



## New Caledonia

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## Territory of New Caledonia and Dependencies Pacific

### Geography

**Area** 18,734 sq km. One large 400 km-long island, the Loyalty Islands, and other smaller coral islands 1,400 km northeast of Australia.

Population	Ann Gr	Density
2010	253,743	1.56%
2020	288,298	1.22%
2030	318,432	0.93%

**Capital** Nouméa 146,000. **Urbanites** 57.4%. **Pop under 15 yrs** 26%. **Life expectancy** 75.2 yrs.

### Peoples

**Melanesian** 45.9%. Indigenous (Kanak), 32 groups, 35.1%; mixed race 10.8%.

**Polynesian** 16.2%. Wallisian/East Uvean 9.8%; Tahitian 2.9%; Futunan 2.1%.

**Caucasian** 31.5%. French 26.9% (of which 75% are Caldoche locals and 25% civil servants from France); Italian 3.3%.

**Asian** 6.4%. Javanese 4.6%; Vietnamese 1.6%.

**Literacy** 91%. **Official language** French. **All languages** 41. **Languages with Scriptures** 6BI 1NT 4por 5wi.p.

### Economy

Possesses rich mineral deposits, especially nickel (possibly 40% of the world's reserves), which dominate the economy. Some service industry, but also relies on subsidies from France.

**Income/person** \$27,387 (60% of USA). **Unemployment** 6.4%.

### Politics

French colony in 1883; overseas territory of France since 1946. Exploitation of, and discrimination against, the indigenous peoples provoked an independence movement that led to violence in 1985. Agreement was reached for three regional governments in 1988, leading to a referendum on independence in 1998. This resulted in an agreement for 20 years of local autonomy with partnership between the indigenous Melanesians and immigrant peoples.

### Religion

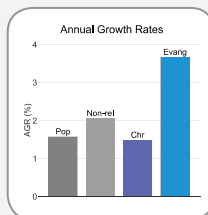
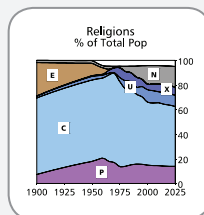
Freedom of religion in an increasingly secularized society. The large majority, especially non-Melanesians, have almost no meaningful contact with a church.

Religions	Pop %	Population	Ann Gr
Christian	80.65	204,644	1.5%
Non-religious	15.05	38,188	2.0%
Muslim	3.50	8,881	1.6%
Buddhist	0.50	1,269	1.6%
Baha'i	0.30	761	1.6%

Christians	Denoms	Pop %	Affiliates	Ann Gr
Protestant	3	14.46	37,000	1.4%
Independent	5	2.52	6,000	4.3%
Anglican	1	0.10	<300	2.6%
Catholic	1	51.08	130,000	1.7%
Marginal	3	3.58	9,000	-0.4%
Unaffiliated		8.90	23,000	-0.9%

Churches	MegaBloc	Congs	Members	Affiliates
Catholic Church	C	38	62,308	129,600
Evang Chs of NC & LI	P	195	7,402	32,200
Jehovah's Witnesses	M	24	2,664	6,500
Assemblies of God	P	59	3,800	3,700
Latter-day Saints	M	9	844	2,110
Free Evangelical Ch	I	74	400	1,300
Seventh-day Adventist	P	5	425	800
Other denominations[6]		60	3,410	6,620
<b>Total Christians[13]</b>		<b>459</b>	<b>80,828</b>	<b>182,030</b>

TransBloc	Pop %	Population	Ann Gr
<b>Evangelicals</b>			
Evangelicals	7.0	17,649	3.7%
<b>Renewalists</b>			
Charismatics	5.4	13,654	4.7%
Pentecostals	1.5	3,700	1.1%



# Challenges for Prayer

**1** **The indigenous Melanesian Kanaks** were marginalized by the French during the repressive colonial period. The 1998 accord attempts to bring them into full equality in the economic, legal and political life of the nation while respecting their unique culture. Pray that this transition may be healing, peaceful and fair.

**2** **The inequality in society** is illustrated not only economically but also by lifestyle. Sadly, too many Kanaks and immigrants from Wallis and Futuna struggle with poor living conditions, substance abuse and domestic violence. Pray for ministry that will help lift these addictions and replace them with a full and vibrant life in Christ.

**3** **Most Kanaks are Christianized** and most villages have a church, but the gospel is often confused with Western culture. Animist practices usually underlie a Christian veneer. Pray for pastors to discern between tradition and the pure gospel, and that a truly biblical, truly Kanak church may continue to grow and demonstrate the power of Jesus over the evil one.

**4** **Many older churches are spiritually stagnant.** Most Caledoche (descendants of former French prisoners and settlers) are culturally Catholic but lack genuine faith. Pray for:

- a) **Spiritual awakening among Catholics.** Most are Caledoche and only nominally religious.
- b) **Unity and reconciliation among Christians** wounded by division. The Free Evangelical Church is divided between the more liberal and the more charismatic and evangelical believers.
- c) **House groups and independent churches** with signs of dynamic spiritual life to mature and expand as a vital part of New Caledonian Christianity.
- d) **The interdenominational Bible school** to be soundly established and to grow.
- e) **Club Biblique Street**, an interdenominational Christian children's club (**YWAM**-connected), to evangelize and disciple both church and unchurched children.

**5** **Less reached peoples:**

- a) **The 11,000 Muslims** of Javanese or Arab descent retain their religion but not their languages. Little has been done to reach them.
- b) **Polynesian Islanders** have kept both their culture and their language. There are a few evangelical believers among the traditionally Catholic Wallisians and Futunans.
- c) **The Caledoche** live mostly in or near Nouméa. The **AoG** continue to work with them, but they are fairly closed to outside influence and few are evangelical believers.
- d) **The Metropolitan French** (bureaucrats or business people) usually stay only a few years. Very few are involved with a church.

**6** **Bible translation** is still a challenge as Melanesian languages are now used in the schools. There are five works in progress, and up to 20 other languages need further attention. Pray for the ongoing work and for the calling and equipping of new translation teams. Praise God for the completion of Bibles in Futunan and Wallisian and of the NT in Paici.