

MISSIONARY ATLAS PROJECT

CENTRAL AMERICA

Jamaica

Snapshot of Jamaica

Country Name: Jamaica

Country Founded in: August 6, 1962

Population: 2,780,132

Government Type: Constitutional Parliamentary Democracy

Geography/location in the world: Jamaica is an island in the Caribbean Sea, south of Cuba.



Number of people groups: 11

Picture of flag:



Religion Snapshot

Major Religion and % of population:

- Roman Catholic 10.38%
- Christian 30.2%
- Rastafaran/Spiritist 10.0%
- Non-religion 5%
- Baha'i 0.30%
- Chinese/Buddhist 0.30%
- Muslim 0.20%
- Jewish 0.10%

Government interaction with religion: The government is tolerant of all religions.

Mission Atlas Project

Jamaica

Basic Facts

Name:

Jamaica

Demographics:

As of July 2007, the population of Jamaica is 2,780,132.

The population growth rate is 0.777%. The birth rate is 20.44 births/1,000 population. The death rate is 6.59 deaths/1,000 population. The net migration rate is -6.07 migrant(s)/1,000 population. The infant mortality rate is 15.73 deaths/1,000 live births. The life expectancy for men is 71.43 years, and 74.9 years for women (2007 est.). The total fertility rate is 2.36 children born/woman. As of 2003, there are 22,000 people living with HIV/AIDS.

As of 2006, the unemployment rate was at 11.3%.

Jamaica has an overall population density of 257 persons per square kilometer (665 per square mile).

The major cities in Jamaica include Kingston, Jamaica's capital and largest city (577,623 in 2001), and Spanish Town (131,060 in 2001). The towns of Montego Bay, Ocho Rios, and Negril offer some of the most popular resorts.

www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook

www.encyclopedia.com

Language:

English is the official language of Jamaica. Many Jamaicans also speak a local dialect of English that includes African, Spanish, and French aspects.

www.encyclopedia.com

www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook

Society/Culture:

Jamaicans celebrate their Independence Day on August 6 (1962). Several weeks before the event, they have a huge celebration called “Festival.” During Festival, artists of all kinds perform (sometimes competitively). School children also get involved in the activities. It is an event that encourages national pride and tradition.

Around the time of Christmas, Jamaicans participate in a dancing procession called Jonakanoo (John Canoe). Many people dress in wild costumes and dance to the sound of drums and cane flutes. The origin of Jonkanoo is thought to have come from East Africa.

Most other Jamaican holidays are of religious descent, such as Ash Wednesday, Good Friday, Easter Monday, and Christmas.

Most Jamaican descendants are African Blacks. Some Jamaicans are from Indian, Chinese, and European ancestry.

Approximately 100,000 Jamaicans call themselves Rastafarians. Rastafarians are members of a Jamaican messianic movement dating back to the 1930’s. Rastafarians believe that the only true God is the late Ethiopian emperor Haile Selassie (originally known as Ras Tafari), and that Ethiopia is the true Zion. They also claim that white Christians have perverted the scriptures to conceal the fact that Adam and Jesus were black. Rastafarian rituals include meditation, smoking ganja (marijuana), and chanting. Rastafarians are known for wearing their hair in dreadlocks, beards (a sign of a pact with God), and carrying Bibles.

There are several Jamaican folklore tales of a spider named Anansi. The stories were brought to the country by the first slaves. They tell of a mythical spider named Anansi who uses his intellect to outsmart his enemies. These bedtime stories remain popular today.

Christian sacraments and tradition characterize the rites of passage for most Jamaicans. Jamaicans are said to be casual, open, and friendly in their relationships. The official motto of Jamaica is, “Out of Many People, One People.” All Jamaican ethnicities come together to form one people, one spirit. A couple popular Jamaican sayings are, “No problem Mon,” and “No pressure, no problem.” These phrases reflect the laid back, happy-go-lucky attitude of the Jamaican people.

Women are given respect in Jamaica, but the men are still seen as the heads of the households. Men and women marry or begin living together at a young age, and they have children soon afterwards. A man’s virility and a woman’s fertility are highly valued in society. Jamaicans wear clothing that is cool and comfortable. Rastafarians have made the colors of the Ethiopian flag popular (red, green, and gold). Churchgoers dress formally on Sundays.

Jamaicans eat foods that are rich in spices, such as pimento, ginger, nutmeg, and pepper. Cassava (*Yucca*) is a tuber that is popular in Jamaica. Bammy is a bread-like snack made from cassava. Jamaicans eat ackee and saltfish for a snack or for a breakfast dish. Ackee is the national fruit of Jamaica. If it is not prepared correctly, then it can be poisonous. For dinner, Jamaicans usually eat peas and rice with either jerk chicken or perk. The “jerk” of jerk chicken refers to the method of smoking the meat over a pimento wood fire.

A popular Jamaican Curry Chicken recipe is:

1-3 pounds chicken

2 tablespoon curry powder

3-4 tablespoons cooking oil

Onion, thyme, garlic, pepper, salt to taste

Cut chicken into small pieces, and let sit in lemon juice for at least one hour. Remove chicken and season it. Marinate for several minutes. Heat 3-4 tablespoons of cooking oil in a skillet. Add chicken and let cook until done. Serve over white rice or rice and peas.

The living conditions in Jamaica vary from wealthy to poor. Healthcare is considered good, and the average life expectancy is comparable to the United States. All Jamaicans often have to deal with the breakdowns of electricity, mail, water, and telephone services.

Most all kids between the ages of 6 and 11 attend primary school. School attendance at secondary institutions for youth between the ages of 12 and 18 is approximately 84%. Jamaica maintains the major university in the entire Caribbean region. The University of the West Indies, Mona Campus, is located in Kingston (1948). Jamaica also has a number of vocational and technical schools, teacher-training colleges, and a college of arts, science, and technology.

Jamaica has a lot of musical heritage. Mento (a style of music and dance with roots in African music) and Ska (a soft-style rhythm-and-blues beat) became popular styles of music in Jamaica. The most popular form of music in Jamaica is reggae. Reggae has almost become synonymous with Jamaica thanks to the world renowned reggae singer Bob Marley. Marley converted to the Rastafarian religion three years after he started playing music. The Rastafarian themes dominate his lyrics. Dance-hall music (DJ Music) is an offshoot of reggae, and has risen in popularity. The music is played loud and dancers wear elaborate and colorful outfits.

Paintings and sculptures are very popular in Jamaica. John Dunkley is the most famous painter in Jamaica, and Edna Manley (Wife of Norman Manley) is the most famous sculptor. Malica “Kapo” Reynolds is also known for her sculpting abilities. Her sculptures can be found on display at the National Gallery in Kingston. Jamaican poet Louis Aston Marantz Simpson is

famous for many his works, especially “At the End of the Open Road,” which won the 1964 Pulitzer Prize for poetry.

Timothy L. Gall, ed. *Worldmark Encyclopedia of Cultures and Daily Life*. Vol. 2. Detroit, Michigan: Gale Research, 1998.

Government:

Jamaica gained independence from England on August 6, 1962. The country established a parliamentary system of government based off of England’s. The prime minister is the head of the government, and Jamaica recognizes the British monarch as its own monarch and head of state. England’s governor-general is appointed on the advice of the prime minister.

Executive Branch: The executive power in Jamaica consists of a cabinet of 17 ministers and is headed by the prime minister. The prime minister is the leader of the majority party and is appointed from the House of Representatives by the governor-general. The prime minister chooses the ministers of the cabinet. The current prime minister in Jamaica is Portia Simpson-Miller (as of March 2006). She is Jamaica’s first female prime minister. England is represented by the current governor-general Kenneth O. Hall.

Legislative Branch: The bicameral Parliament consists of the Senate and the House of Representatives. The Senate is made up of a 21-member body appointed by the governor-general on the recommendations of the prime minister (13 members) and the leader of the opposition party (8 members). The House of Representatives consists of 60 members that are popularly elected to terms of up to five years.

Judicial Branch: The legal and judicial system is based off of the English common law and practice. This branch consists of the Supreme Court, a court of appeals, resident magistrates’, petty sessional courts, and other courts.

Political Parties: Jamaica has two major political parties: The People’s National Party (PNP), which is socialist in orientation, and The Jamaican Labour Party (JLP), which supports free enterprise in a mixed economy. Minor parties include the National Democratic Movement, Natural Law Party, and United People’s Party.

www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook

Economy:

Jamaica's gross domestic product (purchasing power parity) in 2006 was \$12.82 billion. The GDP (official exchange rate) in 2006 was \$9.23 billion. The GDP real growth rate is 2.3% (2006 est.). The GDP per capita is \$4,600 (2006 est.)

The GDP composition by sector is:

Agriculture:	5.2%
Industry:	27.3%
Services:	67.5% (2006 est.)

Concerning the budget, Jamaica's revenues are \$2.85 billion. Jamaica's expenditures are \$3.174 billion, including capital expenditures of 180.4 million (2006 est.). Public debt amounts to 133.3% of GDP. The national external debt of Jamaica (as of 2006) was \$7.384 billion. The Jamaican currency is the Jamaican dollar (JMD). The exchange rate is 65.768 Jamaican dollars per US dollar.

Exports: \$2.087 billion f.o.b. (2006 est.)

Export Commodities: alumina, bauxite, sugar, bananas, rum, coffee, yams, beverages, chemicals, wearing apparel, and mineral fuel.

Jamaica's export partners are:

United States	25.8%
Canada	19.3%
UK	10.7%
Netherlands	8.6%
China	7%
Norway	6.5%
Germany	5.6% (2005 est.)

Imports: \$4.682 billion f.o.b. (2006 est.)

Import Commodities: food and other consumer goods, industrial supplies, fuel, parts and accessories of capital goods, machinery and transport equipment, and construction materials.

Jamaica's import partners are:

United States	41.4%
Trinidad and Tobago	14%
Venezuela	5.5%
Japan	4.6% (2005 est.)

The labor force is estimated at \$1.1 million.

The labor force by occupation is:

Agriculture	18.1%
-------------	-------

Industry	17.3%
Services	64.6% (2004 est.)

Tourism: Tourism is vital to Jamaica's economy. In 2005, 1.5 million people traveled to Jamaica, contributing \$1.5 billion to the economy. The peak tourist season in Jamaica is December through April.

Agriculture: Jamaica's primary crop is sugarcane. In 2005, the country harvested 1.9 million metric tons of sugarcane. Other important agricultural products include bananas, citrus fruits, tobacco, cocoa, coffee, coconuts, corn, sweet potatoes, hay, peppers, ginger, mangoes, potatoes, and arrowroot. Jamaica grows the majority of the world's supply of allspice. In 2005, the livestock population was estimated at 430,000 cattle, 440,000 goats, and 85,000 pigs.

Mining and Manufacturing: The primary minerals that Jamaica produces are bauxite and alumina. The bauxite and alumina industries are extremely important to Jamaica's economy. In 2004, the annual production of bauxite amounted to 13.3 million metric tons. Jamaica has food and beverage industries and manufactures products such as printed fabrics, clothing, footwear, paints, agricultural machinery, cement, transistor radios, and fertilizers. There is a petroleum refinery in Kingston that produces fuel sufficient to meet about half the national demand.

Transportation and Communications: In 1999, Jamaica had 18,700 kilometers (11,620 miles) of roads. Approximately one-fourth of these roads were paved. Most of Jamaica's railways are privately owned and used to transport bauxite. Numerous international airlines and Air Jamaica serve the island.

Jamaica has two broadcasting companies (one public and one private). In 1998, the country had 766 radio receivers and 187 television sets per 1,000 people. In 2005 there were 129 telephone mainlines per 1,000 people.

www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook

www.encarta.msn.com

Literacy:

Approximately 87.9% of Jamaica's total population (15 years of age and older) can read and write (2003 est.)

www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook

Land/Geography:

Jamaica is an island located in the Caribbean Sea, just south of Cuba. Jamaica's total land (10,831 sq. km) and water area (160 sq. km) is 10,991 square kilometers. Jamaica is slightly smaller than the US state of Connecticut. Jamaica is the third largest island of the Greater Antilles of the West Indies.

Jamaica's landscape is mountainous, except for some lowland areas in the southern coastal region. The primary mountain range is the Blue Mountains. The highest peak on the island is the Blue Mountain Peak reaching 7,402 feet. A series of hills extends west and forms into a wide-ranging plateau. The coastline is 1,022 kilometers long. The island has a number of excellent natural harbors including those at Kingston, Saint Ann's Bay, Montego Bay, and Port Maria. Many Small unnavigable rivers cross through the island. The island occasionally gets hit with severe earthquakes and hurricanes. Hurricane season usually falls between the months of July and November.

The climate in Jamaica differs depending on the region. The climate is tropical in the coastal lowlands of Jamaica. The mean annual temperature in this region is approximately 80°F. In the plateau and mountain ranges the mean annual temperature averages 72°F at elevations of 3,000 feet, and are less at higher altitudes. Jamaica's annual precipitation varies with each region. In the mountains of the northeast, the annual precipitation amounts to 200 inches a year. In the Kingston area the annual precipitation amounts to about 32 inches a year. The rainier months in Jamaica are May, June, October, and November.

www.encarta.msn.com

www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook

History

The original inhabitants of Jamaica were the Arawak people. They were an important group of the Arawakan linguistic stock of Native Americans and had inhabited the island since approximately AD 1000. Jamaica's name stems from the Arawakan word Xaymaca, which means "isle of springs."

Christopher Columbus discovered Jamaica in 1494 during his second voyage. Jamaica became a Spanish colony in 1509. The first settlement in Jamaica was established at Saint Jago de la Vega (now called Spanish Town). Colonization was slow under the Spanish rule.

The aboriginal Arawakan died off quickly from the diseases and ill-treatment of the Spanish. In 1655, Jamaica was captured by an English naval force under the leadership of Sir William Penn. The Spanish were expelled from the country five years later. In 1670, Jamaica was formally yielded over to England from Spain. During the end of the seventeenth century, large numbers of English immigrants arrived. At this time, the sugar, cocoa, and other agricultural and forest industries were rapidly growing.

Large amounts of African slaves were imported to compensate for the shortage of laborers. Jamaica quickly became one of the primary slave trading centers in the world. In 1692, an earthquake destroyed Port Royal (the primary Jamaican slave market), and Kingston was founded nearby shortly after.

In 1833, Jamaica's parliamentary legislation passed concerning the abolition of slavery. Slavery officially ended in Jamaica on August 1, 1834. The act made \$30 million available to slave owners to compensate for the 310,000 liberated slaves. Thousands of liberated slaves left the plantations they once worked on and took possession of unoccupied land in the interior. This disrupted the economy. The slaves were replaced by East Indians and Chinese contract workers. Blacks were treated harshly during this time. They dealt with oppressive taxation, discriminatory acts by the courts, and land-exclusion measures.

In 1866, a crown colony government was established by the Parliament. Jamaica's new governor, Sir John Peter Grant, introduced new plans which included the development of banana cultivation, improvement of internal transportation, and reorganization of government administration. The country was pacified for a little while as improvements were made in education, public health, and political representation.

Jamaica's economic problems continued to escalate. By the end of the nineteenth century and the beginning of the twentieth, the country began growing bananas to export to the United States. Unfortunately, this did not provide enough jobs to sustain the growing population. Thousands left Jamaica to search elsewhere for jobs. The world depression hit during the early 1930's and many migrant Jamaicans returned to the homeland.

The 1930's proved to be tough times for the Jamaican people, and in 1938 the hardships escalated into an outbreak of riots. Britain responded to Jamaica's riots by allocating funds for economic development and gradually extending self-government to the Jamaican people. Jamaica's two-party system was founded in 1938. Jamaican lawyer, Norman Manley, founded the moderately leftist People's National Party (PNP). Manley's cousin, Alexander Bustamante, founded the Bustamante Industrial Trade Union in 1943, which served as the basis for the moderately conservative Jamaican Labor Party (JLP). A new constitution was developed in

1944, which enabled the election of members of the House of Representatives. In the 1950's, bauxite mining and tourism became major industries, but high unemployment remained.

Jamaica joined several other British Caribbean colonies in 1958 to form the Federation of the West Indies. However, the federation broke up after disagreement concerning Jamaica's role. On August 6, 1962, Jamaica gained its independence, with dominion status in the Commonwealth of Nations. The JLP won the elections in 1962, and Bustamante became the prime minister. Bustamante retired in 1967 and Hugh Lawson Shearer took over as prime minister. In February of 1972, the PNP regained a majority in Parliament.

Michael N. Manley (Norman Manley's son) became prime minister. Manley was a labor leader who promised economic growth. He proved to be unable to revive the economy, and was voted out in 1980. The chaotic election campaign of 1980 left 800 Jamaicans dead, as a result of political gang violence. This election-related violence continued to be part of Jamaica's political scene into the 1990's. The JLP won the election of 1980 and Edward Seaga became prime minister and minister of finance. Seaga announced a conservative economic program that brought immediate aid from the United States and the IMF. In October 1981, Jamaica broke off diplomatic relations with Cuba.

Manley returned to power in 1989 as the PNP won a large parliamentary majority. Manley initiated moderate free-market policies. He resigned in 1992 because of poor health. P.J. Patterson took over the office of prime minister and PNP leader. The PNP maintained its majority in the House with the 1993, 1997, and 2002 elections. Patterson continued as prime minister until 2006. He worked hard to improve the country's economy and to lessen the country's high murder rate. In 2004, Jamaica suffered great loss during Hurricane Ivan. Ivan was the strongest hurricane to hit Jamaica in decades, causing widespread destruction. Patterson retired in March of 2006. Portia Simpson Miller was elected to replace him and lead the PNP. She is Jamaica's first woman prime minister.

www.encyarta.msn.com

Timothy L. Gall, ed. *Worldmark Encyclopedia of the Nations*. "Americas." Vol. 3. Farmington Hills, Michigan: Gale Group, 2001.

Christian History

Catholic missionaries came to Jamaica soon after Spanish colonies were established. The early missionary efforts didn't produce many followers. In spite of the slow beginning, however, by 1655 most of the population was Catholic. At that time, the English took control over Spanish possessions in the Caribbean.

After English rule, Catholicism was prohibited until the arrival of Jesuits in 1837. Catholicism has grown rapidly since its resurgence, and the Catholic Church has more members than any other denomination in Jamaica. The majority of Catholics in Jamaica are found in the poorer classes of the population. The Chinese have the highest percentage of Catholics than any other ethnicity in Jamaica. The Holy See has diplomatic relations with Jamaica. In 2000, the Holy See was represented to government and the Catholic hierarchy by a pro-nuncio residing in Port of Spain.

The Anglican Church started chaplaincy work in Jamaica in the 17th century. The first Anglican bishoprics in the Caribbean were established in Jamaica and Barbados in 1824. Since 1883, the diocese of Jamaica has been part of the autonomous Church of the Province of the West Indies.

Protestant work in Jamaica began with the Friends (Quakers) in 1671. The Moravians and Methodists came to Jamaica in the 18th century, as well as others. The first Baptist missionary to the West Indies was George Lisle, who was a freed slave from Virginia. Lisle arrived in Kingston in 1783. Lisle's first congregation later branched into both the Native Baptist cult and the Jamaica Baptist Union.

British Baptists came to the island in 1813, but the local church has been entirely independent since 1842. The 114,000 members (as of 2001) of the Jamaican Baptist Union are currently equal in size to the Anglican and Seventh-day Adventists churches. A number of Baptist missionary societies from the USA have started work in Jamaica (Baptist International Missions, Baptist Mid-Missions, General Baptists, National Baptists, Seventh-day Baptists, and Southern Baptists).

Since the Methodist Church came to Jamaica in 1789, it has gathered 50,000 adherents (as of 2001). The United Church of Jamaica and Grand Cayman, a merger of Presbyterians and Congregationalists in 1965, has similar numbers.

The Pentecostal church is the largest Protestant denomination in Jamaica. In the 1990's the Pentecostal/Charismatic Renewal continued to grow rapidly across many older churches numbering some 385,000 adherents (44% Pentecostals, 17% Charismatics, and 39% Independents). The first Pentecostal mission was the Church of God (Cleveland) from the USA in 1917. Its daughter church, the New Testament Church of God, is Jamaica's largest Pentecostal church. The Church of God of Prophecy (1923) is the second largest Pentecostal church in Jamaica.

The earliest indigenous church that was started in Jamaica was Revival Zion. It began in 1783 as the Native Baptist Church and spread rapidly during the Great Christian Revival of 1861-1862. It has several syncretistic features, but it is still thought of as a charismatic Christian movement.

Black denominations from the USA have been at work in Jamaica since before World War I (including the AME Church which began in 1912). However, the majority of Jamaica's indigenous churches were founded after World War II. Most of the churches are small. The largest indigenous church would be the New Testament Church of Christ the Redeemer. It has approximately 55,600 adherents (as of 2001). Most of Jamaica's 60 plus indigenous churches use Pentecostal-type elements in their style of worship.

David B. Barrett, George T. Kurian, and Todd M. Johnson. *World Christian Encyclopedia*. Vol. 1. Oxford University Press, 2001.

Religions

Non-Christians

Spiritism.

There are several Afro-Caribbean syncretistic religions that include a mixture of spiritism, Christianity, and traditional African rites. Over 260,000 Jamaicans follow spiritist movements.

The first Afro-Christian movement was the Native Baptist cult. The Jamaican Great Awakening of 1861 included wild dancing, trances, sexual orgies, and public confession.

Another semi-Christian group called Bedwardism, began in 1920 by Alexander Bedward. Bedward considered himself to be Christ and he predicted his own ascension into heaven and second coming.

One of the largest contemporary sects is the Ras Tafari movement. This movement is built off of the ideas of Marcus Garvey, a significant politico-religious force in the 1930's. Approximately 100,000 Jamaicans call themselves Rastafarians. Rastafarians are members of a Jamaican messianic movement dating back to the 1930's.

Rastafarians believe that the only true God is the late Ethiopian emperor Haile Selassie (originally known as Ras Tafari), and that Ethiopia is the true Zion. They also claim that white Christians have perverted the scriptures to conceal the fact that Adam and Jesus were black. Rastafarian rituals include meditation, smoking ganja (marijuana), and chanting. Rastafarians are known for wearing their hair in dreadlocks, beards (a sign of a pact with God), and carrying Bibles. This movement attracted masses of poverty-stricken slum-dwellers who attempted to prepare for repatriation to Ethiopia in the 1960's.

Other nativistic cults include the Black Israelites, Pocomania, Convince, and Cumina cults and other revivalist groups.

Baha'i (.3% of the population) around 8000 followers
Hinduism (1.2%) some 3000 followers
Chinese folk religion around 8000 followers
a small Sefardic Jewish community around 2600 followers

Catholics Churches

Catholics have around 10.38 percent of the people in over 125 congregations. Catholics number over 160,000.

Jehovah Witnesses

The Jehovah Witnesses support over 200 congregations with nearly 12000 members

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (Mormons)

The Mormons have some 30 congregations with around 2500 members.

Christians (Protestant/Evangelicals/Pentecostals)

The Anglican Church started chaplaincy work in Jamaica in the 17th century. The first Anglican bishoprics in the Caribbean were established in Jamaica and Barbados in 1824. Since 1883, the diocese of Jamaica has been part of the autonomous Church of the Province of the West Indies. Anglicans have over 290 congregations with almost 55,000 members.

The *Friends (Quakers)* began ministry in Jamaica in 1671.

The Moravians

The Moravians have been serving in Jamaica since the 18th century. They have around 65 congregations with almost 7000 members.

Methodists

The Methodists have been serving in Jamaica since the 1789 and now have over 180 congregations with nearly 20,000 members. Some reports number the Methodists in Jamaica as high as 50,000.

Baptists

The first Baptist missionary to the West Indies was George Lisle, who was a freed slave from Virginia. Lisle arrived in Kingston in 1783. Lisle's first congregation later branched into both the Native Baptist cult and the Jamaica Baptist Union.

British Baptists came to the island in 1813, but the local church has been entirely independent since 1842.

The 114,000 members (as of 2001) of the Jamaican Baptist Union are currently equal in size to the Anglican and Seventh-day Adventists churches.

A number of Baptist missionary societies from the USA have started work in Jamaica (Baptist International Missions, Baptist Mid-Missions, General Baptists, National Baptists, Seventh-day Baptists, and Southern Baptists).

The United Church of Jamaica and Grand Cayman, a merger of Presbyterians and Congregationalists in 1965, has almost 20,000 members in over 200 congregations..

The Pentecostal church is the largest Protestant denomination in Jamaica. In the 1990's the Pentecostal/Charismatic Renewal continued to grow rapidly across many older churches numbering some 385,000 adherents (44% Pentecostals, 17% Charismatics, and 39% Independents).

The first Pentecostal mission was the Church of God (Cleveland) from the USA in 1917. Its daughter church, the New Testament Church of God, is Jamaica's largest Pentecostal church. The Church of God of Prophecy (1923) is the second largest Pentecostal church in Jamaica.

Black denominations from the USA have been at work in Jamaica since before World War I (including the AME Church which began in 1912). However, the majority of Jamaica's indigenous churches were founded after World War II. Most of the churches are small.

The largest indigenous church would be the *New Testament Church of Christ the Redeemer*. It has approximately 55,600 adherents (as of 2001). Most of Jamaica's 60 plus indigenous churches use Pentecostal-type elements in their style of worship.

Seventh Day Adventists

The Seventh Day Advent Church supports over 550 congregations with 160,000 members and 240000 adherents.

African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church

This Church supports over 300 congregations with more than 12000 members.

David B. Barrett, George T. Kurian, and Todd M. Johnson. *World Christian Encyclopedia*. Vol. 1. Oxford University Press, 2001.

Timothy L. Gall, ed. *Worldmark Encyclopedia of Cultures and Daily Life*. Vol. 2. Detroit, Michigan: Gale Research, 1998.

People Groups

00000

Americans (7,300)

The primary language of the Americans is English. The primary religion of the Americans is Christianity (77.99%).

The Americans have access to Bible translations, Gospel recordings, radio broadcasts, and Jesus films.

16383

Arab (1,900)

The primary language of the Arab people group is Arabic, North Levantine Spoken. The primary religion of the Arab people is Islam. Approximately 15% of the population practices Christianity.

The Arab people have access to Gospel recordings, Bible translations, Jesus films, and radio broadcasts.

16388

Brazilian (5,576)

The primary language of the Brazilian people group is Portuguese. The primary religion of the Brazilian people is Catholic.

The Brazilians have access to Jesus films, radio broadcasts, Gospel recordings, and Bible translations.

16384

British (25,000)

The primary language of the British is English. The primary religion of the British is Christianity (70%).

The British have access to Bible translations, Gospel recordings, radio broadcasts, and Jesus films.

16385

Cuban (8,363)

The primary language of the Cuban people group is Spanish. The primary religion of the Cuban people group is Catholic (57%).

The Cuban people group has access to Bible translations, Gospel recordings, radio broadcasts, and Jesus films.

00000

Deaf (unknown)

The deaf communicate through Jamaican Country Sign Language. The primary religion of the deaf is Christianity.

The accessibility of Bible translations and Jesus films is unknown.

00000

East Indian (46,000)

The East Indian people group primarily speaks Hindi. The primary religion of the East Indian people group is Hinduism. Approximately 14.2% of the East Indian population practices Christianity.

The East Indian people group has access to Bible translations, Gospel recordings, radio broadcasts, and Jesus films.

22271

Haitian (54,000)

The primary language of the Haitian people is Haitian Creole French. The primary religion of the Haitian people is Christianity (90%).

The Haitian people have access to Gospel recordings, Bible translations, Jesus films, and radio broadcasts.

16386

Han Chinese (34,308)

The Han Chinese primarily speaks Chinese, Hakka. The primary religion of the Han Chinese is Catholic (84.7%).

The Han Chinese has access to Bible translations, Gospel recordings, radio broadcasts, and Jesus films.

16387

Jamaicans (2,727,512)

The primary language of the Jamaican people is Jamaican Creole English. Approximately 26.3% of the Christian population is Evangelical

Jamaicans have access to the Jesus film and Gospel recordings. Jamaicans are in need of Bible translations.

00000

Jewish (300)

The primary language of the Jewish people group is English. The primary religion of the Jewish people is Judaism. Approximately .09% of the Jewish population is messianic Jews.

The Jewish people have access to Gospel recordings, radio broadcasts, Jesus films, and Bible translations.

All of the information on people groups has been gathered from two websites, unless noted. These two websites are www.peoplegroups.org, www.joshuaproject.org.

Missiological Implications

1. Evangelicals should provide tools for Jamaican Christians to use in evangelizing the Catholics in the country. The need is especially intense among the Han Chinese who number over 34000 and are more than 80% Catholic

2. Evangelicals should guide Jamaican Christians in efforts to evangelize the Jamaican peoples on the island. Over 2 million Jamaicans are not saved.
3. Evangelicals need to push for continued work on Bible translations and the provision of the Jesus Film for use in Jamaica.
4. Evangelical should provide training in church planting and development for the peoples of Jamaica. These models should be introduced to the believers and these Christians trained in their use.
5. Evangelicals should develop and share methods for dealing with spiritists in Jamaica.

Links:

www.visitjamaica.com

www.jamaica.com

www.jamaicans.com

www.jamaica-gleaner.com

www.go-jamaica.com

www.yellowpagesjamaica.com

www.jamaica-guide.info

www.radiojamaica.com

www.seejamaicacheaply.com

www.jamaica-star.com

www.islandjamaica.com

www.jamaicaobserver.com

www.gksoft.com/govt/en/jm.html -National Institutions

