Legislative members. There are nine parish governments and two municipality governments spread across the 21 square miles that make up this island nation. The Bermuda government employs 15% of the entire adult working population.

In February 1963, the Progressive Labour Party (PLP) was formed by principally black and working class supporters. Rapidly, immigrants from the West Indies dominated the party with social and political changes resulting from their efforts. The United Bermuda Party (UBP) was inaugurated in 1965 to form the two-party system. The UBP was supported majorly by white voters and some blacks. The PLP maintained control in the 2007 elections with Premier, the Honorable Ewart Brown leading his party with the same number of seats it represented before.

<http://www.bermuda-online.org/bdagovt.htm>

<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/5375.htm>

Citizenship in Bermuda

A note about Bermuda citizenship is necessary. Bermuda citizenship is not given freely. If a Bermudian marries someone alien to the country, they must be married for at least 10 years before citizenship may be granted to the spouse. Children born in Bermuda are not considered Bermudian unless one parent is a true Bermudian. Thousands of UK workers are in Bermuda, but they are treated as visitors and cannot vote, nor own real estate. More specifications may be found on the following web addresses:

<http://www.bermuda-online.org/citizenship.htm>

<http://www.lowtax.net/lowtax/html/bermuda/jbrres.html>

Economy

Since World War II, the economic climate of Bermuda has remained stable. International business, business services, and tourism totaled 91.7% of receipts in 2006. While international business continues to expand, some areas of tourism are contracting. After the 9/11 terrorist attack in 2001, tourism dropped in the islands, but by 2007 seemed to have improved with 663,767 visitors. Bermuda depends on the tourists from America to keep this industry viable.

In 2005, the GDP was \$4.9 billion in the islands of Bermuda. The economy is based on tourism, reinsurance, and offshore banking with over 18,000 international companies registered in Bermuda in 2006. These foreigners spent over \$1 billion dollars in Bermuda that year. Re-exporting pharmaceuticals is another source of income for Bermuda at \$1.5 billion (2004).

Literacy

Bermudians are well educated with 99% of the population having been schooled at least to age 16. Compulsory education is required for all children ages 5-16 with the free public school program extended to include students through age 19. Private education is also available.

Bermuda College is publicly funded and offers two-year programs of higher education in business, hotel administration, teaching, and liberal arts with transferrable credits for a 4-year program elsewhere. Bermuda Government Scholarships are available to those students qualified for financial aid to further their education in foreign countries like the United Kingdom or United States. Further information on education is available from the website at:

<http://www.bermuda-online.org/educate.htm>

Land/Geography:

Extinct since before the first ice age, Bermuda sits atop the summit of a submerged volcanic mountain range, 14,000-15,000 feet high. The limestone cap upon which Bermuda lays is a 200-foot layer formed from thousands of years of coral, mollusks, and other sea organism sediment.

Bermuda is the most northerly position on Earth classified as a "coral island" where reef-building coral continues living.

Gibb's Hill is the highest point of Bermuda at 260 feet above sea level. The terrain of the islands is hilly cascading into a lush fertile valley on the main island. Cliffs formed from the wind-carving effect give the northern shore dramatic views from the shoreline and beaches.

No fresh water rivers or lakes can be found for drinking water. The gleaming white roofs of the houses are designed to collect rainwater into cisterns for fresh water necessities. The best advice is to become friendly with the water delivery man.

The climate is subtropical and frost-free, snow-free, and ice-free because of the Gulf Stream warm waters that flow near Bermuda. In the 21st century, average daily temperatures provide a pleasant climate year round.

Temperatures are shown with December – March at 70°F with May – October between 75-85°F. Rainfall averages 56 inches per year with approximately 180 rain days spread evenly throughout the year. The ocean water ranges between 66°F in January to 77°F in late spring.

The months of June through September are extremely hot and humid. The year round mean of humidity is 77% with 85% in the summer months. Health warnings are made to people with allergies to mold and mildew. Many visitors have blogged their shock of the smell of mold both inside and outside. De-humidifiers are used in most hotel rooms and all homes to assist alleviation of the smells and allergens. Luckily, for hay-fever sufferers, ragweed and other culprits do not grow on Bermudian soil and are quickly blown out to sea.

Other information on climate and hurricanes in Bermuda are available at the following website.

<http://www.bermuda-online.org/climateweather.htm>

Christian History

Christianity arrived with the first settlers from England. St. Peter's church in St. George's was the first built in Bermuda in 1619, for the Anglican faith. The Church of England was established in all nine parishes with its own church, with 3 in St. George's and Pembroke parishes.

The Methodist made initial steps with the blacks of Bermuda to establish the African Methodist Episcopal church in the mid-18th century to assist unification of the black community. Catholicism followed the Portuguese of the Azores and Madeira who arrived in Bermuda in the mid-19th century.

After absolving its ties with the Church of England in 1974, the Anglican Church of Bermuda was founded. The government of Bermuda has no offices, nor involvement with religious affairs. Freedom of religion is favored by all.

Bermuda has the highest number of churches per capita of any nation. However, after the disassociation with the Church of England, estimates show 20% of Bermudians have no active religious affiliation (2000 census). A listing of most churches in Bermuda is available at the following links:

http://www.tourism-bermuda.com/bermuda_churches.htm

<http://www.bermuda.com/community/faithworship>

Religion

Non-Christian

Islam

In Bermuda, the Muslim Community Centre is located in Hamilton, Pembroke parish. The Sri Lankan Tamils in Bermuda claim 5% of their cohort practice Islamic beliefs.

Hinduism

In Bermuda, there are Sri Lankan Tamils that practice Hinduism. Numbers show 73% of that group involved in this form of belief practice.

Buddhism

No Buddhist temple is found in Bermuda and only 21 followers claimed this faith in 2000.

Baha'i

The Baha'i National Center is located in the city of Hamilton, Pembroke parish. At the turn of the 21st century, their congregation is about 325, but projected to double by 2025.

Jehovah's Witness

In 1995, 829 members were associated with the Jehovah's Witness congregation. There are 5 congregations in Bermuda.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (Mormons)

In Bermuda, the Church of Jesus of Latter Day Saints is located in Hamilton parish with 200 reported members in 1995.

Christian Scientist

One church is available for the Christian Scientist of Bermuda with a stable 100 members from 1970 to 1995. It is located in the city of Hamilton, Pembroke parish.

Roman Catholic Church

The Roman Catholic faith in Bermuda is professed as the second largest community of followers on the islands. In 2007, the Roman Catholic Diocese of Hamilton in Bermuda celebrated their 40th year. St. Theresa's became the Cathedral located in Hamilton in 1932 as the former St. Edward's had become too small for the growing Catholic population.

At least 15% of Bermudians claim Catholicism as their religion, which numbered in 1995 at 9,980. There are 6 Catholic churches in Bermuda. More info is available at:

<http://www.catholicbermuda.org/>

Christian/Evangelical

*Note: Numbers of congregation given are from the World Christian Encyclopedia (David Barrett, 2001).

Anglican Church of Bermuda

The Anglican Church of Bermuda was founded when the island country absolved its ties with the Church of England in 1974. The Archbishop of Canterbury is the senior bishop of the Anglican Community worldwide, including Bermuda. At least 30% of Bermudians follow this faith. When the church terminated its association from the British in 1974, many parishioners did not choose to follow and are now un-churched.

There are 12 Anglican churches in Bermuda with one in each parish and 3 in Pembroke and St. George's parishes. In 1995 membership included 24,500, up from 22,000 in 1970. More info is available at:

<http://www.anglican.bm/>

African Methodist Episcopal

Early in Bermuda's history, the AME church united the blacks as a community. They have 11 churches with membership listed at 5,540 in 1995, up from 3,900 in 1970. Congregations are in 6 parishes, including the city of Hamilton. More info is available at:

<http://www.bdaconfame.bm/ksrv.html>

Baptists

Bermuda has 3 Baptist congregations totaling 1,020 in 1995, up from 175 in 1970. The city of Hamilton and the parishes of Devonshire and St. George's have Baptist churches.

The First Baptist Church located in Devonshire Parish was supported with pastoral leadership by the SBC for forty years, but in 2008 it is fully self-supporting. More can be garnered from their web address at:

<http://www.firstbaptistbermuda.com/about.html>

Brethren

The Brethren have 7 churches in Bermuda with 1,050 members in 1995, up from 1,000 in 1970. Congregations meet in 7 parishes.

Church of Christ

Church of Christ has 2 congregations totaling 200 in 1995, up from 50 in 1970.

Methodists

There are eight Methodist churches in Bermuda. The membership in 1995 was 2,900, up from 2,000 in 1970. Six parishes, including the city of Hamilton list Methodists congregants.

Pentecostals (several types)

- Bermuda has three Church of God (Anderson) assemblies totaling a stable 300 members from 1970-1995.
- The Church of God of Prophecy has doubled its membership since 1970 to 100 in 1995.
- New Testament Church of God has five congregations in Bermuda with 1,280 members in 1995, up from 500 in 1970.
- Bermuda Apostolic includes Church of God members in two congregations with numbers unknown.
- Pentecostal churches number five in Bermuda with 733 members in 1995, up from 500 in 1970.

Seventh Day Adventists

The Bermuda Conference of Seventh Day Adventists is headquartered in Hamilton, with jurisdiction over 11 churches disbursed throughout the parishes. In 1995, 3,670 members made up eight churches. This figure is up from the 1970 membership total of 1,800. In 2008, the SDA has grown to house 11 congregations with the actual number of members unavailable. More information is available at the following web address:

<http://bermuda.adventistchurchconnect.org/index.php>

People Groups

Some reporting groups place Catholics, marginal Christian groups, and evangelicals in a category called Christian Adherents. When this term is used in this report, "Christian Adherents" is placed in quotation marks to indicate this usage.

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Bermuda, generic (16,000)

These English-speaking, Bermudians are mostly Caucasian. The segments of people groups do not specify ethnicity; however, the 'white-skin' group makes up about 35% of the census population in Bermuda. The first settlers were Anglo-Saxon and research indicates this approximation by percentage calculations. This does not account for the foreigners that work in Bermuda for the insurance and banking industries from other countries who are allowed to work up to six years.

Of this group, 74.7% claim Christianity as their religion with 6.72% evangelical. The Bermudians that claim non-religious of this group are 25%, with only 0.3% listed as other religion. Of these professing Christians, 25% claim the Anglican faith, 31% Protestant, 6% Independent, and 23% claim other Christian faith. Roman Catholic makes up 14% of this cohort.

Bible translations are available in English as well as numerous other biblical resources. The "Jesus film" is available to them.

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Afro-Bermudian (39,000)

Afro-Bermudian is the largest people group in Bermuda. Predominately, their language is English without the "creolization" found in the West Indies. Most are descended from the former slave trade when at least two slave ships landed in Bermuda. Under the 1674 act, no "Negroes, Indians, or Mullatos" could be bought, sold, or traded in the island country of Bermuda. The men, women, and children on these ships became "free" and most chose to stay in Bermuda. Others of African decent came as indentured servants, and of course, the slaves bought before the banning. They are disbursed throughout the country and hold jobs in all fields.

Christianity is the major religion for Afro-Bermudians with 93.06 listed by Joshua Project. Of this 23.64% are evangelical Christians. Anglican comprises 30%, Protestant 16%, Independent 16%, with other Christians listed at 12%. Roman Catholic is the religion of 13% of Afro-Bermudians. The non-religious portion of this cohort is low at 1.7%, with another 5.24% claiming other faith.

The Bible translation status is reported with complete Bibles as well as portions of the New Testaments available. The "Jesus" film is also available.

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Bermuda, mixed (4,600)

Bermudians of the mixed group probably consist of those of inter-marriage of which the parents are of different groups. The blends of white-black and white-Amerindian make up this group of people in Bermuda. Cultural and racial barriers have not been a problem in Bermuda as found in many countries of the world.

Christianity is given as the predominate belief system within 98% of the mixed group with 21.56% "Christian Adherents." Only 2% of the mixed Bermuda group is non-religious. Of the Christian segments, 25% are Anglican, 23% Protestant, 14% independent, and others listed by 26% of Christians. Roman Catholics hold 12% of the mixed Bermudians' faith.

Bible portions are available as well as the complete Bible. The "Jesus" film is accessible.

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British (600)

The Anglo-Celt British speak the English language. The Joshua Project shows 70% are Christian with an unknown evangelical percentage.

The Bible and portions of the New Testament are available. The "Jesus" film is available to them as well.

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Deaf (3,900)

No information is retrievable at this time on the deaf community in Bermuda other than the figure of 3,900 in the population. (WCE, 2001)

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Filipino (500)

Filipinos have migrated to Bermuda to escape the faltering economy in the Philippines where there are not enough jobs and other economic disparities drove them to seek work overseas. They are referred to as OFW (Overseas Filipino Workers). The majority have come to work as doctors, accountants, and nurses. They use the Tagalog language.

Christianity is the dominate religion of 97% of the Filipinos in Bermuda. Of this number, only 11.64% are "Christian Adherents." 70% are reported as Roman Catholic, 10% Protestant, and 15% are Independent Christians. Other is listed at 5%.

The Bible and scripture portions have been translated into the Tagalog language. The "Jesus" film is available in the Tagalog language.

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Tamil (200)

The Tamils of Sri Lanka are the 4th largest group of refugees in Bermuda. They are from the northern sector of Sri Lanka and most are Hindu. These people risked their lives to escape the increased violence and deteriorating human rights in their country. In 1983, they saw the beginning of anti-Tamil race riots, ethnic cleansing, and a civil war that continues today between the Sinhalese Buddhist of the southern sector, the Tamil Tiger militants, and the government of Sri Lanka. Tamils have become internally displaced in many countries around the globe.

The majority of Tamils are Hindu faith at 73%. Another 5% claim Islamic faith. Christianity is 20% of this cohort with 4% "Christian Adherent". The Bible has been translation into their language. The "Jesus" film is available to Tamils.

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Portuguese (2,400)

Since the 1847, Portuguese islanders from Madeira have been recruited to work in Bermuda. More arrived from the Azores after that. They assumed the farming labor duties after slavery was abolished in 1834 and later worked in the tourism industry. In the 21st century, one-fourth of the islanders are of Portuguese decent. Portuguese is the second most used language in Bermuda. The automatic-teller machines at banks offer both English and Portuguese.

Most Portuguese descendents are Catholic faith at 90%. A reported 93% claim Christianity as their religion; however, only 1.58% are "Christian Adherent." Protestant makes up 2% of this group with 1% claiming Independent status. Other Christian believers stand at 7%.

The Bible has been translated into Portuguese 2004. The "Jesus" film is available in Portuguese.

Missiological Implications

1. Evangelical Christians and churches should develop evangelistic programs to reach the non-religious and unchurched groups and train local believers in the use of these programs. The Joshua Project indicates that the non-religious people constitute 37.7% (2008) of the actual Bermudian population. These figures are not the persons who claim "I'm of ... religion," but never attend. These people are un-churched people who need to hear about Christ and salvation. Operation World places the non-religious at 4%. The non-religious should be a primary target for evangelism and church starting.

2. Evangelical Christians and churches should pray for and work toward a genuine revival of evangelical Christianity on these islands. Bermuda boasts having more churches per capita of people than any country in the world; however, those buildings look more like window dressing when one assesses the "Christian Adherents" totaling only a small portion of the population.
3. Evangelical Christians and churches should seek to train local Christians in methods of small group evangelism and church efforts. Home discipleship with Bible study groups would increase contacts with marginal Christians.
4. Evangelical Christians and churches should make provision to evangelize the youth of Bermuda. Persons under 16 years of age make up one-third (based on citizens and non-citizens) of Bermuda's population. Churches might reach the youth with sports events and after-school programs. They need ways to introduce youth to Christian life and salvation.
5. Evangelical Christians and churches should place priority on evangelizing and discipling the elderly in Bermuda. These older adults are often overlooked and forgotten. Elders do not receive many benefits in this wealthy nation. A tremendous need for healthcare exists among these older people because the provision through the government is sparse. Both men and women are not eligible for any benefits (unless disabled) until age 65.

<http://www.bermuda-online.org/seniorcitizens.htm>

5. Evangelical Christians and churches should make use of the many festivals and celebrations as times for evangelism. Tuesday evenings, a street festival is held and all are welcomed in Sandy's Parish. This provides an excellent opportunity to meet the population of that area. Other events like this are held regularly on the islands. See the links in the Parish profiles or the following to garner more general people-gathering events.

<http://www.bermuda-online.org/>

6. Evangelical Christians and churches should seek to reach the many non-Citizens who live and work in Bermuda. People from other countries may work in Bermuda up to 6 years. This presents a huge cohort of "visitors" in the islands as they are not allowed citizenship except by marriage after 10 years. They cannot purchase real estate or own an automobile. Their sources, therefore, are limited in many aspects of daily life including religion.
7. Evangelical Christians and churches should seek ways to evangelize the thousands of tourists who visit Bermuda each year.

Websites for Bermuda

Internet sites available with current information:

<http://www.bermuda.com/>

<http://www.bermuda-online.org/>

<http://www.bermudaairport.com/>

<http://www.experiencebermuda.com/fastfacts/>