

*For God so loved
the world...
shouldn't we?*

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***Praying for the World
One Country at Time***



**Belgium
April 24th, 2011**

Belgium



Full Name

Belgium

Capital

Brussels

Location

Western Europe

Leadership

federal parliamentary democracy under a constitutional monarchy

Overview

Belgium is made up of two primary cultures: the French-speaking Walloons and the Flemish, whose culture and language are much closer to the Netherlands. The country is split into the Walloon region, the Flemish region, and the capital region (Brussels). There is a small German-speaking section of the country that falls into the Walloon region. The parliament is divided along regional (linguistic) lines between the Walloons and the Flemish; there is long-standing tension between the two cultures. Prime Minister Guy Verhofstadt served as Prime Minister from 1999 until 2007. In the 2007 elections, the Verhofstadt government fared poorly, resulting in a political crisis that lasted from December 2007 to March 2008. During this time, it was widely speculated that there may be a partition of the two countries.

Verhofstadt's government was succeeded by Flemish Christian Democrat, Yves Leterme. Although Leterme resigned as prime minister a year ago (April 22, 2010), his lame duck government is still operating, awaiting the end of deadlocked negotiations for a new government.

Brussels is the capital of the EU (much like Washington, DC is our capital)



Population

10.5 million

Religion

most of the country is Catholic, however, fewer than 6% of the people attend church

Economy

Global and capitalist. In 2007 was the 15th largest trading nation in the world. Local economy is very service oriented with a dynamic Flemish economy and the Wallon lagging behind.

Prayer Concerns

Pray for the tensions and disagreements between the Flemish and Walloons, pray for God to guide them in the way of brotherhood as they continue their journey toward a new government. People in the Brussels area of Belgium are quite multi-cultural because of Brussels being the capital of the region. Prayers for the many leaders of European countries that live and work in Brussels.