

**MISSIONS ATLAS PROJECT  
SOUTHERN AFRICA  
REPUBLIC OF ZIMBABWE**

**Snapshots Section**

**Country Name:** Republic of Zimbabwe

**Country Founded in:** 1980

**Population:** 11,392,629 (2009)

**Government Type:** Parliamentary democracy

**Geography/location in the world:** Zimbabwe is located in Southern Africa and is bordered to the northwest by Zambia; to the northeast, east, and southeast by Mozambique; to the south by South Africa; and to the southwest by Botswana.

**Number of people groups:** 44

**Picture of flag:**



**Religion Snapshot**

50% Syncretic (mix of Christian beliefs with indigenous beliefs)

25% Christian

24% Indigenous beliefs

1% Muslim and other

The Zimbabwe constitution provides for freedom of religion and other laws support that position. However, the government has allegedly intimidated, criticized, and harassed religious leaders who have been critical about policies of the government or who spoke out about abuses of human rights. Those religious leaders face arrest or temporary detention—foreigners face possible deportation.

Source: <http://2001-2009.state.gov/g/drl/rls/irf/2008/108399.htm>

Source: <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/zi.html>

Source: <http://www.census.gov/ipc/www/idb/informationGateway.php>

Source: <http://unimaps.com/flags-africa/index.html>

## Country Profile

### Basic Facts

**Country Name:** Republic of Zimbabwe

#### Demographics:

There are an estimated 11,350,111 people living in Zimbabwe. Approximately 36% of them live in urban areas. As of 2008, nearly 44% of the people in Zimbabwe were 14 years of age or younger. Just over half were between the ages 15-64. Only four percent were 65 and older.

There is an average of 31 births and 16 deaths per 1000 population according estimates for 2009. The estimated 2009 infant mortality rate (number of deaths of babies less than a year old) for males was 35 per 1000 births. For females, the infant mortality rate was 30 per 1000 births. The 2009 life expectancy estimates for Zimbabwean males is 46 years—45 for women.

Source: <http://www.census.gov/ipc/www/idb/idbglossary.html#IMR>

Source: <http://www.census.gov/ipc/www/idb/informationGateway.php>

Source: <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/zi.html>

Source: <http://www.care.org/careswork/countryprofiles/109.asp>

Source: [http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/country\\_profiles/1064589.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/country_profiles/1064589.stm)

Source: <http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/5479.htm>

#### Language:

The official language of Zimbabwe is English. Other commonly spoken languages include Shona and Sindebele which is spoken by the Ndebele.

Source: <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/zi.html>

Source: [http://www.ethnologue.com/show\\_country.asp?name=Zimbabwe](http://www.ethnologue.com/show_country.asp?name=Zimbabwe)

#### Society/Culture:

An estimated 1.3 million people—both adults and children—are living with HIV/AIDS. As many as 2 million people have died because of HIV/AIDS since it was discovered in Zimbabwe in 1985. And because so many who died were parents, there are an estimated one million orphans in Zimbabwe.

Source: <http://www.avert.org/aids-zimbabwe.htm>

Source: <http://www.unaids.org/en/CountryResponses/Countries/zimbabwe.asp>

#### Technology

As of June 2009, there were about 1.4 million people using the Internet, which is about 12.5% of the population.

Source: <http://www.internetworldstats.com/africa.htm#zw>

### *Holidays*

New Year's Day – January 1

Good Friday

Easter

Easter Monday

Independence Day – April 18

Workers' Day – May 1

Africa Day – May 25

Heroes' Day – Second Monday in August

Defence Forces Day – Second Tuesday in August

National Unity Day – December 22

Christmas – December 25

Boxing Day – December 26

Source: <http://www.qppstudio.net/publicolidays2009/zimbabwe.htm>

Source: <http://destinia.com/guide/the-world/africa/zimbabwe/1-30001-30242/6/en>

### **Government:**

The capital of Zimbabwe is Harare. National elections for the executive and legislative branches of government are held every five years. The next election will be in 2013.

*Executive:* The president is considered the chief of state. Since December 31, 1987, Robert Gabriel Mugabe has held that position. Zimbabwe has two vice presidents; currently they are Joseph Msika and Joice Mujuru. The head of government is the Prime Minister. Morgan Tsvangirai has held that position since February 11, 2009.

Candidates are elected to 5-year terms; there are no term limits. The last election took place on March 28, 2008 with a runoff on June 27, 2008. The next elections are scheduled for 2013.

*Legislative:* The legislature is bicameral with both a Senate and House of Assembly. The Senate consists of 93 members. 60 of those are elected by popular vote every five years. Ten seats belong to the governors of the provinces. 16 members of the Senate are traditional chiefs elected by the Council of Chiefs; two additional seats belong to the president and deputy president of the Council of Chiefs. The final five are appointed by the president. In the House of Assembly, all 210 members are elected by popular vote for 5-year terms. The next elections are in 2013.

*Judicial Branch:* Zimbabwe's legal system is based on Roman-Dutch law; it has also been influenced by South Africa's legal system.

The Supreme Court consists of four members with a chief justice who is appointed by the president with advice from the Judicial Service Commission.

The High Court has general and appellate divisions. The High Court's chief justice is appointed by the president with advice from the Judicial Service Commission. Under the High Court are regional magistrate courts, some with jurisdiction over civil matters and others with jurisdiction over criminal cases.

Before Zimbabwe gained independence, there were African courts that dealt with traditional laws and customs. These courts were integrated into the national system in 1981. The *Customary Law and Local Courts Act* of 1990 created a unitary court system that consists of headmen's courts, chiefs' courts, magisterial courts, High Court, and Supreme Court. Customary law cases are able to be appealed through all those levels up to the Supreme Court.

*Provinces, Districts, and Municipalities:* Zimbabwe is divided into ten provinces. There are eight major regions plus the two largest cities of Harare and Bulawayo, which are both considered provinces. Each province has a governor who is appointed by the president. Provinces are subdivided into districts, which are further subdivided into municipal wards.

Source: <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/zi.html>

Source: <http://www.nationsencyclopedia.com/Africa/Zimbabwe-JUDICIAL-SYSTEM.html>

Source: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Provinces\\_of\\_Zimbabwe](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Provinces_of_Zimbabwe)

Source: <http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/5479.htm>

### **Economy:**

Zimbabwe is trying to recover from a severe economic crisis with shortages of food, fuel, and electricity. Zimbabwe's unemployment rate is more than 90%, with more than half of the country on the brink of starvation.

In 2008 and early 2009, the country's inflation rate skyrocketed; it was nearly 500 billion percent in September 2008. Therefore, Zimbabwe abandoned the Zimbabwe dollar and allowed the use of other currencies, such as the US dollar and the South African rand.

Zimbabwe's primary exports are platinum, cotton, tobacco, and textiles. Primary export partners are South Africa, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, China, Zambia, Japan, and Italy.

Zimbabwe's primary imports are machinery and transportation equipment, chemicals, and fuels. Primary import partners are South Africa, China, and Botswana.

Source: <http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601116&sid=at8l0MnIxBfE>

Source: <http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFJOE58F0AK20090916>

Source: <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/zi.html>

Source: <http://www.mg.co.za/article/2009-01-29-zim-unemployment-skyrockets>

Source: <http://edition.cnn.com/2009/WORLD/africa/03/06/zimbabwe.imf/>

Source: [http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/country\\_profiles/1064589.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/country_profiles/1064589.stm)

Source: <http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/5479.htm>

Source: <http://finance.yahoo.com/currency-converter#from=USD;to=ZWD;amt=1>

### **Literacy:**

The overall literacy rate for Zimbabweans age 15 and older is nearly 91%. According to 2003 estimates, the literacy rate for males was 94% and for females, 87%

Source: <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/zi.html>

## **Land/Geography:**

Zimbabwe is a landlocked country in Southern Africa covering more than 390,000 square kilometers (more than 150,000 square miles). It is bordered to the northwest by Zambia; to the northeast, east, and southeast by Mozambique; to the south by South Africa; and to the southwest by Botswana.

Most of Zimbabwe is on a high plateau with a higher central plateau. There are mountains in the eastern section of the country. The highest point is Mount Inyangani at 2592 meters tall (8504 feet). The lowest point is where the Runde and Save rivers meet—at 162 meters (531 feet).

Another striking feature of the Zimbabwe landscape is Victoria Falls, which has been listed as one of the Seven Natural Wonders of the World. The Zambezi River drops 100 meters (328 feet) at Victoria Falls before rushing into the Batoka Gorge and out to the Mozambique Channel. David Livingstone is believed to have been the first European to see Victoria Falls in 1855. The people living there used to call it “Mosi oa Tunya” or “the smoke that thunders.”

Zimbabwe has a tropical climate. The rainy season is from November to March.

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/TRAVEL/DESTINATIONS/9711/natural.wonders/victoria.falls.html>

Source: <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/zi.html>

Source: <http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/5479.htm>

## **History**

Little is known about Zimbabwe's earliest inhabitants, but they are believed to be the ancestors of the San people who now live in the Kalahari Desert. Archaeologists have discovered evidence of an iron-working culture of farmers, hunters, and herders living in the Zimbabwe area as early as AD 300; they are thought to have begun gradually pushing the San people off the land. Later, when the Shona arrived from the north between AD 900 and 1000, the Shona drove out or killed the remaining San people and incorporated the ironworkers into their culture.

In 1075, the ruler of the region moved away from his people who were living on the plain. He moved up to the top of a sandstone hill where he built a palace with massive stone walls. In doing so, he set the pattern for future rulers of the region.

The word for “stone houses” in the Shona language is Zimbabwe. Archaeologists have discovered about 100 of these stone houses. The largest group is called Great Zimbabwe, which dates from the 1200s.

The Shona traded in gold and ivory and established the ancient city of Zimbabwe as their capital. Although Great Zimbabwe was not located near the primary source of gold, they controlled the trade of gold. Men, women, and children worked in the mines, extracting up to a ton of gold each year.

In the 1500s, the Portuguese began to colonize southern and central Africa, but their initial focus was primarily on the coastal areas.

In the 1830s, the Ndebele people from the area now known as South Africa fled because of violence and migration of others into their territory. The Ndebele people settled in Zimbabwe in the region called Matabeleland.

From 1830 through the 1890s, Europeans started exploring the Zimbabwe area. David Livingstone arrived and came across a huge waterfall in 1855. He named it Victoria Falls.

In 1888, Cecil Rhodes managed to get mineral rights from the local rulers. Shortly thereafter, the area was designated a British “sphere of influence” and referred to as Northern and Southern Rhodesia. In 1889, the British South Africa Company (BSAC) was created. In 1890, the Salisbury settlement was established (now known as the capital city of Harare). In 1895, the territory was officially named Rhodesia and placed under the administration of BSAC.

In 1923, the company's charter was repealed. White settlers in Southern Rhodesia were given a choice. They could either become part of the Union of South Africa or become a separate entity within the British Empire. They chose not to join the union and were annexed by the United Kingdom.

European settlers worked to develop the mineral and agricultural resources of the country. They began to demand more land, and in 1934, a land apportionment act was passed that designated certain areas specifically for Europeans.

In September of 1953, the British decided to link the territories of Southern Rhodesia, Northern Rhodesia, and Nyasaland. This grouping was referred to as the Central African Federation, and also the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland.

However, Native Africans were opposed to the federation because they did not think they could become self-governing under a structure controlled by white Southern Rhodesians. The Central African Federation lasted ten years before it was dissolved.

In 1964, Nyasaland was given independence and became the country of Malawi. That same year, Northern Rhodesia was given independence and became the country of Zambia.

Also in 1964, Ian Smith became Prime Minister of Southern Rhodesia and tried to get Britain to give them independence, too. However, they could not agree on certain conditions. Britain wanted the country to show how they would eventually move toward majority rule—instead of continued rule by the minority of white Southern Rhodesians. Those leaders were unwilling to give up control, so on November 11, 1965, Smith unilaterally declared independence from the United Kingdom.

The British government declared this Unilateral Declaration of Independence (UDI) as illegal and unconstitutional, though they said they would not use force against the territory. The next day, November 12, 1965, the United Nations declared the Rhodesian government and the UDI

illegal and requested that member states not assist or recognize the new government. A year later, the UN Security Council—for the first time—imposed mandatory economic sanctions. Less than two years after that, the Security Council expanded sanctions to an almost total embargo on all trade, investments, transfers of funds, and air transport to Rhodesia.

In the early 1970s, there were a few attempts to end the sanctions and conflict between the British and Rhodesian officials. Also, the Rhodesian government began to feel additional pressure from within their country because of attacks from guerilla fighters, which began in the late 1960s, but intensified after 1972. Adding to the situation were changes in power in neighboring Mozambique and nearby Angola, countries that switched to majority rule.

In 1976, the Rhodesian government agreed, at least in principle, to the idea of majority rule. Officials met in Geneva with black leaders to negotiate the change in government. The meeting did not succeed.

Then on September 1, 1977, another plan was proposed, which included pre-independence elections, a democratic constitution, and the creation of an integrated army. Though some were not enthusiastic about the plan, no one rejected it. Smith signed the agreement on March 3, 1978.

Elections were held in April of 1979. Bishop Muzorewa's political party won the majority and took office on June 1 as the first black Prime Minister of the newly named *Zimbabwe-Rhodesia*.

However, guerilla fighting did not stop. More negotiations between British and African parties were conducted. Finally, on December 21, 1979, an agreement was reached that called for a cease-fire, new elections, a period of transition under British rule, and a new constitution that would include both majority rule and protection of minority rights. They also agreed that once independence was given, the country would be called *Zimbabwe*. Elections were held from February 27-29, 1980, and Robert Mugabe's party won an absolute majority.

On April 18, 1980, Zimbabwe was officially given independence from Britain.

As Prime Minister, Mugabe pursued a policy of reconciliation; former rivals in government and the military worked together. That was mostly successful for the first couple of years after gaining independence. Mugabe's main rival during the elections was Joshua Nkomo. Mugabe included him in his cabinet, as well as former Prime Minister, Ian Smith.

Though rival groups worked together in the new government, tensions still existed. In 1982, Mugabe fired Nkomo, accusing him of trying to overthrow the government. Fighting broke out in various areas of country, and the government fought back. The government was accused of killing thousands of civilians in the years that followed.

In 1987, in an attempt to ease the fighting and the political tensions, Mugabe and Nkomo agreed to merge their political parties. They also changed the constitution, making Mugabe executive president. Nkomo served as a vice-president until his death in 1999.

In 1990, elections were held, and Mugabe and his political party won again. The political campaign was considered not free and fair and voter turnout was low. However, the election itself was believed to be free and fair.

More changes to the constitution followed the elections. In 1991, amendments were added that brought back corporal and capital punishments. Also, in cases where the government forced people to sell them their land, recourse in the courts was denied.

During the 1990s, demonstrations and strikes were held by students, unions, civil service workers, and medical workers. Sometimes they clashed with the police.

On November 14, 1997, veterans demanded compensation for their contribution to the country. More than 50,000 people received the equivalent of about \$1300 US dollars each. This large and unexpected expense made for a major deficit, causing the Zimbabwe dollar to lose more than half of its value on that day and causing the Zimbabwe Stock Exchange to collapse. This event marked the beginning of the country's economic crisis.

Near the end of the 1990s, opposition to Mugabe's policies grew stronger because of trouble with the economy and concern over human rights. In February 2000, the government put forth a draft constitution that would have allowed Mugabe to campaign for two more terms, given government officials immunity from prosecution, and allowed government seizure of land owned by whites. This proposal was soundly defeated.

Not long after, the government created a land redistribution program and worked with a group of war veterans to force mostly white farmers off their lands—an effort that was often violent.

Elections for Parliament were held in June 2000, and incidents of violence occurred. There were accusations of voting irregularities and government intimidation. Despite all that, those opposed to Mugabe won nearly half the seats in the National Assembly.

In the months before the 2002 presidential election, there was more violence and intimidation. After votes were counted, Mugabe won with 56% of the vote compared to 42% for challenger Morgan Tsvangirai. However, international observers said the election was not free and fair and claimed there was voting fraud. The opposition party filed a petition that challenged Mugabe's election.

After the election, many countries restricted travel by senior officials from Zimbabwe, and stopped the sale of weapons to the country. The United States and the European Union froze financial assets of certain officials in the ruling political party. Zimbabwe was also suspended from the Commonwealth. Eventually, Mugabe withdrew the country from the Commonwealth. Later, legislation was passed that restricted free speech, free press, and freedom of assembly. Three opposition leaders, including Tsvangirai, were accused of treason and put on trial in March 2003. Charges were dropped for two of them, and Tsvangirai was eventually found not guilty. An additional charge of treason against him was dropped in August 2005.



More accusations of fraud were claimed during the 2005 parliamentary elections, with many people being turned away at the polls. Then in May 2005, the government started Operation Murambatsvina (Operation Restore Order). The purpose was to clear urban areas of illegal structures, businesses, and criminal activities. No notice was given before police began destroying houses and businesses. An estimated 700,000 people throughout the country lost their homes and/or their source of income. Many of those who were able to save some of their possessions were left with no place to go.

Non-governmental organizations attempted to provide emergency assistance, but the government interfered with their effort. Later, many families were moved into camps with little shelter, food, or even facilities with which to cook. In July 2005, the government started providing housing for those displaced, but housing construction was not enough for everyone. In fact, there were accusations that civil service workers and those loyal to the ruling party were the beneficiaries of the effort. The government continued to force people off of their lands through 2008, but to a lesser degree than in 2005.

In June 2007, Mugabe put price controls on basic commodities. This caused a panic; people bought as much as they could. Stores were left empty for several months.

That same year, the South African president was called upon to be a mediator between Mugabe's party and the opposition. They worked on procedures for rewriting Zimbabwe's constitution and setting a new date for elections. During the mediation, Mugabe declared March 29, 2008 the date for *harmonized* elections—a day of voting for all political offices: president, House of Assembly, Senate, and local government.

However, Tsvangirai said that there was not enough time to campaign. During the time leading up to day of the election, as had happened before, there was violence and accusations of government interference and intimidation.

Although Election Day was mostly peaceful, international observers were limited to the African Union, SADC, and Pan African Parliament. Western countries, including the United States, were not invited to observe, and foreign journalists were not allowed to cover the story from within Zimbabwe.

The opposition party won a majority of seats in parliament. Presidential results, however, were not released for more than a month. The opposition party said Tsvangirai secured enough votes to win the election, but when results were released on May 2, 2008, Tsvangirai was said to have almost 48% of the vote to Mugabe's 43%. Another candidate received about 8% of the vote. Since no one received a majority, a runoff election was scheduled for June 27, 2008.

In the early part of June 2008, more than 50 people had been killed and 2000 injured; 30,000 people had been displaced—all because of violence following the election. This led Tsvangirai to announce that he would not contest the runoff election. When people voted on June 27, Mugabe was reelected.

However, the election was protested both within the country and internationally. As the two parties resumed the mediation that began before the election, a power-sharing agreement was eventually created. Mugabe would continue as head of state, head of his cabinet, and head of the military. Tsvangirai, however, would be Prime Minister. Other government ministries would be divided between three political parties.

Unfortunately, they could not agree on other cabinet positions. As their debate continued, a humanitarian crisis was created. The unemployment rate had been more than 90%, and at least half of the country was on the brink of starvation. Millions of people were depending on food from aid agencies, but because of the political stand-off, South Africa decided to hold back \$28 million in agricultural aid until a representative government was established.

Also during 2008, inflation skyrocketed, eventually reaching nearly 500 billion percent. The government finally abandoned the Zimbabwe dollar and allowed the use of other currencies, such as the US dollar and the South African rand.

The political debates continued into 2009. Finally, in January, Tsvangirai announced that his party was ready to join the power-sharing agreement. In February 2009, Tsvangirai was sworn in as Prime Minister of Zimbabwe.

Source: [http://news.bbc.co.uk/onthisday/hi/dates/stories/november/11/newsid\\_2658000/2658445.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/onthisday/hi/dates/stories/november/11/newsid_2658000/2658445.stm)

Source: [http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/country\\_profiles/1831470.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/country_profiles/1831470.stm)

Source: <http://www.historyworld.net/wrldhis/PlainTextHistories.asp?historyid=ad28>

Source: [http://news.bbc.co.uk/onthisday/hi/dates/stories/june/1/newsid\\_2492000/2492915.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/onthisday/hi/dates/stories/june/1/newsid_2492000/2492915.stm)

Source: <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/zi.html>

Source: <http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/5479.htm>

Source: [http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle\\_east/country\\_profiles/1831470.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle_east/country_profiles/1831470.stm)

## **Christian History**

Christianity was introduced to the people of Zimbabwe by the Portuguese in the mid-1500s, and later in the 1600s. However, Christianity did not take root in the area until the late 1800s.

Catholics established a permanent presence in Zimbabwe in 1879. Anglican missionaries arrived in 1888. Protestant churches were started in 1888 and experienced quick growth during the following 20 years.

British Methodists arrived in 1890 and the United Methodists (USA) came over from Mozambique in 1896. The Salvation Army started working in the area in 1891, as well as the African Reformed Church (Dutch Reformed). Seventh-day Adventists began in 1894.

Americans from the African Methodist Episcopal Church in South Africa moved into the Zimbabwe area in 1900. The first indigenous church was started in 1906; there are now more than 120 denominations with members from every tribe in the country.

Lutheran missionaries came from Sweden in 1903, laying the groundwork for the Evangelical Lutheran Church. The Presbyterian Church of Southern Africa started in 1896, followed by the

Presbyterian's Church of Central Africa in 1912. British Baptists started work in 1917 and Southern Baptists from the United States arrived in 1950.

Pentecostal and Charismatic renewal movements occurred in the 1990s, growing quickly and affecting many older churches.

Syncretism is an issue in Zimbabwe. While the majority of Zimbabweans are members of Christian denominations, many also hold to traditional religious beliefs and practices.

Source: <http://2001-2009.state.gov/g/drl/rls/irf/2008/108399.htm>

Source: *World Christian Encyclopedia, Vol. 1, 2nd ed.*

## **Religion**

### **Non Christian**

*Islam:* About 1% of Zimbabweans are Muslim. They are located mostly in rural areas where Islamic humanitarian efforts are often organized. As of 2000 Islam was growing at an annual rate of 2.7%.

*Hinduism:* As of 1995 there were about 16,200 Hindus. Hinduism was growing at a rate of 2.26% a year.

*Buddhism:* As of 1995 there were only 780 Buddhists in Zimbabwe. That number was growing at a rate of 1.56% a year.

*Baha'i:* As of 1995 there were about 35,000 followers of the Baha'i religion, which was growing at a rate 2.49% per year.

*Jehovah's Witness:* They began working in Zimbabwe in 1910. As of 2000 there were 856 congregations and 27,000 members; 65,521 people were affiliated with them.

*The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (Mormons):* As of 1995 there were 10 congregations and 1040 members; 1,600 people were affiliated with the church. The annual growth rate was 0.05%.

*Non-religious:* As of 1995 there were about 98,500 people who fell into this category.

Source: <http://2001-2009.state.gov/g/drl/rls/irf/2008/108399.htm>

Source: *World Christian Encyclopedia, Vol. 1, 2nd ed.*

Source: <http://operationworld.org/country/zimo/owtext.html>

*Catholic:* As of 2000 there were just over a million Catholics in Zimbabwe. Their numbers were declining at a rate of 0.1% per year.

*Orthodox:* The Orthodox Church started in 1905. As of 2000 they had five congregations and about 2000 members. Their numbers were declining at a rate of 1% each year.

### *Independent churches found in the country*

African Apostolic Church of Johane Maranke began in 1932. As of 2000 there were 500 congregations and 364,000 members; 910,000 people were affiliated with the church.

African Apostolic Church (St. Simon & St. Johane) began in 1963. As of 1995 there were 10 congregations and 3,000 members; 5,000 people were affiliated with the church. The annual growth rate was 3.73%.

African Congregational Church began in 1930. As of 1995 there were 30 congregations and 12,000 members; 25,000 people were affiliated with the church. The annual growth rate was 2.06%.

African Full Gospel Church began in 1923. As of 1995 there were 3 congregations and 500 members; 1,000 people were affiliated with the church. The annual growth rate was 2.81%.

Alliance Church, as of 1995, had 23 congregations and 2,300 members; 5,750 people were affiliated with them. The annual growth rate was 0.05%.

Apostolic Faith Mission, as of 2000, had 1,150 congregations and 110,000 members; 366,300 people were affiliated with the church.

Brethren in Christ Church in Africa began in 1898. As of 2000 there were 283 congregations and 24,820 members; 34,000 people were affiliated with the church.

Broadsheet Readers' Clubs, for readers of Gospel Broadsheets, began around 1980. As of 1995 there were 384 groups and 5,000 members; 10,000 people were affiliated with them. The annual growth rate was 6.67%.

Christadelphian Ecclesias, as of 1995, had 2 congregations and 50 members; 100 people were affiliated with them. The annual growth rate was 0.05%.

Christian Brethren began around 1903. As of 1995 there were 35 congregations and 4,100 members; 6,830 people were affiliated with the church. The annual growth rate was 1.26%.

Christian Marching Church of Central Africa began in 1954. As of 1995 there were 40 congregations and 15,000 members; 27,000 people were affiliated with the church. The annual growth rate was 9.19%.

Church of England in South Africa began in Zimbabwe around 1970. As of 1995 there were 3 congregations and 150 members; 400 people were affiliated with the church. The annual growth rate was 1.16%.

Dutch Reformed Church (Mother Church) began in 1895. As of 1995 there were 16 congregations and 2,015 members; 2,585 people were affiliated with the church. Their numbers were declining at a rate of 7.26% per year.

Faith Ministries began around 1975. As of 1995 there were 6 congregations and 1,000 members; 1,820 people were affiliated with them. The annual growth rate was 5%.

First Ethiopian Church began in 1926. As of 1995 there were 4 congregations and 2,000 members; 4,000 people were affiliated with the church. Their numbers were declining at a rate of 0.89% per year.

Glad Tidings Fellowship began in 1973. As of 1995 there were 25 congregations and 3,700 members; 7,400 people were affiliated with the church. The annual growth rate was 4.55%.

Gospel of God Church began in 1932. As of 1995 there were 100 congregations and 21,000 members; 55,000 people were affiliated with the church. The annual growth rate was 2.45%.

Independent African Church began in 1942. As of 1995 there were 50 congregations and 3,000 members; 9,000 people were affiliated with the church. The annual growth rate was 2.38%.

Mai Chaza Church began in 1952. As of 1995 there were 160 congregations and 33,900 members; 60,000 people were affiliated with the church. The annual growth rate was 0.73%.

Netherlands Reformed Church began in 1900. As of 1995 there were 20 congregations and 2,200 members; 3,390 people were affiliated with the church. Their numbers were declining at a rate of 1.23% per year.

New Apostolic Church began around 1910. As of 1995 there were 70 congregations and 13,111 members; 30,000 people were affiliated with the church. Their numbers were declining at a rate of 1.14% per year.

New Covenant Assemblies of God began around 1975. As of 1995 there were 14 congregations and 1,120 members; 2,490 people were affiliated with the church. The annual growth rate was 5%.

New Life For All began around 1970. As of 1995 there were 5 congregations and 400 members; 667 people were affiliated with the church. The annual growth rate at that time was 29.71%.

Reformed Church in Zimbabwe began in 1891. As of 2000 there were 43 congregations and 36,000 members; 90,000 people were affiliated with the church.

Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) began around 1920. As of 1995, there were 2 congregations and 50 members; 100 people were affiliated with the church. The annual growth rate was 1.44%.

Rhema Bible Churches began in 1980. As of 1995 there were 27 congregations and 15,000 members; 25,000 people were affiliated with the church. The annual growth rate was 6.67%.

Sign of the Apostles Church began around 1970. As of 1995 there were 70 congregations and 20,000 members; 40,000 people were affiliated with the church. Their annual growth rate at that time was 52.79%.

United Congregational Church of Southern Africa began in 1859. As of 1995 there were 160 congregations and 11,000 members; 16,700 people were affiliated with the church. Their numbers were declining at a rate of 0.72% per year.

Unity of African Apostolic Faith Church began in 1931. As of 1995 there were 70 congregations and 3,500 members; 7,000 people were affiliated with the church. The annual growth rate was 5.14%.

Victory Fellowship began around 1975. As of 1995 there were 8 congregations and 358 members; 651 people were affiliated with the church. The annual growth rate was 5%.

Zion Apostolic Churches began in 1922. As of 1995 there were 1,300 congregations and 430,000 members; 760,000 people were affiliated with the church. The annual growth rate was 18.05%.

Zion Apostolic Faith Mission began in 1924. As of 1995 there were 10 congregations and 6,000 members; 16,000 people were affiliated with the church. The annual growth rate was 3.36%.

Zion Christian Church began in 1923. As of 2000 there were 1,389 congregations and 166,667 members; 500,000 people were affiliated with the church.

Source: *World Christian Encyclopedia, Vol. 1, 2nd ed.*

Source: <http://operationworld.org/country/zimo/owtext.html>

## **Christian/Evangelical**

### *Anglicans*

The African Orthodox Church began in 1924 with former Anglicans. As of 1995 there were 15 congregations and 11,000 members; 20,000 people were affiliated with the church. The church was declining at a rate of 1.61% per year.

The Anglican Church began in 1888. As of 2000 there were 674 congregations and 128,000 members; 320,000 people were affiliated with the church.

Anglican Orthodox Church began in 1968. As of 1995 there were 10 congregations and 400 members; 700 people were affiliated with the church. The annual growth rate was 3.45%.

### *Baptists*

The Baptist Convention began in 1950. As of 2000 there were 590 congregations and 49,590 members; 110,675 people were affiliated with the church.

Baptist Union began in 1917. As of 1995 there were 32 congregations and 3,514 members; 5,500 people were affiliated with the church. The annual growth rate was 1.38%.

National Baptist Convention began around 1975. As of 1995 there were 10 congregations and 1,513 members; 2,800 people were affiliated with the church. The annual growth rate was 5%.

United Baptist Churches began in 1897. As of 1995 there were 44 congregations and 6000 members; 9000 people were affiliated with the church. The annual growth rate was 1.64%.

### *Church of Christ*

Christian Churches/Churches of Christ began in 1956. As of 2000 there were 333 congregations and 75,000 members; 120,000 people were affiliated with the church.

Church of Christ, Scientist had 2 congregations in 1995 and 100 members; 200 people were affiliated with the church. The annual growth rate was 0.05%.

Churches of Christ (NZ) began in 1898. As of 1995 there were 120 congregations and 14,100 members; 40,300 people were affiliated with the church. The annual growth rate was 5.73%. Churches of Christ (non-instrumental) began in 1921. As of 1995 there were 30 congregations and 4,000 members; 10,000 people were affiliated with the church. The annual growth rate was 2.81%.

Churches of Christ (USA) began in 1896. As of 2000 there were 240 congregations and 9000 members; 25,000 people were affiliated with the church.

United Church of Christ began in 1892. As of 1995 there were 160 congregations and 10,000 members; 30,000 people were affiliated with the church. The annual growth rate was 8.08%.

### *Lutheran*

Evangelical Lutheran Church began in 1903. As of 2000 there were about 235 congregations and 45,045 members; 100,000 people were affiliated with the church.

### *Methodists*

African Methodist Church began in 1947. As of 1995 there were 6 congregations and 4,000 members; 7,000 people were affiliated with the church. The annual growth rate was 1.35%.

African Methodist Episcopal Church began in 1900. As of 1995 there were 120 congregations and 19,300 members; 32,150 people were affiliated with the church. Their numbers were declining at a rate of 0.87% per year.

Free Methodist Church (Holiness) began in 1938. As of 1995 there were 20 congregations and 4,700 members; 8,250 people were affiliated with the church. The annual growth rate was 1.28%.

Methodist Church in Zimbabwe began in 1890. As of 1995 there were 857 congregations and 60,000 members; 120,000 people were affiliated with the church.

Reformed True Methodist Church began in 1964. As of 1995 there were 2 congregations and 570 members; 1,000 people were affiliated with the church. Their numbers were declining at a rate of 2.73% per year.

United Methodist Church (USA) began in 1896. As of 2000, there were 750 congregations and 73,000 members; 125,000 people were affiliated with the church.

Ziwezano Church was started with former USA Methodists around 1960. As of 1995, there were 15 congregations and 2000 members; 5000 people were affiliated with the church. The annual growth rate was 2.06%.

### *Pentecostals and Holiness*

Apostolic Church began in 1951. As of 1995 there were 6 congregations and 1,000 members; 2,000 people were affiliated with the church. The annual growth rate was 5.7%.

Apostolic Faith Mission of South Africa began in 1918. As of 1995 there were 975 congregations and 40,000 members; 87,000 people were affiliated with the church. The annual growth rate was 1.85%.

Assemblies of God in Zimbabwe began in 1964. As of 1995 there were 35 congregations and 2,550 members; 6,375 people were affiliated with the church. The annual growth rate was 7.5%.

Assemblies of God International began in 1970. As of 1995 there were 10 congregations and 1,000 members; 3,000 people were affiliated with the church. The annual growth rate was 6.65%.

Assemblies of God (Back to God) began in 1958. As of 2000 there were 550 congregations and 50,000 members; 95,000 people were affiliated with the church.

Bible Pattern Church, as of 1995, had 20 congregations and 2,000 members; 5,000 people were affiliated with the church. The annual growth rate was 0.05%.

Church of God of Prophecy began in 1976. As of 1995 there were 38 congregations and 6,850 members; 9,790 people were affiliated with the church. The annual growth rate was 5.26%.

Church of the Nazarene, a Holiness denomination, began in 1963. As of 1995 there were 31 congregations and 2,037 members; 3,962 people were affiliated with the church. The annual growth rate was 2.77%.

Elim Pentecostal Church began around 1960. As of 1995 there were 8 congregations and 1,000 members; 2,500 people were affiliated with the church. Their annual growth rate was 8.85%.



Evangelical Church began around 1965. As of 1995 there were 25 congregations and 2,300 members; 4,600 people were affiliated with the church. The annual growth rate was 6.29%.

Evangelical Church of Zimbabwe began in 1942. As of 1995 there were about 120 congregations and 7,500 members; 18,800 people were affiliated with the church. The annual growth rate was 4.67%.

Full Gospel Church of God in Southern Africa started a church around 1950. As of 1995 there were 82 congregations and 7,200 members; 14,400 people were affiliated with the church. Their numbers were declining at a rate of 0.16% per year.

Pentecostal Apostolic Church of God began in 1960. As of 1995 there were about 25 congregations and 15,000 members; 30,000 people were affiliated with the church. The annual growth rate was 14.57% per year.

Pentecostal Assemblies of God in Zimbabwe began in 1942. As of 1995 there were 75 congregations and 2,100 members; 7,000 people were affiliated with the church. The annual growth rate was 0.62%.

Pentecostal Holiness Church began in 1950. As of 1995 there were 48 congregations and 3,500 members; 7,450 people were affiliated with the church. The annual growth rate was 5.4%.

United Apostolic Faith Church began in 1920. As of 1995 there were 30 congregations and 3,100 members; 7,750 people were affiliated with the church. The annual growth rate was 1.77%.

United Assemblies of God, as of 1995, had 29 congregations and 2,500 members; 5,000 people were affiliated with the church. The annual growth rate was 0.05%.

United Pentecostal Church began in 1967. As of 1995 there were 30 congregations and 5,000 members; 11,000 people were affiliated with the church. The annual growth rate was 7.06%.

Wesleyan Church (Holiness) began in 1888. As of 1995 there were 15 congregations and 300 members; 750 people were affiliated with the church. The annual growth rate was 1.64%.

Zimbabwe Assemblies of God in Africa began in 1965. As of 2000 there were 4,000 congregations and 539,683 members; 1,600,000 people were affiliated with the church.

Zimbabwe Christian Fellowship began around 1975. As of 1995 there were 18 congregations and 385 members; 700 people were affiliated with the church. The annual growth rate was 5%.

### *Presbyterian*

African Free Presbyterian Church began in 1953. As of 1995 there were 4 congregations and 2,100 members; 4,000 people were affiliated with the church. The annual growth rate was 2.81%.

Church of Central Africa, Presbyterian began in 1912. As of 1995 there were 70 congregations and 6,173 members; 11,937 people were affiliated with the church. Their numbers were declining at an annual rate of 1.63%.

Free Presbyterian Church of Scotland began mission work in Zimbabwe in 1904. As of 1995 there were about 30 congregations and 300 members; 400 people were affiliated with the church. The annual growth rate was 1.16%.

Presbyterian Church of Southern Africa began in 1896. As of 1995 there were 10 congregations and 5,192 members; 17,300 people were affiliated with the church. Their numbers were declining at a rate of 1.46% per year.

### *Salvation Army*

Salvation Army began work in Zimbabwe in 1891. As of 2000 there were 778 congregations and 70,000 members; 110,000 people were affiliated with the church.

Soldiers of God, former members of the Salvation Army, began their church in 1938. As of 1995 there were 40 congregations and 14,000 members; 31,000 people were affiliated with the church. The annual growth rate was 1.77%.

### *Seventh-day Adventist*

Seventh-day Adventist Church began in 1894. As of 2000 there were 552 congregations and 288,380 members; 481,600 people were affiliated with the church.

Source: *World Christian Encyclopedia, Vol. 1, 2nd ed.*

Source: <http://operationworld.org/country/zimo/owtext.html>

## **People Groups**

### **15646**

#### **Afrikaner (43,314)**

Their primary religion is Protestant Christianity. At least 10% are Evangelical. The Bible has been translated into their language. The *Jesus* film, Gospel recordings, and radio broadcasts are available in their language, too.

Source: <http://www.joshuaproject.net/peopctry.php?rog3=ZI&rop3=100093>

Source: <http://globalrecordings.net/langcode/afr>

Source: <http://www.imb.org/globalresearch/downloads.asp>

### **15648**

#### **Bemba (24,581)**

Their primary religion is Christianity. Between 2 and 5% of the Bemba people are Evangelical. The Bible has been translated into their language. The *Jesus* film, Gospel recordings, and radio broadcasts are available in their language, too.

Source: <http://www.joshuaproject.net/peopctry.php?rog3=ZI&rop3=101243>

Source: <http://globalrecordings.net/langcode/bem>

Source: <http://www.imb.org/globalresearch/downloads.asp>

## **15649**

### **Birwa (12,236)**

The Birwa people live in southern Zimbabwe along the Botswana border. Their primary religion is traditional ancestor worship. About 40% consider themselves to be Christian. Anywhere from 2-6% are believed to be Evangelical Christians. The Bible has not been translated into their language, nor has the *Jesus* film. There are no radio broadcasts, but some Gospel recordings are available.

Source: <http://www.joshuaproject.net/peopctry.php?rog3=ZI&rop3=101485>

Source: <http://www.worldmap.org/countryG.php?rog3=ZI>

Source: <http://globalrecordings.net/langcode/brl>

Source: <http://www.imb.org/globalresearch/downloads.asp>

## **15650**

### **British (21,443)**

Their primary religion is Protestant Christianity. Less than 2% are believed to be Evangelicals. The Bible has been translated into their language. The *Jesus* film, Gospel recordings, and radio broadcasts are available in their language, too.

Source: <http://www.joshuaproject.net/peopctry.php?rog3=ZI&rop3=102927>

Source: <http://www.globalrecordings.net/langcode/eng>

Source: <http://www.imb.org/globalresearch/downloads.asp>

## **15656**

### **Cantonese (552)**

The Cantonese in Zimbabwe mostly follow their traditional religion. The Bible has been translated into their language. The *Jesus* film, Gospel recordings, and radio broadcasts are available in their language, too.

Source: <http://www.imb.org/globalresearch/downloads.asp>

## **15688**

### **Deaf (3038)**

Their primary religion is either traditional ancestor worship or Christianity—or a combination of both; information is different depending on the source. Less than 2% are Evangelical Christians.

Source: <http://www.joshuaproject.net/peopctry.php?rog3=ZI&rop3=114916>

Source: <http://www.imb.org/globalresearch/downloads.asp>

**00000**

### **Dombe (5,500)**

The Dombe people live in the Hwange District in the Lukosi area, but little else is known about this people group.

Source: [http://www.ethnologue.com/show\\_language.asp?code=dov](http://www.ethnologue.com/show_language.asp?code=dov)

Source: <http://www.joshuaproject.net/peopctry.php?rog3=ZI&rop3=211114>

**00000**

### **Eurafrican (66,000)**

The Eurafricans are mostly Christian, though the number of Evangelicals is unknown. They speak English, so the *Jesus* film, the Bible, and Gospel recordings are available.

Source: <http://www.joshuaproject.net/peopctry.php?rog3=ZI&rop3=102964>

**00000**

### **Greek (6300)**

The Greek people are mostly Christian. At least 5% are believed to be Evangelical. Not much more is known about the Greek people living in Zimbabwe.

Source: <http://www.joshuaproject.net/peopctry.php?rog3=ZI&rop3=103480>

**15653**

### **Gujarati (20,988)**

Their primary religion is Hinduism. Less than 2% are Evangelical Christians. The Bible has been translated into their language. The *Jesus* film, Gospel recordings, and radio broadcasts are available in their language, too.

Source: <http://www.joshuaproject.net/peopctry.php?rog3=ZI&rop3=111180>

Source: <http://globalrecordings.net/langcode/guj>

Source: <http://www.imb.org/globalresearch/downloads.asp>

**15655**

### **Han Chinese (255,025)**

The Han Chinese people are primarily either non-religious or follow their traditional ancestor worship. Less than 2% are Evangelical Christians. The Bible has been translated into their language. The *Jesus* film, Gospel recordings, and radio broadcasts are available in their language, too.

Source: <http://www.joshuaproject.net/peopctry.php?rog3=ZI&rop3=103686>

Source: <http://www.globalrecordings.net/langcode/cmn>  
Source: <http://www.imb.org/globalresearch/downloads.asp>

**15657**

**Hiechware, Tsoa (1,733)**

The Hiechware people live in southwestern Zimbabwe near the border with Botswana. Their primary religion is traditional ancestor worship. Less than 2% are Evangelical Christians. The Bible has not been translated into their language, nor has the *Jesus* film. There are no radio broadcasts, but some Gospel recordings are available.

Source: <http://www.joshuaproject.net/peopctry.php?rog3=ZI&rop3=103764>  
Source: <http://www.worldmap.org/countryG.php?rog3=ZI>  
Source: <http://www.globalrecordings.net/langcode/hio>  
Source: <http://www.imb.org/globalresearch/downloads.asp>

**00000**

**Jew (400)**

The Jewish people of Zimbabwe mostly follow traditional religions. Less than 2% are believed to be Evangelical Christians. Not much more is known about the Jews in Zimbabwe except that they speak English, so the Bible, the *Jesus* film, and Gospel recordings are available.

Source: <http://www.joshuaproject.net/peopctry.php?rog3=ZI&rop3=104243>

**15658**

**Kalanga, Kalana (321,332)**

The Kalanga people live in southwestern Zimbabwe near the Botswana border. Sources differ on their primary religion. It is either traditional ancestor worship or Christianity—or a combination of both. Less than 2% are Evangelical. The New Testament has been translated into their language. The *Jesus* film and Gospel recordings are also available in their language, but there are no radio broadcasts.

Source: <http://www.worldmap.org/countryG.php?rog3=ZI>  
Source: <http://www.joshuaproject.net/peopctry.php?rog3=ZI&rop3=104460>  
Source: <http://www.globalrecordings.net/langcode/kck>  
Source: <http://www.imb.org/globalresearch/downloads.asp>

**15659**

**Karanga (1,811,619)**

Their primary religion is either Christianity or traditional ancestor worship—or a combination of both. At least 2% are Evangelical Christians. The Bible has been translated into their language of Shona. The *Jesus* film, Gospel recordings, and radio broadcasts are available in their language, too.

Source: <http://www.joshuaproject.net/peopctry.php?rog3=ZI&rop3=104646>  
Source: <http://www.globalrecordings.net/langcode/sna>

Source: <http://www.imb.org/globalresearch/downloads.asp>

**00000**

**Kua (3,700)**

Most of the Kua follow traditional religions. Only about 10% are Christian, and the number of Evangelicals is unknown.

Source: <http://www.joshuaproject.net/peopctry.php?rog3=ZI&rop3=210219>

**15660**

**Kunda (108,286)**

The Kunda people live in northern Zimbabwe near the borders with Zambia and Mozambique. The predominant religion is either traditional ancestor worship or Christianity—or a combination of both. Between 2 and 5% are Evangelical Christians. The Bible has been translated into their language, but not the *Jesus* film. There are no Gospel recordings or radio broadcasts available.

Source: <http://www.worldmap.org/countryG.php?rog3=ZI>

Source: <http://www.joshuaproject.net/peopctry.php?rog3=ZI&rop3=105411>

Source: <http://www.imb.org/globalresearch/downloads.asp>

**15662**

**Lozi, Rozi (75,800)**

The Lozi live in western Zimbabwe along the Zambian border and very close to Namibia and Botswana. Their primary religion is either Christianity or traditional ancestor worship—or a combination of both. Less than 2% are Evangelical Christians. The Bible has been translated into their language. The *Jesus* film and Gospel recordings are also available in their language, but no radio broadcasts.

Source: <http://www.worldmap.org/countryG.php?rog3=ZI>

Source: <http://www.joshuaproject.net/peopctry.php?rog3=ZI&rop3=105890>

Source: <http://www.globalrecordings.net/langcode/loz>

Source: <http://www.imb.org/globalresearch/downloads.asp>

**15663**

**Makua (12,236)**

The Makua people live in extreme northern Zimbabwe along the border with Mozambique. Their religion is traditional ancestor worship.

Less than 2% are Evangelical Christians. The Bible has been translated into their language, but the *Jesus* film has not. Some Gospel recordings and radio broadcasts are available in their language.

Source: <http://www.joshuaproject.net/peopctry.php?rog3=ZI&rop3=106087>

Source: <http://www.worldmap.org/countryG.php?rog3=ZI>

Source: <http://www.globalrecordings.net/langcode/mgh>  
Source: <http://www.imb.org/globalresearch/downloads.asp>

**00000**

**Manyika (856,000)**

The Manyika people live in the Manicaland province. Most of the Manyika people are Christian. Less than 2% are Evangelical. The New Testament was translated in 1908. The *Jesus* film and some Gospel recordings are available in their primary language.

Source: [http://www.ethnologue.com/show\\_language.asp?code=mxk](http://www.ethnologue.com/show_language.asp?code=mxk)  
Source: <http://www.globalrecordings.net/langcode/mxc>  
Source: <http://www.joshuaproject.net/peopctry.php?rog3=ZI&rop3=106289>

**15664**

**Maratha, Marathi (4,873)**

Their primary religion is traditional ancestor worship. Less than 2% are Evangelical Christians. The Bible has been translated into their language. The *Jesus* film, Gospel recordings, and radio broadcasts are available in their language, too.

Source: <http://www.joshuaproject.net/peopctry.php?rog3=ZI&rop3=106317>  
Source: <http://www.globalrecordings.net/langcode/mar>  
Source: <http://www.imb.org/globalresearch/downloads.asp>

**15665**

**Nambya (69,303)**

The Nambya people live in western Zimbabwe between the borders of Zambia, Namibia, and Botswana. Their primary religion is either Christianity or traditional ancestor worship—or a combination of both. Less than 2% are Evangelical Christians. The New Testament has been translated into their language, but the *Jesus* film has not. There are also no Gospel recordings or radio broadcasts available.

Source: <http://www.joshuaproject.net/peopctry.php?rog3=ZI&rop3=107056>  
Source: <http://www.worldmap.org/countryG.php?rog3=ZI>  
Source: <http://www.imb.org/globalresearch/downloads.asp>

**15666**

**Ndau, Southeast Shona (458,478)**

The Ndau people live in eastern Zimbabwe near the border with Mozambique. Their primary religion is traditional ancestor worship. Less than 2% are Evangelical Christians. The Bible has been translated into their language. The *Jesus* film, Gospel recordings, and radio broadcasts are available in their language, too.

Source: <http://www.joshuaproject.net/peopctry.php?rog3=ZI&rop3=107152>  
Source: <http://www.worldmap.org/countryG.php?rog3=ZI>  
Source: <http://globalrecordings.net/langcode/ndc>

Source: <http://www.imb.org/globalresearch/downloads.asp>

**15667**

**Ndebele (812,143)**

The Ndebele people live in central and southwestern Zimbabwe. Their primary religion is either traditional ancestor worship or Christianity—or a combination of both. At least 10% are Evangelical Christians. The Bible has been translated into their language. The *Jesus* film and Gospel recordings are also available in their language, but radio broadcasts are not.

Source: <http://www.joshuaproject.net/peopctry.php?rog3=ZI&rop3=107154>

Source: <http://www.worldmap.org/countryG.php?rog3=ZI>

Source: <http://www.globalrecordings.net/langcode/nde>

Source: <http://www.imb.org/globalresearch/downloads.asp>

**00000**

**Nsenga (42,000)**

The Nsenga people live in Mashonaland Central. Most of the Nsenga people are Christian, but less than 5% are Evangelical. The New Testament was translated in 1923. The *Jesus* film has not been translated into their primary language, but there are some Gospel recordings available.

Source: [http://www.ethnologue.com/show\\_language.asp?code=nse](http://www.ethnologue.com/show_language.asp?code=nse)

Source: <http://www.joshuaproject.net/peopctry.php?rog3=ZI&rop3=107484>

**15668**

**Nyanja (283,734)**

Their primary religion is Christianity. Less than 2% are Evangelical. The Bible has been translated into their language. The *Jesus* film, Gospel recordings, and radio broadcasts are available in their language, too.

Source: <http://www.joshuaproject.net/peopctry.php?rog3=ZI&rop3=107548>

Source: <http://www.globalrecordings.net/langcode/nya>

Source: <http://www.imb.org/globalresearch/downloads.asp>

**15669**

**Nyungwe (24,906)**

The Nyungwe people live in extreme northeast Zimbabwe along the border with Mozambique. Their primary religion is traditional ancestor worship. Less than 2% are Evangelical Christians. The Bible has been translated into their language. The *Jesus* film and Gospel recordings are also available in their language, but radio broadcasts are not.

Source: <http://www.joshuaproject.net/peopctry.php?rog3=ZI&rop3=107571>

Source: <http://www.worldmap.org/countryG.php?rog3=ZI>

Source: <http://www.globalrecordings.net/langcode/nyu>

Source: <http://www.imb.org/globalresearch/downloads.asp>



**15670****Pedi, North Sotho (132,371)**

Their primary religion is Christianity. Less than 2% are Evangelical Christians. The Bible has been translated into their language of Sotho (Northern). The *Jesus* film and Gospel recordings are also available in their language, but radio broadcasts are not.

Source: <http://www.joshuaproject.net/peopctry.php?rog3=ZI&rop3=107413>

Source: <http://globalrecordings.net/langcode/nso>

Source: <http://www.imb.org/globalresearch/downloads.asp>

**15671****Portuguese (12,236)**

Their primary religion is Roman Catholicism. At least 5% are Evangelical Christians. The Bible has been translated into their language. The *Jesus* film, Gospel recordings, and radio broadcasts are available in their language, too.

Source: <http://www.joshuaproject.net/peopctry.php?rog3=ZI&rop3=108129>

Source: <http://www.globalrecordings.net/langcode/por>

Source: <http://www.imb.org/globalresearch/downloads.asp>

**15672****Sena (108,274)**

Their primary religion is either traditional ancestor worship or Christianity—or a combination of both. Less than 2% are Evangelical Christians. The Bible has been translated into their language. The *Jesus* film, Gospel recordings, and radio broadcasts are available in their language, too.

Source: <http://globalrecordings.net/langcode/seh>

Source: <http://www.joshuaproject.net/peopctry.php?rog3=ZI&rop3=108831>

Source: <http://www.imb.org/globalresearch/downloads.asp>

**15673****Shona (6,740,783)**

The Shona live in central and northern Zimbabwe, as well as western portions of the country. Sources differ as to the primary religion of the Shona. It is either traditional ancestor worship or Christianity—or a combination of both.

At least 10% are believed to be Evangelical Christians. The Bible has been translated into their language. The *Jesus* film, Gospel recordings, and radio broadcasts are available in their language, too.

Source: <http://www.worldmap.org/countryG.php?rog3=ZI>

Source: <http://www.joshuaproject.net/peopctry.php?rog3=ZI&rop3=111172>

Source: <http://www.globalrecordings.net/langcode/sna>

Source: <http://www.imb.org/globalresearch/downloads.asp>

**15678**

**Swazi (61,398)**

Some sources say traditional ancestor worship is their primary religion, but others say it is Christianity. At least 2% are Evangelical. The Bible has been translated into their language. The *Jesus* film, Gospel recordings, and radio broadcasts are available in their language, too.

Source: <http://www.joshuaproject.net/peopctry.php?rog3=ZI&rop3=109648>

Source: <http://www.globalrecordings.net/langcode/ssw>

Source: <http://www.imb.org/globalresearch/downloads.asp>

**00000**

**Tawara, Tavara (53,000)**

Most of the Tawara people are Christian, but less than 5% are Evangelical. The Bible, *Jesus* film, and Gospel recordings are not available in their primary language.

Source: <http://www.joshuaproject.net/peopctry.php?rog3=ZI&rop3=109901>

**15679**

**Toka (5,523)**

The Toka people mostly follow their traditional ancestor worship. The Bible has been translated into Leya, their primary language. The *Jesus* film and Gospel recordings are also available in their language, but radio broadcasts are not.

Source: <http://www.imb.org/globalresearch/downloads.asp>

**15680**

**Tsonga (21,657)**

The Tsonga people live in southeastern Zimbabwe along the border with Mozambique. Some sources say traditional ancestor worship is their primary religion, but others say it is Christianity. At least 10% are Evangelical. The Bible has been translated into their language. The *Jesus* film, Gospel recordings, and radio broadcasts are available in their language, too.

Source: <http://www.joshuaproject.net/peopctry.php?rog3=ZI&rop3=110220>

Source: <http://www.worldmap.org/countryG.php?rog3=ZI>

Source: <http://www.globalrecordings.net/langcode/tso>

Source: <http://www.imb.org/globalresearch/downloads.asp>

**15681**

**Tswa, Hlengwe (153,248)**

The Tswa people live in southeastern Zimbabwe. Their primary religion is traditional ancestor worship. Less than 2% are Evangelical Christians. The Bible has been translated into their language. The *Jesus* film, Gospel recordings, and radio broadcasts are available in their language, too.

Source: <http://www.joshuaproject.net/peopctry.php?rog3=ZI&rop3=110224>

Source: <http://www.worldmap.org/countryG.php?rog3=ZI>

Source: <http://www.globalrecordings.net/langcode/tsc>

Source: <http://www.imb.org/globalresearch/downloads.asp>

## **15682**

### **Tswana (31,836)**

The Tswana people live in southern Zimbabwe near the borders with Botswana and South Africa. Their primary religion is either traditional ancestor worship or Christianity—or a combination of both. Less than 2% are Evangelical Christians. The Bible has been translated into their language. The *Jesus* film and Gospel recordings are also available in their language, but radio broadcasts are not.

Source: <http://www.joshuaproject.net/peopctry.php?rog3=ZI&rop3=110225>

Source: <http://www.worldmap.org/countryG.php?rog3=ZI>

Source: <http://www.globalrecordings.net/langcode/tsn>

Source: <http://www.imb.org/globalresearch/downloads.asp>

## **00000**

### **Tswana-Tawana (27,000)**

The Tswana-Tawana people live in Matabeleland South. Most of the Tswana-Tawana people are Christian, and at least 5% are Evangelical. The Bible has been translated into their primary language, but the *Jesus* film has not. There are some Gospel recordings available.

Source: [http://www.ethnologue.com/show\\_language.asp?code=tsn](http://www.ethnologue.com/show_language.asp?code=tsn)

Source: <http://globalrecordings.net/langcode/tsn>

Source: <http://www.joshuaproject.net/peopctry.php?rog3=ZI&rop3=109899>

## **15683**

### **Tumbuka (12,236)**

Their primary religion is either Christianity or traditional ancestor worship—or a combination of both. Less than 2% are Evangelical Christians. The Bible has been translated into their language. The *Jesus* film and Gospel recordings are also available in their language, but radio broadcasts are not.

Source: <http://www.joshuaproject.net/peopctry.php?rog3=ZI&rop3=110273>

Source: <http://www.globalrecordings.net/langcode/tum>

Source: <http://www.imb.org/globalresearch/downloads.asp>

## **15684**

### **Venda (90,960)**

The Venda people live in southern Zimbabwe near the border with South Africa. Their primary religion is traditional ancestor worship. Between 2 and 5% are Evangelical Christians. The Bible has been translated into their language. The *Jesus* film and Gospel recordings are also available in their language, but radio broadcasts are not.

Source: <http://www.joshuaproject.net/peopctry.php?rog3=ZI&rop3=110546>

Source: <http://www.worldmap.org/countryG.php?rog3=ZI>

Source: <http://globalrecordings.net/langcode/ven>

Source: <http://www.imb.org/globalresearch/downloads.asp>

## **15685**

### **Xhosa (24,581)**

The predominant religion is either traditional ancestor worship or Christianity—or a combination of both. Between 2 and 5% are Evangelical Christians. The Bible has been translated into their language. The *Jesus* film and Gospel recordings are also available in their language, but radio broadcasts are not.

Source: <http://www.joshuaproject.net/peopctry.php?rog3=ZI&rop3=110893>

Source: <http://globalrecordings.net/langcode/xho>

Source: <http://www.imb.org/globalresearch/downloads.asp>

## **15686**

### **Yao, Ajao (49,053)**

Islam is the predominant religion among the Yao. Less than 2% are Evangelical Christians. The Bible has been translated into their language. The *Jesus* film, Gospel recordings, and radio broadcasts are available in their language, too.

Source: <http://www.joshuaproject.net/peopctry.php?rog3=ZI&rop3=110980>

Source: <http://www.globalrecordings.net/langcode/yao>

Source: <http://www.imb.org/globalresearch/downloads.asp>

## **15687**

### **Zambezi Tonga (123,718)**

The Zambezi Tonga people live in northwestern Zimbabwe near the border with Zambia. Their primary religion is either traditional ancestor worship or Christianity—or a combination of both. Less than 2% of the Zambezi Tonga are Evangelical Christians. The Bible has been translated into their language. The *Jesus* film and Gospel recordings are also available in their language, but radio broadcasts are not.

Source: <http://www.joshuaproject.net/peopctry.php?rog3=ZI&rop3=111137>

Source: <http://www.globalrecordings.net/langcode/toi>

Source: <http://www.worldmap.org/countryG.php?rog3=ZI>

Source: <http://www.imb.org/globalresearch/downloads.asp>

## **15689**

### **Zulu (144,453)**

The Zulu live in extreme southern Zimbabwe along the border with South Africa. Their primary religion is either traditional ancestor worship or Christianity—or a combination of both. Between 2 and 5% are Evangelical Christians. The Bible has been translated into their language. The *Jesus* film, Gospel recordings, and radio broadcasts are available in their language, too.

Source: <http://www.joshuaproject.net/peopctry.php?rog3=ZI&rop3=111193>

Source: <http://www.worldmap.org/countryG.php?rog3=ZI>

Source: <http://www.globalrecordings.net/langcode/zul>

Source: <http://www.imb.org/globalresearch/downloads.asp>

### **Missiological Implications**

1. Evangelical Christians and churches should seek to aid local believers in evangelizing the many who are followers of Traditional Religions or living in a state of syncretized status between Christianity and Traditional Religion.
2. Evangelical Christians and churches should seek to aid local believers to develop means to teach biblical theology to off-set the influence of many of the churches that practice syncretism with Traditional Religions.
3. Evangelical Christians and churches should seek to understand the reasons behind the widespread syncretism that exists in many Christian groups in order to better respond to the situation.
4. Evangelical Christians and churches should investigate ways to start churches among each ethnic group and tailored exactly for that group.
5. Evangelical Christians and churches should seek ways to aid the local believers in evangelizing and starting churches for the multitudes of Han Chinese who live in Zimbabwe.
6. Evangelical Christians should attempt to reach the 1.4 million people in the country who use the Internet by using tools and strategies found on sites, such as <http://www.web-evangelism.com/>.
7. Evangelical Christians and churches should research ways they may be able to alleviate the suffering of Zimbabweans caused by poverty, job loss, and the poor economy, considering all the political ramifications of such efforts.
8. Evangelical Christians and churches should seek to aid in caring for the large numbers of people suffering from AIDS—both those suffering directly and those of their families suffering indirectly from this disease.

## Links

### **Zimbabwe photos on Flickr – Search all photos**

<http://flickr.com/search?q=zimbabwe&ct=0>

A search link to all Zimbabwe photos on Flickr.com

### **Zimbabwe photos on Flickr – Search Creative Commons**

<http://flickr.com/search?q=zimbabwe&l=commderiv&ct=0>

A search link to Creative Commons-licensed photos of Zimbabwe on Flickr

### **Avert – Zimbabwe**

<http://www.avert.org/aids-zimbabwe.htm>

### **Background Notes – Zimbabwe**

<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/5479.htm>

### **BBC News Country Profile – Zimbabwe**

[http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/country\\_profiles/1064589.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/country_profiles/1064589.stm)

### **BBC News Timeline – Zimbabwe**

[http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/country\\_profiles/1831470.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/country_profiles/1831470.stm)

### **CARE – Zimbabwe**

<http://www.care.org/careswork/countryprofiles/109.asp>

### **CIA World Factbook – Zimbabwe**

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/zi.html>

### **Ethnologue – Languages of Zimbabwe**

[http://www.ethnologue.com/show\\_country.asp?name=Zimbabwe](http://www.ethnologue.com/show_country.asp?name=Zimbabwe)

### **History World – Zimbabwe**

<http://www.historyworld.net/wrldhis/PlainTextHistories.asp?historyid=ad28>

### **International Religious Freedom Report 2008 – Zimbabwe**

<http://2001-2009.state.gov/g/drl/rls/irf/2008/108399.htm>

### **Joshua Project – Zimbabwe**

<http://www.joshuaproject.net/countries.php?rog3=ZI>

### **Nations Encyclopedia – Zimbabwe**

<http://www.nationsencyclopedia.com/Africa/Zimbabwe>

### **Q++ Studio – Professional Source of World Public Holidays – Zimbabwe**

<http://www.qppstudio.net/publicholidays2009/zimbabwe.htm>

### **UNAIDS – Zimbabwe**

<http://www.unaids.org/en/CountryResponses/Countries/zimbabwe.asp>

### **US Census Bureau – International Database**

<http://www.census.gov/ipc/www/idb/informationGateway.php>

### **Wikipedia – Zimbabwe**

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zimbabwe>