

NMI Central

NAZARENE MISSIONS INTERNATIONAL

22 November 2023

South America Region



Colombia

Colombia, once a colony of Spain, gained its independence as a separate state from what had been known as Gran Colombia (Colombia, Ecuador, and Venezuela) in 1831. The Church of the Nazarene began its work there in 1975. Colombia has struggled under decades of conflict between government forces paramilitaries, and anti-government insurgent groups heavily funded by the drug trade. However, in 2016, the Colombian Government signed a final peace accord, ratified by the Colombian Congress, that called for members of these groups to demobilize, disarm, and reincorporate into society and politics. Despite decades of internal conflict and drug-related security challenges, Colombia maintains relatively strong and independent democratic institutions characterized by peaceful, transparent elections and the protection of civil liberties. In this context, marked by so many past divisive and dark influences, the Church of the Nazarene seeks to bring light and live out a vibrant incarnational presence of Christ, impacting the country with grace and peace, and an example of the restoration of unity, made possible by the work of the Holy Spirit. Former South America Regional Director, Dr. Christian Sarmiento, now 45th General Superintendent, is from Colombia and was instrumental in the establishment of the Church of the Nazarene in that country.



20,866 Members



89 Fully Organized Churches; 10 Not Yet Organized Churches



140 District Licensed and 41 Ordained Ministers on 8 Districts

PRAYER



- Pray for a revival, a spiritual awakening in the 89 organized churches in Colombia, and for new pastors.
- Pray for new generations that the Lord allows us to inspire, discover, and give leadership platforms to.
- Pray that the Lord will protect and guide national, district, and local leaders, as they live out the Great Commission.

PRAISE



- Praise God for the 53 new MTIs (Mission type Church) that have been gathering in the country.
- Praise God for the two new pioneer districts that were opened in Colombia, leading to renewal and new churches.
- Praise God that Colombia has been blessed the last two years with missionary families serving in the country.
- Praise God that we are experiencing new times of great blessing for the Colombian Nazarene churches.

NMI SNAPSHOT



On Friday, April 7, the third celebration of “Mission Exodus” took place in the city of Girón, Santander, in Colombia. The invitation is aimed at the entire community to celebrate the redemptive work of Jesus on the cross through theater, music, dance, and the exposition of the Word. The message of the gospel of hope and restoration was preached to more than 1,700 people who attended.



God’s response was reflected in healing, provision, and restoration, to which many testified who unashamedly placed their faith in Him.

Pastors Milton and Gina Matheus started the “Mission Exodus” event when they saw a particular situation in the city. There were many people of other confessions making a pilgrimage to celebrate Easter; at the same time, the evangelical churches had their Easter celebration inside the churches. By holding an outdoor event, it is possible to provide a space where the church celebrates Easter, but at the same time, the people who are celebrating in their own way can come into contact with the church.



“For us, it is so satisfying to see the commitment of the Church to preach the Word and to see the passion they have to do so. Almost three months ago, we made a commitment to prayer, evangelization, and, in the end, this event. Now is the harvest of an entire work, of an exercise of faith. The task does not end here, but rather, it is the beginning of a whole work of discipling new believers. It is very special to see God move through people. How God uses these congregations to reach people, even so that people are healed, and families restored. We have many testimonies of both past events and this one, of people whom God has touched, healed, and restored. The beautiful thing is that God did it through the church, and the event is the platform where we see God work in people.” Pastor Milton.

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