

Bosnia & Herzegovina



This beautiful, yet war-torn country about the size of West Virginia is home to 4.5 million. After the Ottomans conquered the area in the 15th century, many people became Muslims—mostly because they received benefits for converting. Today the people remain culturally tied to three religious groups. Most of the Bosnians are Muslims; many of the Serbs are Orthodox, and the Croats are mainly Roman Catholic. Less than two percent of the population follows Christ; in the Serbian part of the country there are only a handful of believers. Bosnia has been called Europe's least-evangelized country.



Capital: Sarajevo
Border Countries: Croatia, Serbia, Montenegro



Great Hope

The tiny evangelical witness that entered this country in 1991 has grown. Praise God that evangelical believers have gained credibility through their efforts to bridge the gap between ethnic groups. A team of national believers that is affiliated with the International Fellowship of Evangelical Students is actively serving among Christian students throughout the country. They offer training in Bible study skills, evangelism, and godly living. This team also works with non-Christian students, mainly in Sarajevo, living out the Gospel and developing friendships. God has used outreaches such as English and computer classes as well as seminars at universities.

Great Opportunity

Bosnia and Herzegovina is an area where North Americans can provide rehabilitation, business training, and outreach ministries in a culturally sensitive manner. Few people there have seen the Gospel lived out or heard the message of hope. Ministry among young people would be effective, as thousands of students live in the capital. The country is also a key place to reach out to Muslims because it is home to large Gypsy and Turkish populations as well as the Bosniaks, most of whom follow Islam. If these people were transformed by Christ, they could reach Islamic people in places that are closed to Westerners.

▶ Prayer Points

- ▶ Pray that Muslims, Orthodox, and Catholics would find healing from the wounds of the past and peace with one another through Christ.
- ▶ Pray that God will strengthen local believers and increase their witness.
- ▶ Pray that God's Spirit will move in Bosnia and Herzegovina and turn hearts to Christ.
- ▶ Pray that God will give local evangelical groups a vision for discipling believers and transforming society. Pray that these groups will receive permission to build churches.