

PRAYING FOR THE WORLD ONE COUNTRY AT A TIME

“God so loved the world...” shouldn't we?

South Africa

Information compiled by Troy Garrett

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Source: [CIA World Factbook](#)



CAPITALS: Pretoria (Executive), Bloemfontein (Judicial), Cape Town (Legislative).

LOCATION: Southern Africa, on the southern tip of the African Continent.

Population: 56,978,635 (Ranked 26th in the world)

Economy: South Africa is a middle-income emerging market with an abundant supply of natural resources; well-developed financial, legal, communications, energy, and transport sectors; and a stock exchange that is Africa's largest and among the top 20 in the world. Economic growth has decelerated in recent years, slowing to an estimated 0.7% in 2017. Unemployment, poverty, and inequality - among the highest in the world - remain a challenge. Official unemployment is roughly 27% of the workforce, and runs significantly higher among black youth. Even though the country's modern infrastructure supports a relatively efficient distribution of goods to major urban centers throughout the region, unstable electricity supplies retard growth.

Religion: Christian 86%, ancestral, tribal, animist, or other traditional African religions 5.4%, Muslim 1.9%, other 1.5%, nothing in particular 5.2% (2015 est.)

Overview: Dutch traders landed at the southern tip of present-day South Africa in 1652 and established a stopover point on the spice route between the Netherlands and the Far East. After the British seized the Cape of Good Hope area in 1806, many of the settlers of Dutch descent (Afrikaners, also called "Boers" (farmers) at the time) trekked north to found their own republics. In the 1820s, several decades of wars began as the Zulus expanded their territory, moving out of what is today southeastern South Africa and clashing with other indigenous peoples and with expanding European settlements. The discovery of diamonds (1867) and gold (1886) spurred wealth and immigration from Europe. In 1948, the National Party was voted into power and instituted a policy of apartheid – billed as "separate development" of the races - which favored the white minority at the expense of the black majority and other non-white groups. The African National Congress (ANC) led the opposition to apartheid and many top ANC leaders, such as Nelson Mandela, spent decades in South Africa's prisons.

Prayers of Thanksgiving and petition:

- To end continued racial issues since Apartheid was abolished in 1994.
- To end border issues with neighboring countries over immigration and drug smuggling.
- For increasing water demand in a semiarid land.