

**MISSIONS ATLAS PROJECT
ATLANTIC OCEAN
THE BAHAMAS**

Snapshots Section

Country Name: The Bahamas

Country Founded in: 1973

Population: 309,156

Government Type: (national, regional and local)

Constitutional parliamentary democracy and Commonwealth realm

Geography/location in the world: An archipelago of 100,000 square miles. Consisting of about 700 islands and 2,400 cays located southeast of Florida and northeast of Cuba. Latitude 24° 15' N, Longitude 76° 00' W. approximately 30 of the islands are inhabited.

Number of people groups: 10

Picture of flag:



Religion Snapshot

Major Religion and % of population: Baptist 35.4 %

All religions and % for each:	Anglican	15.1%
	Roman Catholic	13.5%
	Pentecostal	8.1%
	Church of God	4.8%
	Methodist	4.2%
	Other Christian	15.2%
	None or unspecified	2.9%
	Other	0.8%

Government interaction with religion: Freedom of religion is provided for in the Constitution of the Bahamas. The preamble to the Constitution even states that they "...recognize the Supremacy of God and believing in the Fundamental Rights and Freedoms of the Individual..."

Barrett, David B., George T. Kurian, and Todd M. Johnson. *World Christian Encyclopedia: A comparative survey of churches and religions in the modern world*. 2ed. Vol. 1. Oxford; New York, 2001.

<http://www.bahamas.gov.bs/bahamasweb2/home.nsf/vContentW/F1D7AA0803E7FFEF06256F02007F5607>

Country Profile

Basic Facts

Country Name: The Bahamas

Long form: The Commonwealth of the Bahamas

Demographics:

The Population of the Bahamas was estimated to be 309,156 in July of 2009. The median age is 28.7 years. There are approximately 80,044 children under 15 years of age, while there are approximately 207,636 people between the ages of 15 and 64, and 21,476 who are 64 and above. The total life expectancy averages 62.63 years for a man and 68.98 years for a woman. The death rate is 9.32 to every 1,000 people.

The population is estimated to be growing at 0.536% per year. The birth rate is 16.81 births to every 1,000 people. The average number of children born to a woman in her lifetime is 2.1. The infant mortality rate is 23.17 deaths per every 1,000 live births.

It is estimated that 84% of the population lives in urban areas. New Providence Island is said to have 69.9 % of the population living on it. Another 15.5% are residing on Abaco and Grand Bahama. This leaves only 10.3% of the total population spread out among the other 27 estimated inhabited islands.

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

<http://www.bahamas.gov.bs/bahamasweb2/home.nsf/vContentW/F1D7AA0803E7FFEF06256F02007F5607>

Language:

The primary language is English. However, it is neither American nor British English, but Bahamian Creole English which the population speaks. The Creole English seems to have come from North American slaves who came to the island at the end of the 18th century bringing with them a form of Gullah. Many Bahamians will claim to speak British English. They have no desire for their English to be called Creole because the world Creole is used in reference to what the Haitians speak.

There is some variation in dialect between the different islands. Some locals feel that the dialects should be preserved by teaching Standard English as a second language. They do not want to lose this unique part of their identity and culture. The strong attachment to the dialects caused the failure of an effort by the Bahamas Broadcasting Company to use only Standard English on television and radio.

There are several other languages and dialects used on the islands by immigrants. 8% of the population is Haitian. They speak Haitian Creole or French. Another 1.8% of the population is from Jamaica. They speak Jamaican Creole. Han Chinese and Greeks make up 0.5% of the population. They speak Mandarin and Greek respectively.

Hackert, Stephanie. *Urban Bahamian Creole: System and Variation*. John Benjamins, Amsterdam 2004. Accessed through Google Books

http://books.google.com/books?id=voXZSXpbsrC&pg=PA8&lpg=PA8&dq=Bahamas+Creole+English&source=bl&ots=MzBc7sfeof&sig=ZVY7TgUb8rerbh2cUmDPMkay10&hl=en&ei=wGkhS9rfKYbPngfm9J3uCO&sa=X&oi=book_result&ct=result&resnum=1&ved=0CAoQ6AEwADgU#v=onepage&q=Bahamas%20Creole%20English&f=false

McCartney, Donald M. *Bahamian Culture and Factors Which Impact Upon It: A compilation of two essays.*

Dorrance, Pittsburgh Pennsylvania 2004. Accessed through Google Books.

http://books.google.com/books?id=udnCHbSIvC8C&printsec=frontcover&dq=islanders+in+the+stream+volume+2&source=gbs_similarbooks_s&cad=1#v=onepage&q=islanders%20in%20the%20stream%20volume%202&f=false

<http://www.peoplegroups.org/Detail.aspx?PID=22263> (Bahamian)

<http://www.peoplegroups.org/Detail.aspx?PID=16192> (Jamaican)

<http://www.peoplegroups.org/Detail.aspx?PID=43531> (Han Chinese)

Gall, Timothy L, and Jeneen M. Hobby, eds. *Worldmark Encyclopedia of the Nations. The Bahamas*. Thomson Gale Farmington Hills, Michigan 2007.

Society/Culture:

Legends and Folk Religion

Several Bahamian Islands have myths and legends. Some examples of this are the Lusca, a water monster living in the island's blue holes, and the Chickcharnies, giant three toed, red-eyed owl like creatures; both of Andros Island. Pretty Molly Bay is said to haunt the beaches of Little Exuma Island. Inagua Island is thought to be the place of refuge sought by Henri Christophe, a deceased Haitian leader. Other folklore associated with the islands is the lost city of Atlantis on North Bimini, the Fountain of Youth on Bimini, and multiple stories of buried pirate treasure.

Cat Island is said to be the center of Obeah in the Bahamas. *Obeah* came to the Bahamas with the African slaves which the British brought over. The name Obeah can be traced to the Ashanti peoples of Africa. As slaves, they were known for their rebellion. It was not uncommon for them to rebel by harming their master through some sort of poison. Obeah was outlawed during this time period and remains outlawed today.

The modern person practicing *obeah* in the Bahamas is often called a “bush man” or “bush doctor.” They are very skilled in the use of herbs. A bush doctor who has some form of physical deformity is thought to have even more psychic power in compensation for their physical disability.

Obeah is blamed for some evil occurrences on the islands. On Grand Bahama four boys disappeared in 2003. With no evidence found people were beginning to theorize that it may have something to do with Obeah. On Cat Island a murderer killed two people because he claimed they had put an obeah curse on him. Unfortunately, in many areas Obeah and Christianity are practiced together.

Holidays

Because the islands are largely Christian, Christian holidays such as Easter and Christmas are very important. They also celebrate several other holidays such as Discovery Day, Emancipation Day, Independence Day, and Labor Day.

The biggest community festival of the year is Junkanoo. It is celebrated at both Christmas and New Years. Junkanoo began as a slave celebration and has grown into a country wide celebration. Music and costumes are the most significant parts of this celebration.

<http://www.bahamasgateway.com/junkanoo.htm>

Island Living

Island life varies as to the living conditions. Most of the population lives in urban areas where they can find work. Housing in urban areas tends to be in poorer condition than what might be expected. Housing outside of the urban areas on out islands are usually simple structures which may or may not have plumbing and electricity. Often electricity is dependent on access by a paved road. Communities that are not near the road will not likely have electricity.

Transportation and road conditions vary by island. Transportation in the big cities is mostly by car. The larger cities also offer public transportation and taxi services. Nassau and Freeport have international airports.

On the out islands, which are away from cities, transportation is usually by boat. Communities on the out islands are typically coastal and easier to reach by sea. Transportation by car is limited due to lack of vehicles and roads. There is usually only one road running the length of the island. Some of the islands have taxi services, or local people who provide taxi services. On some of the islands hitchhiking is a safe way to travel. Many of the larger inhabited islands have landing strips for small aircraft.

Bahamian food is greatly influenced by the ocean. Fish and conch are an important part of their diet. Most tourist spots offer a wide variety of food, both traditional and non-traditional.

Family life on the island has changed much over the years. More often children are being born to unmarried parents. Children are often raised in single parent homes, though many traditional families do still exist. In these families the mother is in charge of raising the children, if the mother is working the grandmother will care for the children. In families where both parents have gone to find work on the urban islands, the grandparents are often left to care for the children. Smaller communities are based around the family, where they live together and support each other.

Western influence has increased over the years with access to the outside world through internet and television. Young people on the out islands are now often discontent with small island life. More and more of them are leaving to live in the big cities, or even immigrating to the United States.

Gall, Timothy L. Ed. Worldmark Encyclopedia of Cultures and Daily Life: Volume 2 Americas. Bahamians. Gale Research Detroit Michigan 1998

<http://www.bahamasgateway.com/legends.htm>

<http://www.bahamasb2b.com/news/wmview.php?ArtID=4233>

<http://www.tripadvisor.com/Travel-g147416-s303/Nassau:New-Providence-Island:Public.Transportation.html>

Wilkson, Bert. Missing Bahamas boys baffle authorities. New York Amsterdam News, 9/11/2003, Vol. 94, Issue 37. Accessed through Academic Search Complete

Government:

The government of the Bahamas is a constitutional parliamentary democracy. It is a part of the Commonwealth realm. As a part of the Commonwealth the Head of State is Queen Elizabeth. The Queen has a chosen representative in the Bahamas in the Governor-General. The current Governor-General, who was appointed in 2006, is Arthur D. Hanna.

The Executive branch of the Government is made up of the cabinet. The cabinet consists of a prime minister, seven other ministers, and an attorney general, all who are a part of Parliament. This branch of the government ensures that the government as a whole is functioning properly. This includes seeing that the departments and ministries are working together and approving government policies and activities. The current Prime Minister is Hubert A. Ingram, who was appointed in 2007.

The legislative branch is the Parliament, which has both a House of Assembly and a Senate. The Senate has 16 members who are placed there by the Governor-General. The House of Assemblies has 41 members who are chosen by popular vote. Members of Parliament usually serve five year terms, though the Governor-General may call for elections and therefore a new parliament at anytime. At the end of five years all members vacate and all issues under consideration are terminated.

The job of Parliament is to make laws which will lead to peace, order, and good government. Most of the work of Parliament is amending existing laws to meet the demands of society. Parliament is allowed to determine what privileges, immunities, and regulations they will have regarding the House and the Senate. They also choose the officers who will serve on the personal staff of the Governor-General, approve the budget for the Government and decide how many justices will serve in the Supreme Court and Court of Appeals.

The Judiciary branch of the government consists of the Magistrate's Court, Supreme Court, Court of Appeals, and the Privy Council. The Supreme Court and Court of Appeals are separate from the Government Departments of the Bahamas.

The Magistrate's Court is present on only three islands; New Providence, Grand Bahama, and Abaco. Magistrates are allowed to handle cases concerning 5,000 dollars or less. The islands without Magistrate's Courts have administrators who may handle small cases concerning 400 dollars or less. All other cases must travel to the Magistrate's Court.

The Supreme Court consists of twelve Justices who are located on New Providence and Grand Bahama. These Justices are suggested to the Governor-General by the Judicial and Legal Services Commission. The Governor-General makes the final decision and appoints the Justices. The Supreme Court is allowed to handle any case. It also handles the cases which have been decided in the Magistrate's Court and are being appealed.

The Court of Appeal consists of a Chief Justice, who is also the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, a President, and four other Justices. The Justices are suggested by the Prime Minister to the Governor-General who makes the final appointment. The Court of Appeal handles cases

which have been convicted in the Magistrate's Court or Supreme Court and are being appealed. If the decision of the Court of Appeal is appealed it is taken to the Privy Council. This council is not in the Bahamas. It is in England.

Visitors to the Courts need to be aware that sports clothing is not allowed in the courts, though casual dress is.

Sources

Decosmo, Janet L. Junkanoo: *The African Cultural Connection in Nassau, Bahamas*. The Western Journal of Black Studies. Vol 27 No. 4. 2003.

<http://www.bahamas.gov.bs/bahamasweb2/home.nsf/vContentW/GOV--About+The+Government--The+Judiciary!Opendocument>

http://www.un.int/bahamas/Bahamas_Government_Info.htm

<http://www.bahamas.gov.bs/bahamasweb2/home.nsf/vContentW/DB408B085A7DE26C06256ED3005D406E>

<http://www.bahamas.gov.bs/bahamasweb2/home.nsf/vContentW/09895C105EA3C0D806256ED3005D1C9B>

<http://www.bahamas.gov.bs/bahamasweb2/home.nsf/vContentW/C92E36C67FB66B5E06256ED3005D54B6>

Economy:

Of the countries considered to be a part of the Caribbean, the Bahamas is one of the most prosperous. The Gross Domestic Product (GDP) was estimated in 2008 to be 7.567 billion dollars. The real growth rate has been declining for the past few years, from 4.6% in 2006 to -1.5% in 2009. The country's unemployment rate was estimated to be at 7.6% in 2006. The poor world economy has had a great impact on this number. In February of 2009 New Providence Island was reporting a 12% unemployment rate and Grand Bahama a 15% rate. The GDP per person has also declined by several hundred dollars to 30,700 dollars.

Tourism is the main source of income for the Bahamas. The United States (US) is responsible for about 80% of tourists traveling to the Bahamas each year. Any economic decline in the US will have an effect on the Bahamian economy. They are closely related because about 60% of the Bahamian GDP is from tourism and the related construction and manufacturing needed for its support. Tourism is also responsible for employing half of the Bahamian labor force.

A large portion of the remaining labor force is employed, or involved in some way, in financial and business services which constitute about 36% of the GDP and 40% of the labor force. The remaining 10% of the labor force is split equally between agriculture and industry. The country exports were \$674 million in 2006 and its imports were \$2.401 billion.

<http://www.bahamas.gov.bs/bahamasweb2/home.nsf/vContentW/F1D7AA0803E7FFEF06256F02007F5607>

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

<http://www.cnn.com/id/29568565>

Literacy:

96.5% of the population over the age of 15 can read and write. It is estimated that 94.7% of these are male and 96.5% are female.

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

Land/Geography:

The Bahamian islands are mostly flat and made of a carbonate base which formed from coral. The natural beaches are made of crushed coral and shells. The Bahamas is home to the third largest coral reef in the world. The highest point in the Bahamas is only 206 feet above sea level. The type of rock and level land do not allow for the formation of fresh water rivers and streams. There is a layer of fresh water on the islands which can be reached by careful drilling. The fresh water lies on top of the salt water, therefore a well drilled too deep will be brackish or saltwater.

The Bahamian climate is mild year around, with some variation between the northern and southern islands.

<http://www.mnh.si.edu/LivingFossils/thebahamas.htm>

<http://www.thebahamasguide.com/facts/geography.htm>

<http://bahamas-guide.info/weather/rain/>

Craton, Michael. A History of the Bahamas. Collins Clear-Type; London. 1968

History

The most recent archeological finds can prove that the *Lucayan* Indians were the original inhabitants of the Bahamas. There is some speculation that other Indians lived on the islands before them, but there have been no conclusive archaeological finds. This deficit is attributed to the change in ocean levels which would have caused earlier civilizations to now be below sea level.

The Lucayan Indians are not related to any of the present day Bahamians. They came to an unfortunate end when the islands were discovered by Columbus in 1492. Many of the Lucayans were taken away as slaves. Those who remained soon died from the diseases which were introduced by the Spaniards. After the death of the Lucayans, the islands remained uninhabited for almost two hundred years.

In 1648 the first English settlement was formed on the island of Eleuthera. "The Company of Eleutherian Adventurers" set out to establish a colony on Eleuthera where they would have complete religious freedom. The expedition was the idea of William Sayle. Sayle set out from Bermuda with 70 settlers. They reached Eleuthera, but wrecked on its shores losing all of their stores and one man. Most of these settlers were on the island for less than ten years before they returned to Bermuda.

It was not until 1666 that the islands began to be used as plantations. It was at this time that New Providence was settled. The entire population of the Bahamas was over a thousand by 1670. The plantations struggled to exist because the climate was not good for cotton or indigo and the soil was too poor to raise tobacco. The plantation owners tried to keep growing cotton for many years through the hard work of many slaves. Eventually, the plantations failed. The owners left the Bahamas, leaving their slaves to do as they wished with the land.

Beginning in the 1680's the Bahamas became a popular place for buccaneers and pirates. The governor for some of that time period was Nicholas Trott. When pirates requested to land on the island, Trott was unable to fight them off. Instead, he decided to make some personal profit by charging them for landing there. This is just one example of the corruption that was very common in the Bahamas. In 1718 Woodes Rogers was appointed as governor of the Bahamas by King George I. Rogers was successful in stopping much of the piracy.

The late 1700's brought a great migration of Americans and their slaves to the Bahamas. These people were Loyalists who were seeking a new life after the American War of Independence. There were about 100,000 people who came to the Bahamas, most of whom were slave or free blacks.

The slaves were finally given their full freedom in 1838. Former slaves were forced to rely on subsistence farming for a living. The Bahamas gained some prosperity during the American Civil War because the Bahamian ports were a good place for the confederates to dock and refuel their ships which were exporting cotton.

The prohibition which began in the United States in 1917 brought a new kind of business to the Bahamas. Men traveled to the Bahamas to obtain liquor which they tried to smuggle back into the US. Such illegal activity continues to be a problem for the Bahamas even today, although it is no longer alcohol, but drugs such as cocaine and marijuana.

In the 1950's the Bahamas began to become popular as a vacation spot, having nearly 40,000 visitors in one year. The number of visitors and tourists spots continued to increase through the years. In 2003 4.3 million people visited the Bahamas.

Sources

Craton, Michael and Gail Saunders. *Islanders in the Stream a History of the Bahamian People Volume 1: From aboriginal times to the end of slavery*. University of Georgia; Athens, Georgia. 1992. Accessed through Google books. <http://books.google.com/books?id=UG-62GnAbD8C&printsec=frontcover&dq=islanders+in+the+stream#v=onepage&q=&f=false>

Craton, Michael and Gail Saunders. *Islanders in the Stream a History of the Bahamian People Volume 2: From the ending of slavery to the twenty-first century*. University of Georgia; Athens, Georgia. 1998. Accessed through Google books. http://books.google.com/books?id=UIbRHcz2ZysC&printsec=frontcover&dq=islanders+in+the+stream&source=gbs_similarbooks_s&cad=1#v=onepage&q=&f=false

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<http://www.geographia.com/BAHAMAS/>

<http://globalrecordings.net/languages?search=CREOLE&opts=C>

<http://islands.thebahamian.com/>

<http://www.mnh.si.edu/LivingFossils/thebahamas.htm>

Christian History

The Christian history of the islands began with the first settlement by a group of dissenters from Bermuda. Because there has always been religious freedom in the Bahamas the number of denominations quickly increased and continues to increase today, as can be seen in the Religion

section below. Unfortunately, the number of non-Christian groups and non-religious peoples are growing at a fast rate.

Religion

Non Christian

Islam – There are Muslims present on the islands, though an exact number is not known.

<http://www.thenassauguardian.com/religion/329753715673030.php>

Baha’I – Established in 1964, the Baha’i have grown from just one place of meeting to six by 1996 with about 1,200 adherents.

Church of Christ, Scientist – Established in 1920, there are 2 congregations with 50 adults and 150 affiliates.

<http://www.tfccs.com/index.jhtml;jsessionid=JYUI2GKQPJMX3KGL4L2SFEQ>

Jehovah’s Witness – Established in 1926, there are now 17 congregations with 1,213 adults and 3,790 affiliates.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (Mormons) - Established in 1979, there are 2 congregations with 128 adults and 200 affiliates.

Spiritists – there are about 4,500 affiliates.

Obeah – arrived on the island with the slaves. They do not form congregations since individuals practice it. The number of affiliates is unknown. It is often seen mixed with Christian practices.

<http://scholar.library.miami.edu/slaves/Religion/religion.html>

Rastafarian – the Rastafarian religion came to the Bahamas with the Jamaicans.

Non-religious – there are an estimated 16,000 who claim no religion. The number is growing.

Greek Orthodox – There is one congregation of the Greek Orthodox Church in Nassau. There are 156 adult members and 390 affiliates.

Roman Catholic – Established in 1885, there are now 92 congregations with 25,000 adults and 45,237 affiliates. The Roman Catholic Church began as a mission in 1891 by a Benedictine Priest from Minnesota in the United States. The church is now present on 11 islands, New Providence, Andros, Harbour, Eleuthera, San Salvador, Long Island, Cat, Inagua, Grand Bahama, Bimini, Exuma, and Abaco. These congregations are largely supported, both financially and in staffing, by Canada and the United States.

Christian/Evangelical

African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church – Begun in 1877, there are now 15 congregations with 765 adults and 1,500 affiliates. It is an Independent Methodist Church. Due to discrimination it broke away from the Methodist church in 1796.

<http://amez.org/news/index.php>

<http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/8305/African-Methodist-Episcopal-Zion-Church>

African Methodist Episcopal Church – this denomination has been in the Bahamas for more than 100 years. The number of congregations is about 12.

<http://netministries.org/see/churches.exe/ch14919>

Anglican – There are 96 congregations with 11,600 adults and 27,500 affiliates. The Anglican Church came with the first settlers from Bermuda in the 1600's. Of all the denominations in the Bahamas it is the third largest.

<http://bahamas.anglican.org/history.php>

Baptists

Bahamas National Baptist Union – It was formed in 1830 and now has 21 congregations.

Southern Baptist – Established in the Bahamas in 1951.

Baptist International Missions – Formed in 1960, it is independent. There are 16 congregations with 3,500 adults and 5,390 affiliates.

Brethren

Assemblies of Brethren – Established around 1900, there are now about 83 congregations.

<http://www.brethrenportal.com/PlymouthBrethren/PlymouthBrethrenStatistics.html>

Christian Brethren (exclusive) – Established around 1930, there are now 12 congregations with about 800 adults and 1,330 affiliates. They are a part of the Plymouth Brethren.

<http://www.theexclusivebrethren.com/exclusive-brethren.html>

Church of God (in the Bahamas) – Established in 1909, there are 72 congregations with 4,264 adults and 8,530 affiliates. They are known as Jumpers. They have experienced rapid growth. Missionaries came to the Bahamas from Cleveland, Tennessee, as the first attempt at foreign missions. They are present on at least 11 different islands and cays.

Church of God - (Anderson)(holiness) there are 34 congregations with 3,430 adults and 10,400 affiliates.

Church of God in Christ – established around 1950. There are 10 congregations with about 2,000 adults and 4,000 affiliates.

Church of God of Prophecy – Established 1923, there are 52 congregations with 3,600 adults and 7,200 affiliates. It originally formed from a schism in the Cleveland branch.

Assemblies of God in the Bahamas – Founded in 1928, there are 23 congregations with 5,500 adults and 8,750 affiliates.

Church of the Nazarene – Established in 1971, there are 11 congregations with 1,050 adults and 1,877 affiliates.

Evangelical Church of the West Indies – Established around 1960, there are 2 congregations with 460 adults and 667 affiliated.

Independent Churches – there are about 19,000 affiliates

Churches of Christ – established in 1952 there are 4 congregations with 140 adults and 220 affiliates.

Bahamas Faith Ministries – Established around 1980, there are 4 congregations with 250 adults and 700 affiliates. This is a local charismatic mission with international ties.

New Apostolic Church – Established around 1980, with 5 congregations, 200 adults, and 323 affiliates.

New Promise Community Church – There are 3 congregations with 700 adults, 1000 affiliates. It has links with the Willow Creek Association in the USA.

Other Black Indigenous Churches – There are 30 congregations with 2000 adults and 4000 affiliates.

Lutheran Church of Nassau – Established around 1950, there are 10 congregations, 1000 adults, and 1500 affiliates. These churches are linked with the Missouri Lutheran synod.

Methodist Church in the Caribbean and Americas – Established in 1786, there are now 69 congregations with 5,416 adults and 7,000 affiliates. These churches are a part of the Bahamas district. The first Methodist to arrive in the Bahamas was Joseph Paul. He was a slave who emigrated from the United States. It was 1800 before the first reverend arrived from Barbados.

<http://www.btcimcca.org/index.htm>

Presbyterian Church – Established around 1850, there are 5 congregations with 360 adults and 900 affiliates.

Salvation Army – Established in 1931, there are 3 congregations with 800 adults and 1,140 affiliates.

Seventh Day Adventist – Established in 1909, there are 37 congregations with 11,000 adults and 15,700 affiliates. The church has more than tripled in size in 25 years

United Pentecostal Church – Established 1988, there are 3 congregations with 300 adults and 500 affiliates

Other Protestant Denominations – There are about 10 other denominations and 27 congregations with 2,240 adults and 3,800 affiliated. Some of the denominations include American Lutheran Church, Bahamas United Baptist Mission, Baptist Mid-Missions, Bethany Fellowship Missions (1968), Gospel Missionary Union (1956), and the West Indies Mission.

Barrett, David B., George T. Kurian, and Todd M. Johnson. *World Christian Encyclopedia: A comparative survey of churches and religions in the modern world*. 2ed. Vol. 1. Oxford; New York, 2001.

People Groups

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Afro-Bahamian (208,764)

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Americans, United States (7,037)

43531

Bahamian (30,711)

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British (4,196)

47638

Deaf (1,562)

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Greek (949)

00000

Haitian (26,378)

16192

Han Chinese (656)

22263

Jamaican (5,468)

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Jew, English (949)

www.peoplegroups.org

www.joshuaproject.org

Missiological Implications

1. Evangelical Christians and churches should consider the opportunities to strengthen existing congregations and believers in the Bahamas.
2. Evangelical Christians and churches should make definite plans for and devise methods by which the Afro-Bahamian (208,764) might be more evangelized.
3. Evangelical Christians and churches should make efforts to evangelize and start churches for those who follow some form of Spiritism. These followers of Spiritism probably are represented even in the membership of evangelical groups.
4. Evangelical Christians and churches should emphasize evangelism and church starting among Afro-Bahamian (208,764), Haitian (26,378), Jamaican (5,468), and the Americans, United States (7,037).
5. Evangelical Christians and churches should partner with Christian tourists who visit the Bahamas to be alert for opportunities for sharing the Good News with the peoples of the Bahamas.