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Brazil

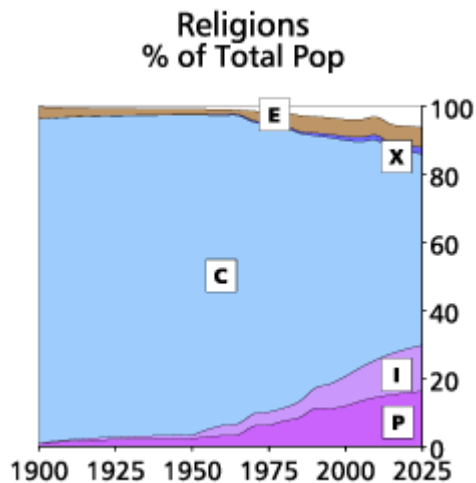
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Brazil

Federative Republic of Brazil

Latin America

[See Prayer Information](#)

Geography

Area: 8,511,965 sq km

One-half of the land surface and population of South America. The world's fifth largest country in both area and population.

Population: 195,423,252 **Annual Growth:** 0.99%

Capital: Brasilia

Urbanites: 86.5%

HDI Rank: 75 of 182 ([UN Human Development Reports 2009](#))

Peoples

Peoples: 315 (18% unreached) [All peoples](#)
[Unreached Peoples Prayer Card](#)

Pray for the Unreached
Akunsu of Brazil



Country: **Brazil**
 People: **Akunsu**
 Population: **Unknown**
 World Popl: **Unknown**
 Main Language: **French**
 Main Religion: **Ethnic Religions**
 Status: **Least-Reached**
 Christ-Followers: **Few, less than 2%**
 Bible: **Complete**

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www.joshuaproject.net

"Declare his glory among the nations" Psalm 96:3

Official language: Portuguese **Languages:** 193 [All languages](#)

Religion

Largest Religion: Christian

Religion	Pop %	Ann Gr	
Christians	178,616,852	91.40	1.1
Evangelicals	51,334,091	26.3	1.7

[Prayercast](#)

Challenges for Prayer

Catholics in Brazil number more than in any other country, but the Church itself remains in crisis. The defection rate has slowed, but it continues to lose members to evangelicals, to Spiritists and to non-religion. By 2025, Catholicism could be a minority religion, having held 95% of the population in 1950. Around 70% of ex-Catholics are now evangelicals. Even within Catholicism, only a small minority remain traditionally Catholic and faithful in practice; many others are influenced by Spiritism, nominalism or the charismatic renewal. The grassroots “Base Community” movement, the engine room of liberation theology, has lost much of its drive, but nearly one million “Bible circles” persist, hosting studies of Scripture. Pray that the Bible and its truths may mould the lives of Catholics. Other points for prayer:

- a) A desperate shortage of priests. Of the current 18,000, many are foreigners. Another 100,000 are needed to meet all the needs; currently there is one priest for every 6,300 Catholics.
- b) Increasing loggerheads with the government as the Church loses its preferred status and influence in areas such as contraception, abortion, homosexuality and transgender issues.
- c) The charismatic movement grows in strength, numbers and maturity; over 15 million are a part of this.
- d) The successes of evangelical denominations have stimulated a more people-friendly, contemporary worship and ministry and a greater growth of evangelical Catholics, as well as an increase in traditional mass attendance.

The emergence of evangelicals in Brazil has been dramatic. Yet despite the growth – from 2.9% in 1960 to 26.3% in 2010 – there are many prayer needs:

- a) Numerical rather than spiritual growth is the emphasis of too many groups, to the point of dishonest

inflation of numbers and disregard for discipleship. As a result, churches have “multiplied”, but congregations are filled with immature, unfed spiritual infants whose faith is overly based on emotionalism, petty legalism and the personality of leaders. Such zeal without maturity leads to spiritual error, nominalism, widespread church-hopping without commitment to a particular church and large-scale backsliding.

b) Prosperity theology has shaped much of Pentecostalism in Brazil, with those on top of the pyramid enjoying celebrity status and lifestyles – as well as financial scandals – while millions of poor hold out for a miracle of healing or financial blessing. Pray for a right balance between expectation of blessing and daily sanctification.

c) Leadership models are sorely lacking, as witnessed by the scandals and moral failures of some high-profile leaders characterized more by their wealth, power and lack of accountability than their humility and faithfulness. The celebrity bishop model is unsustainable, and there needs to be new ways of shaping and growing leaders who will be well suited for bringing discipleship and societal impact to Brazil’s evangelicals.

d) Effective appropriate training is a key to addressing the above issues. Rapid growth, especially among Pentecostals, has generated a dearth of trained leaders. With over 200,000 evangelical congregations, traditional education models are inadequate to meet the need. Many are making pastoral training a top priority now; Baptists, Presbyterians and Foursquare are examples of such groups developing new seminaries, TEE programmes and in-service training opportunities. AoG has over 17,000 students on 420 extension campuses, but even this is not enough to meet the need. Pray for wise and creative solutions to this challenge.

e) Unity. Evangelical denominations have mushroomed in the last 20 years as new groups form with almost every theological disagreement or inter-personal conflict. There could be over 4,000 distinct evangelical groups. The success mentality based on numbers and income can induce rivalry and jealousy. Pray for the Evangelical Association of Brazil to be a means of fostering lasting unity, fellowship and prayerful cooperation.

For an additional 10 Challenges for Prayer see Operation World [book, CD-ROM, or DVD-ROM](#).

More Information

The Operation World [book, CD-ROM, and DVD-ROM](#) provide far more information and fuel for prayer for the people of Brazil.



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