

# PRAYING FOR THE WORLD

WEEK 11, MARCH 15-21

## Indigenous, tribal and animistic peoples



**L**ocal ethnic or folk religions have seen great losses to the larger religious movements. They were the dominant faith among 30% of the world in 1900 but only among 9% today.

Yet traditional religion has not gone away. Many followers of world religions wear their faith lightly and remain, at heart, followers of folk religions: shamanists, idol worshippers, spiritists or ancestor worshippers. The worldwide fascination with spells, amulets, crystals, and the occult highlights the power of the old ways. People who claim to connect with the spirit-world are still in demand around the world. Their presence is a kind of tax on fear.

Yet people who have turned to Christ from folk religion testify to the power of Christ over

spells, curses, fears, taboos and superstitions—and also in the life-and-death issues like sin and forgiveness.

🙏 Pray for the light of Christ to shine ever brighter into the world of animism.

🙏 Pray for any whose lives are governed by fear and superstition that they will find peace and rest in God.

🙏 Pray that the Holy Spirit will bring repentance and new life to animists whether they are outside the Church or nominally members of it.

## THE NATIONS

### BRAZIL



**B**razil is South America's largest and most influential country, a democracy, home to 211 million people, with a free press and a large economy. Weighing the country down is the aftermath of a severe economic recession, very high crime rates and widespread corruption.

The Lava Jato ('Car Wash') investigation into business, bribery and politics in Brazil is uncovering what has been called 'the biggest corruption scandal in the world'. The 2018 election saw voters turn from the political class and elect a populist, anti-establishment president.

Around 180 million Brazilians claim to be Christians; of these, more than 50 million identify as evangelicals. Brazilian Christianity is a powerful force and a blessing to the world. Its Church has sent out many missionaries who have revitalized Christian work in many places. Thousands attend mass prayer-meetings.

Poverty is generally declining in Brazil, but it still affects tens of millions of people. Many city-dwellers live in poverty-stricken, crime-ridden favelas. Especially exploited are the poor, street children and indigenous peoples.

🙏 Pray for clean, wise, good government for Brazil.

🙏 Pray for the Church to grow, mature, and reach into every part of Brazilian society.

🙏 Pray that the Brazilian Church will continue to be a major missionary sending force in the global Church.

*Praying for the World* is a free weekly prayer guide to inspire and inform the whole church to pray for the whole world. Visit [www.lausanne.org/pray](http://www.lausanne.org/pray) to start any week. Created through the partnership of Operation World and the Lausanne Movement.

 Lausanne Movement

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