

NMI Central

NAZARENE MISSIONS INTERNATIONAL

7 June 2023

Mesoamerica Region



Mexico

Mexico is one of the earliest areas of missions focus for the Church of the Nazarene. In 1903, the Church of the Nazarene began to establish churches in Mexico. Once the center of the ancient Aztec Empire, through Spanish conquest and the spread of smallpox during the 16th century, the power and population of Mexico was decimated. Ultimately, Mexico received its independence from Spain in 1821, and in the 19th century lost its northern territories to the United States. Mexico City is considered one of the great mega-cities of the western hemisphere with a population of 22.2 million living within its metropolitan area. Mexico has often struggled with revolution and unrest and has in recent years been the crossroads of refugees trying to find their way north. As you will read, many of these refugees and dispossessed persons from countries to their south have struggled not only with the journey but also with the disease and disillusionment of migration. Yet, Nazarenes in Mexico have welcomed those who were suffering and those who sought to mitigate that suffering with the compassionate touch of Jesus.



79,988 Members



692 Fully Organized Churches; 213 Not Yet Organized Churches



399 District Licensed and 498 Ordained Ministers on 15 Districts

PRAYER



- Pray for the pastors, some of whom have been affected by economic problems, illnesses, and in some cases, discouragement. Pray for these and all the pastors who are seeking to lead their churches in spiritual growth. Their testimony is: "In all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us" (Romans 8:37).
- Pray with us for the new generations, that God will raise up the necessary leadership for the growth of His work. There are still churches without a pastor, and committed people are needed who have a call to serve God through evangelism and discipleship, bringing people to Christ.

PRAISE



- We thank God that throughout the pandemic, from our southern to northern borders, God has helped us to provide support to undocumented immigrants with food, clothing, and other basic needs. The Church of the Nazarene, together with Nazarene Compassionate Ministries, provide support. There are exciting reports of evangelism taking place in the centers where this work is ongoing.
- We thank God for our leaders and for the resources provided by the Church of the Nazarene, including an emphasis on mentoring. District teams have been formed that train and motivate leaders to mentor others.



Kids Kaleidoscope

In an effort to provide resources and activity materials for children that will help them understand the importance of missions, highlighted through stories provided in NMI Central, Kids Kaleidoscope has been developed specifically for children. It will be released as a monthly addition to the first NMI Central of the month. This is our second Kids Kaleidoscope, and we pray it will awaken and nurture a spirit of missions in the hearts of children. To access Kids Kaleidoscope, click [here](#).

NMI SNAPSHOT



Nazarene Medical Corps Serves More than 600 Migrants in Mexico

A Nazarene medical corps provided more than 600 medical consultations to the migrant community on the southern Mexican border area of Tapachula, Chiapas. They also led a special time for more than 50 children who heard the message of the gospel.

The corps mobilized from September 24-26, during the Covid-19 pandemic, and attended to people from Haiti, Central America, and South America. Among the most frequent conditions they encountered were gastrointestinal issues, headaches, chronic diseases, dermatitis, cavities and dental pain, muscle pain, and emotional pain.



The volunteer health professionals in great part are young and from south, Sierra, South Pacific, and the southern border districts and include general medical doctors, nurses, radiologists, physical therapists, and psychologists.



Doctor Aparicio, from the corps, said that one mother originally from El Salvador came to them worried about the health of her daughter who had symptoms such as diarrhea, fever, and weight loss. While the doctor was assisting this young patient, she gave her diagnosis, medications, and she also shared the message of faith and hope in Jesus Christ.



During this time of serving, the team noticed the presence of many children in the nearby park, and they invited them to play games and sing children’s songs. This allowed them to present the message of Jesus Christ, to pray with them, and to identify various emotional problems. “It was a beautiful time,” said Edi Montejo of NCM in Mexico.



“The Word of God as declared in Mark 9:41 says, ‘Truly I tell you, anyone who gives you a cup of water in my name because you belong to the Messiah will certainly not lose their reward,’” said Montejo. “Everyone can help; we can motivate the churches of the Nazarene around the world to serve with love, respect, and grace, to participate with sincerity in local Nazarene Compassionate Ministries. This is what it means to live the practical holiness of God.”

Could You Serve?

Is God calling you to serve those who are helping the migrant and dispossessed? For more information, click [here](#).



See the past archive of NMI Central publications [here](#).



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