

## PRAYER REQUESTS

### *Pray for...*

- *the countries in Central America that have experienced natural disasters such as hurricanes and earthquakes, that with the assistance of brothers and sisters around the world, they may be able to rebuild their communities and live abundant lives.*
- *partner churches in Latin America and the Caribbean that their faith and hope may inspire Disciples and UCC congregations for newness of life.*
- *programs developed and implemented by churches and ecumenical partners which will provide quality of life especially for women and children.*
- *economic justice in Latin America and the Caribbean.*
- *indigenous peoples that they may be able to live freely and according to their own ancestral traditions in their own lands.*
- *missionaries who have responded to God's call to accompany and serve brothers and sisters, that they may be able to be witnesses to God's grace and love.*



## Latin America and the Caribbean

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## Latin America and the Caribbean



## GLOBAL MINISTRIES

A common witness of the Division of Overseas Ministries, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), and Wider Church Ministries, United Church of Christ

## VISION/MISSION PRIORITIES

Latin America and the Caribbean is a land of miracles and challenges. Natural disasters such as hurricanes, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, floods, and drought plague many of the countries in the region. Civil wars and military regimes are also part of their recent history. Although poverty and lack of economic development can also describe most of the nations, these are people of faith and hope. Latin American and Caribbean people rise up from the ashes to dream and work for the future.

Global Ministries affirms the presence and witness of 74 church/ecumenical partners in 20 countries, including 23 national denominations, 2 regional councils of churches, 4 national councils of churches, and the work of 29 missionaries and volunteers in 14 countries. Missionary assignments throughout the region include: pastoral work, family counseling, health projects, theological education, primary-secondary education, ecumenical relationships, and ministry among women, youth, children, indigenous communities, and street people, ecology, humanitarian aid, human rights advocacy, reconstruction/development efforts.



### Human Rights

Indigenous peoples' rights in the region have been violated for over 500 years. The people continue to suffer violations of their human rights in many ways. The indigenous peoples' rights have been violated for over 500 years. Women and children are the most vulnerable of the population. The deterioration of economies provides fertile ground for more violation of human rights. To face these challenges, Global Ministries has the following priorities:

- To affirm indigenous peoples' struggle for equal rights and recognition of their dignity. Priority is given to those people with whom Global Ministries partners work: in Guatemala; on the eastern coast of Nicaragua; in Ecuador; the Toba people of El Chaco Province, Argentina; the Guaraní people of Paraguay; and the Yaruro/Guajiro communities of Venezuela.

- To increase opportunities to address human rights violations throughout the region.
- To respond to issues affecting women and children, and the effects of militarization and repression in Chiapas and Colombia.

### The Church

Partner churches continue to nurture the faith and hope of the people. In the midst of all the problems and difficulties in the region, the churches are strong and growing. In light of this reality, Global Ministries has the following priorities for the region:

- To utilize the evangelistic fervor of Latin America/Caribbean partner churches to inspire and energize the church in the US and Canada.
- To strengthen the Church's presence and witness in Cuba, and increase efforts to combat the isolation currently experienced by its people.

### Globalization

In a world of interconnectedness, globalization has had a negative impact on the frail economies of this region. The gap between rich and poor grows wider, and there seems to be no solution. To face this challenge, Global Ministries has the following priority:

- To help empower poor churches and communities in their search to find positive alternatives in the face of these effects, and that of environmental destruction and disasters.