



Netherlands Antilles

Caribbean

Geography

Area 800 sq km. Two larger, barren islands, Curacao and Bonaire off the coast of Venezuela, as well as three islands in the Leeward Islands 800 km to the northeast – St Eustatius, Saba and the Dutch half of St Martin (St Maarten). In 1986, Aruba withdrew from the Netherlands Antilles as an autonomous territory of the Netherlands.

Population	Ann Gr	Density
2010	200,726	1.49%
2020	209,708	0.25%
2030	209,269	-0.11%

Curacao 68.5%; St Maarten 22%; Bonaire 7.6%; St Eustatius 0.8%; Saba 0.6%.

Capital Willemstad 126,000. **Urbanites** 93.2%. **Pop under 15 yrs** 21%. **Life expectancy** 76.1 yrs.

Peoples

Caribbean Peoples 89.6%.

African Caribbean/Creole 76.3%. A blend of African, Amerindian, Dutch, Surinamer and Latin American origin. Also immigrants from other Caribbean islands, especially Dominican Republic, Haiti, English-speaking Antilles.

Foreign 10.4%. Dutch 5.8%; Latin American (Colombian, Venezuelan) 2.0%; Jewish 1.3%; US citizen 0.8%.

Literacy 96.9%. **Official language** Dutch. **Common languages** Papiamentu predominates, but use of English is widespread. **All languages** 7. **Indigenous languages** 4. **Languages with Scripture** 3Bi 1w.i.p.

Economy

Well developed for the Caribbean, mainstays are tourism, petroleum refining and offshore finance. **Public debt** 14.5% of GDP. **Income/person** \$16,146 (35% of USA).

Politics

Integral part of Kingdom of the Netherlands with domestic autonomy for each island and parliamentary democratic government. In 2006, it was agreed that Curacao and St Maarten would become separately autonomous as per Aruba, and the remaining islands would be directly incorporated into Dutch rule.

Religion

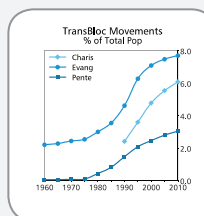
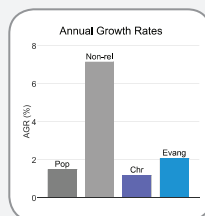
Complete freedom of religion.

Religions	Pop %	Population	Ann Gr
Christian	91.58	183,825	1.2%
Non-religious	5.90	11,843	7.1%
Jewish	1.30	2,609	1.5%
Hindu	0.66	1,325	1.5%
Muslim	0.33	662	2.1%
Chinese	0.15	301	-2.2%
Buddhist	0.05	100	1.5%
Baha'i	0.03	60	1.5%

Christians	Denoms	Pop %	Affiliates	Ann Gr
Protestant	28	10.96	22,000	1.3%
Independent	24	2.20	4,000	2.8%
Anglican	1	1.00	2,000	0.0%
Catholic	1	74.23	149,000	1.3%
Marginal	2	2.79	6,000	1.8%
Unaffiliated		4.40	9,000	0.0%
<i>Doubly affiliated</i>		-4.00	-8,000	0.0%

Churches	MegaBloc	Congs	Members	Affiliates
Catholic Church	C	25	88,166	149,000
Seventh-day Adventist	P	31	2,143	5,100
Jehovah's Witnesses	M	21	1,643	4,700
United Protestant Ch	P	3	1,800	3,200
Assemblies of God	P	8	912	2,680
Baptist Convention	P	24	1,497	2,500
Methodist Church	P	3	1,100	2,442
Evangelical Church	P	31	940	2,350
Other Pentecostal	I	18	1,100	2,200
Anglican Church	A	1	699	2,000
Other charismatic	I	16	950	1,900
Other denominations[25]		40	2,707	4,936
<i>Doubly affiliated</i>				-8,030
Total Christians[56]		221	103,657	174,978

TransBloc	Pop %	Population	Ann Gr
Evangelicals			
Evangelicals	7.7	15,427	2.1%
Renewalists			
Charismatics	6.1	12,178	3.4%
Pentecostals	3.0	6,080	3.2%



Challenges for Prayer

1 Freedom for the gospel has not resulted in a great harvest. Nominalism, superstition and growing marginal sects show how few understand the message of salvation. Catholics are the majority on all islands but St Eustatius, which is predominantly Protestant. Pray that the large majority who call themselves Christian might discover a dynamic relationship with the living Saviour.

2 Evangelical witness progresses slowly but steadily. A vital, growing Church on every island is a target for prayer. Pentecostal/charismatic (often single-congregation denominations) and Baptist groups are the fastest growing and most outreach-oriented.

3 The Papiamento Bible was published in 1997 (**TEAM**) (Dutch and English are available as well). Pray for impact on the majority of the population who use it. Pray also for literacy programmes and more Christian literature in the language. There is a Christian bookstore on Curaçao. Biblical literacy will go a great distance in discipling and renewing the Christian population.

4 Christian radio is a very strategic ministry. Pray for these areas:

- a) **Local programmes in Papiamento** (7 hours/week), Dutch and English are on FM, medium wave and shortwave. **TWR**, from its powerful station on Bonaire and by satellite, broadcasts to Latin America and the world in Spanish and English.
- b) **The Caribbean Gospel Network** brings Christian programming to the whole region through culturally and regionally appropriate news, music and Bible teaching. Pray for fruit and effective follow-up.
- c) **The TWR missionary community** of expatriate workers on Bonaire and local workers who maintain the radio ministry, touching millions of lives worldwide but often unaware of how great their impact is.