

**AMP 5-15-16 | 9:00 - 9:30am**

**Today's Service**

- That God would draw unsaved people to our service and into his kingdom. Pray especially for those that reached by Robert's tract ministry.
- That Pastor Jon preach in God's power as he preaches on 1 John.
- That God's presence would be palpable and that all in attendance would be changed by the godness, power, and love of God.

**RPC Outreach**

- That we the people of RPC would desire to be a word and deed church.
- That God would open up great and lasting opportunities of community service for RPC.
- That God would build the community of RPC: baptisms, prayer meetings, softball, bible studies, etc.

**Regional Church**

- Pray for the other churches of our presbytery: Westminster Orthodox Presbyterian Church, Jonathan Holst (Hamden, CT); Orthodox Presbyterian Church in Bohemia, Meindert Ploegman (Bohemia, NY); Orthodox Presbyterian Church in Franklin Square, William Shishko (retiring June) (Franklin Square, NY), Trinity Church, Ben Miller (Syosset, NY), Westchester Orthodox Presbyterian Church, Dan Osborne (retiring August) (Mt. Vernon, NY), Regional Home Missionary (Starting September 2016).

**Equatorial Guinea | Basic Country Facts:**

**Operation World Denomination Statistics**



Christians	Deno ms	Pop %	Affiliates	Ann Gr
<b>Protestant</b>	10	3.35	23,000	3.6%
<b>Independent</b>	24	3.96	27,000	4.9%
<b>Catholic</b>	1	80.33	557,000	2.4%
<b>Marginal</b>	2	0.60	4,000	2.9%
<b>Unaffiliated</b>		1.80	12,000	-3.0%

**Ethnic Breakdown:** Fang 85.7%, Bubi 6.5%, Mdowe 3.6%, Annobon 1.6%, Bujeba 1.1%, other 1.4% (1994 census)

**Major Languages:** Spanish (official) 67.6%, other (includes French (official), Fang, Bubi) 32.4% (1994 census)

**Religion:** nominally Christian and predominantly Roman Catholic, pagan practices

**Population:** 740,743 (July 2015 est.)

**Life Expectancy:** male: 62.76 years female: 64.97 years (2015 est.)

**Government:** presidential republic

**Economic Conditions:** Exploitation of oil and gas deposits, beginning in the 1990's, has driven economic growth in Equatorial Guinea, allowing per capita GDP to rise to over \$29,000 in 2014. Forestry and farming are minor components of GDP. Although pre-independence Equatorial Guinea counted on cocoa production for hard currency earnings, the neglect of the rural economy since independence has diminished the potential for agriculture-led growth. Subsistence farming is the dominant form of livelihood. Declining revenue from hydrocarbon production, high levels of infrastructure expenditures, lack of economic diversification, and corruption have pushed the economy into decline in recent years and led to limited improvements in the general population's living conditions.

Foreign assistance programs by the World Bank and the IMF have been cut since 1993 because of corruption and mismanagement, and as a middle income country Equatorial Guinea is now ineligible for most donor assistance. The government has been widely criticized for its lack of transparency and misuse of oil revenues and has attempted to address this issue by working towards compliance with the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative. US foreign assistance to Equatorial Guinea is limited in part because of US restrictions pursuant to the Trafficking Victims Protection Act.

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Equatorial Guinea hosted two economic diversification symposia in 2014 that focused on attracting investment in five sectors: agriculture and animal ranching, fishing, mining and petrochemicals, tourism, and financial services. Undeveloped mineral resources include gold, zinc, diamonds, columbite-tantalite, and other base metals.

**GDP Per Capita:** \$33,300 (2015 est.)

**GDP - composition, by sector of origin:** agriculture: 5.1% industry: 85.7% services: 9.2% (2014 est.)

**Education:** Under the regime of dictator Francisco Macias, education had been significantly neglected, with few children receiving any type of education. Under President Obiang, the illiteracy rate dropped from 73% to 13%, and the number of primary school students has risen from 65,000 in 1986 to more than 100,000 in 1994.

Education in Equatorial Guinea is free and compulsory until the age of 14. Late entry into the school system and high dropout rates are common, and girls are more likely than boys to drop out of school, with enrolment at about 24 percent of all age-eligible students.

Primary education is for five years followed by four years of secondary in the first stage and three subsequent years of secondary education in the second stage.

It is estimated that about 45 percent of all students complete their primary education. The student-to-teacher ratio for primary school was at about 43:1 in 2000; the ratio for secondary school was about 23:1.

The National University of Equatorial Guinea is the primary institute of higher learning. The adult literacy rate for 2004 was estimated at about 84.2 percent, with 92.1 percent for men and 76.4 percent for women.

As of 2003, public expenditure on education was estimated at 0.6% of GDP, or 1.6% of total government expenditures.

(wiki)

**Religion:** The principal religion in Equatorial Guinea is Christianity, the faith of 93% of the population. Roman Catholics make up (87%), while a minority are Protestants (5%). 2% of the population follows Islam (mainly Sunni). The remaining 5% practise Animism, Bahá'í Faith, and other beliefs. (wiki)

### **Prayer Points:**

- The unusual politico-economic situation of Equatorial Guinea betrays a massive gap between the haves and have-nots. Pray for the following issues:
  - a) Economic justice. Millions of dollars of oil money enrich a minority, as Western oil companies happily collude with a regime possessing a less-than-stellar human rights record in order to obtain their own profits. Spending on infrastructure (especially in the capital) is increasing, but very little trickles down to the masses. A battle with corruption and an historic governmental unfamiliarity with how to steward such wealth mean prayer for wisdom is needed.
  - b) The oil boom brings in foreigners, most drawn by wealth, and includes an influx of evangelical Christians and Muslims. Pray that foreign companies might do business in a way that benefits the local people. Pray that expat believers might be moved to engage with the spiritual and physical needs of the nation.
  - c) Political freedoms. In over 30 years, the country has had only two rulers. Opposition parties do not have the freedom to operate that a multiparty democracy should offer. Freedom of the press is limited. Some progress is being made, however. (OW 1)
- The vast majority are Roman Catholic, the highest percentage of any African nation. But beneath the surface of the imposed colonial religion lies the reality that animistic beliefs and practices were never abandoned. Pray that the 85% who claim Christianity – without having been born again – might hear and respond to the true gospel of Jesus Christ. (OW 2)
- An encouraging increase in religious freedom has occurred alongside a number of newer, growing Pentecostal, charismatic and evangelical denominations (AoG, Deeper Life, several indigenous denominations). Pray for purity of life and fervency of evangelism in the churches despite the prevailing poverty, corruption and despair. The government has actually been quite positive about the potential role of the Church and missions in developing society, a much-needed foil to the oil-oriented multinational corporations. (OW 3)
- Missionaries have increased in number, including growing numbers from West and Central Africa, but they need wisdom in the convoluted socio-political situation. Several delicate and difficult situations in relating to indigenous leadership have occurred in recent years. Pray for grace and humility on the part of both expats and nationals. The main agencies are: EqGuiMsn, YWAM, AoG, WEC. (OW 5)
- The Bible Society and AoG distribute Scriptures, but importing and distributing networks are a challenge. Seven indigenous languages have Scriptures. However, most of these translations are archaic. The Fang NT is being translated by Outreach International/Asociacion Cristiana de Traducciones Biblicas; pray for its completion. CLC runs a bookshop in Bata, and there are numerous audio and video resources in Fang and other languages. (OW 7)