



The Treaty of Waitangi, between the Maori and the British in 1840, granted the latter the right to settle in exchange for guarantees of Maori land and natural resources. This treaty was repeatedly dishonoured, causing much pain for the Maoris, much legal debate and spiritual concern as well. Independent of Britain in 1907. A stable parliamentary democracy with the British Monarch as official head of state. Regarded as one of the least corrupt nations, if not the least corrupt, in the world.

# New Zealand

Aotearoa

Pacific

## Geography

**Area** 267,515 sq km. Two mountainous main islands 1,600 km southeast of Australia.

Population	Ann Gr	Density
2010	4,303,457	0.92% 16/sq km
2020	4,669,002	0.78% 17/sq km
2030	4,971,630	0.58% 19/sq km

**Capital** Wellington 395,000. **Other major city** Auckland 1.4 million. About 30% of the population live in the Auckland area. **Urbanites** 86.8%. **Pop under 15 yrs** 20%. **Life expectancy** 80.1 yrs.

## Peoples

**European** 73.1%. 29 groups. Over 75% of this group are from British roots, but other Europeans increasing.

**Pacific Islanders** 20.0%. Maori 13.4%; Samoan 3.0%; Cook Is 1.3%; Tongan 1.0%.

**Asian** 6.3%. Chinese(4) 2.8%; Indo-Pakistani 1.7%.

**Other** 0.6%.

**Literacy** 99%. **Official languages** English, Maori. Samoan widely spoken. **All languages** 22.

**Indigenous languages** 4. **Languages with Scriptures** 3Bi 1w.i.p.

## Economy

Economy heavily based on tourism, export of agricultural and forest products and, increasingly, a range of technological and software-based innovations. Reform in the 1980s and 1990s was painful but effective in propelling the economy forward. The loss of workforce and knowledge to emigration is sufficient to affect the economy; with 16% of all Kiwis living overseas, only Ireland has a higher percent of its population living abroad.

**HDI Rank** 20<sup>th</sup>/182. **Public debt** 24.4% of GDP. **Income/person** \$30,030 (63% of USA).

## Politics

## Religion

Freedom of religion. No established church.

Religions	Pop %	Population	Ann Gr
Christian	53.20	2,289,439	-0.8%
Non-religious	40.92	1,760,975	3.1%
Hindu	2.02	86,930	3.9%
Buddhist	1.45	62,400	1.6%
Muslim	1.23	52,933	5.2%
Other	0.60	25,821	4.7%
Sikh	0.31	13,341	7.1%
Jewish	0.16	6,886	-1.4%
Baha'i	0.06	2,582	-2.1%
Chinese	0.05	2,152	5.5%

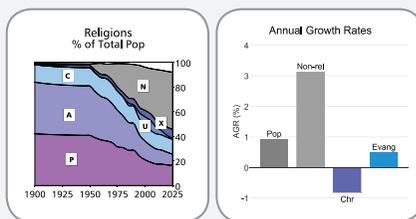
Christians	Denoms	Pop %	Affiliates	Ann Gr
Protestant	67	17.46	751,000	-0.7%
Independent	15	3.12	134,000	2.6%
Anglican	1	12.20	525,000	-1.1%
Catholic	1	12.35	532,000	0.9%
Orthodox	6	0.39	17,000	5.0%
Marginal	16	2.29	99,000	1.7%
Unaffiliated		5.40	232,000	-7.4%

Churches	MegaBloc	Congs	Members	Affiliates
Catholic Church	C	368	356,785	531,609
Anglican Church	A	584	73,529	525,000
Presbyterian Church	P	707	42,406	353,241
Methodist Church	P	168	18,507	123,441
Baptist Union	P	185	21,590	61,746
Latter-day Saints	M	122	36,744	54,749
Ratana Church	I	156	31,231	52,155
Cong Chr Ch of Samoa	P	132	11,200	28,000
Assemblies of God	P	243	16,163	27,800
Jehovah's Witnesses	M	180	12,146	20,891
Ringatu	M	70	10,509	17,550
Orthodox Churches	O	19	11,136	16,926
Christian Brethren	P	202	10,496	16,164
Seventh-day Adventist	P	80	11,630	15,468
New Life Church	I	139	6,966	11,633
Elim Pentecostal Ch	P	52	7,343	10,500
Salvation Army	P	93	3,312	10,368
Other denominations[82]		1,278	98,036	180,611
<b>Total Christians[106]</b>		<b>4,778</b>	<b>779,729</b>	<b>2,057,852</b>

TransBloc	Pop %	Population	Ann Gr
<b>Evangelicals</b>			
Evangelicals	18.2	784,015	0.5%
<b>Renewalists</b>			
Charismatics	9.4	405,485	3.1%
Pentecostals	1.9	83,023	1.8%

## Missionaries from New Zealand

P.I.A 1,250 in 128 agencies, with over 1,000 overseas to 150 countries.



## Answers to Prayer

**1** The Holy Spirit has moved in many denominations since the 1960s. A host of new charismatic and Pentecostal groups emerged, and the large mainline denominations became more evangelical. There is a wealth of dynamic new churches, and strength remains in many of the traditional churches as well. The predicted decline and disappearance of Christianity from New Zealand is very premature indeed.

**2** New Zealand as a sending nation consistently commissions a higher ratio of its church members as missionaries than the vast majority of countries. Nevertheless, the ambitious shared vision of Missions Interlink and many churches is to achieve, in time, a sending rate of 1 missionary per 1,000 committed believers, amounting to 3,000 workers – more than double the number being sent currently!

## Challenges for Prayer

**1** The increasing presence of other religious and spiritual options presents a challenge for Christians. The influx of immigrants from other faith backgrounds is an opportunity for Kiwis to share the gospel cross-culturally. More pressing, though, is the permeation of society with New Age spirituality. Its individualistic, non-structural, nature-attuned character appeals to many who are disillusioned with Christianity. Pray for ways for the gospel to be shared in an engaging and relevant manner; Jesus is still attractive to many who are turned off by organized religion.

**2** Kiwi society is increasingly post-Christian and secular. Other religions are far less a threat to the Church than basic unbelief. The last 20 years have seen significant proportional decline among Anglicans, Presbyterians, Methodists and, to a lesser extent, Catholics. Those claiming to be non-religious increased from 1.1% in 1951 to 40.9% in 2010; at current rates of change, Christianity will cease to be the majority religion before 2020. Church attendance is also in decline. About 14% attend weekly; 40% of Kiwis attended church in the past but no longer do so. Pray for:

a) *A further outpouring of the Spirit* to renew those in churches and to draw in again those who have left. 24/7 prayer rooms and other prayer groups are multiplying throughout the country, indicating that God is indeed stirring the Church.

b) *Effective training and discipleship tools* that enable all Christians, ministers and laity to connect meaningfully with the unchurched. New bridges to non-believers need to be built.

c) *New expressions of church* that are dynamic, relational, relevant and culturally appropriate to both the Pakeha (Caucasian) majority and the many minorities.

d) *Wisdom for the Church* as it comes under increasing pressure from the government to cooperate with other religions.

**3** Christian division is a threat. There are tensions in many denominations over a variety of issues, and cooperation among denominations has declined. Some tension exists among Pentecostal churches. The activity of some churches in politics is criticized by others. New Zealand Christian Network (formerly Vision Network) is a national body linking denominations and agencies that represent the majority of New Zealand's Christians. Pray God's wisdom for this group

in what is a vital ministry for the health of the Church and its testimony to non-believers.

**4 Young people** are deeply affected by the strong secular emphasis of the state education system, and relatively few are active Christians. Pray for the ministry of SU in secondary schools; TSCF (IFES) and Tandem Ministries (CCCI) in universities are important. The Churches Education Commission is the national body aiming to share God's love with all schoolchildren. TSCF has a specific ministry to the increasing numbers of international students. A popular Christian music festival, Parachute, has a large following. In a nation of sports lovers, there are some fine Christian sportsmen and women and active ministry by groups like Athletes in Action. Despite increasing biblical illiteracy and spiritual apathy, many young people are spiritually open, and a youth church movement is gaining traction. Effective new ways of introducing them to Jesus are required.

**5 The continuing Maori cultural revival** and the rapidly increasing Maori population move Maori interests higher on the agenda. The state is still coming to grips with its obligations to the Maori. Cultural dislocation in the past was a main cause of social problems such as high unemployment, relative poverty, crime, domestic violence and youth gangs. Syncretistic sects such as Ringatu and Ratana as well as the Mormons have gained large followings. Very few attend evangelical churches. Pray that Maori may find their full cultural blossoming in embracing the fullness of the gospel, and pray for a new generation of Maori evangelical leaders to emerge.

**6 New Zealand's cultural diversification** continues apace as the nation's prosperity, stability and freedoms attract immigrants. But natural increase now outstrips immigration as the largest cause of population growth (much is attributed to higher birthrates in minority populations). Challenges remain to meaningfully employ and to integrate some of these groups into the broader society. Two-thirds of Asian migrants live in Auckland, where they comprise 20% of the population. Increasing numbers of churches reach out to new immigrants with English-language classes and other practical assistance, which creates significant opportunities. Pray for these groups:

- a) **Polynesians immigrate to NZ** to seek employment. Large communities of Samoans, Tongans and Islanders from the NZ-administered Cook, Tokelau and Niue Islands live in the cities. Auckland has the largest Polynesian population of any city in the world. Many live in poorer areas of South Auckland where poverty and lack of employment are common and crime is high. But increasing numbers enter higher-profile professions such as sports, the media and the arts. Christian roots are common, but the younger generation is increasingly non-Christian.
- b) **Chinese immigrants** have a long history in New Zealand. Immigration has recently increased, with mainland Chinese swelling the numbers of those from Hong Kong and Taiwan. Chinese churches and congregations with a significant Chinese membership are multiplying. Pray that they may be challenged to daring discipleship and missions.
- c) **Indians** in increasing numbers immigrate from Fiji, India, Malaysia, South Africa and elsewhere. There are a number of Indian Christians and some outreach, but a lack of Indian Christian leadership.
- d) **Other Asian groups**, including refugees/migrants from Southeast Asia (growing in number), and the Japanese community, are predominantly Buddhist. Attempts are made to reach them, and there are some Japanese congregations.
- e) **The 7,000 Jews** have some Messianic believers and ministry to them (CWI and others).
- f) **Muslims** are a small but fast-growing community from different parts of the world. They are assertive in establishing their own congregations – there are now around a dozen mosques in Auckland alone. There is definite need for outreach from Christians; little has been done to date.
- g) **South Africans and Koreans** are two growing minorities with many churches already established. Pray for their integration into the wider Christian community; they have great potential for outreach and mission.

## **7 Specialized Christian ministries:**

- a) **Radio Rhema** has wide coverage and listenership throughout the country (10% of the population tune in at least weekly). Programmes are also produced for young people (Life FM). Besides Rhema's three radio networks across the country, they also broadcast nonstop as a Christian cable TV station.
- b) **Alpha Courses** grew phenomenally across the country with over 1,000 churches involved. Courses

such as Alpha and Christianity Explored are proving fruitful.

c) **Prison ministries** are active in many prisons. Many prisoners have been converted. Pray for them in the difficulties they face following their release.