CORNERSTONE

Cornerstone - Global Ministries

One Nation at a Time – ECUADOR

Grace and peace to you in our Lord! In order to facilitate a global perspective amongst the staff and communities, we have put together a template to encourage the body to pray for a specific country and partnership each week.

Pray for All People:

1 First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, **2** for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. **3** This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, **4** who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

--1 Timothy.2:1-4

"...The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective."

--James.5:16b

If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact us at 805.581.9532 or e-mail:

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The Country

What is now Ecuador formed part of the northern Inca Empire until the Spanish conquest in 1533. Quito became a seat of Spanish colonial government in 1563 and part of the Viceroyalty of New Granada in 1717. The territories of the Viceroyalty - New Granada (Colombia), Venezuela, and Quito - gained their independence between 1819 and 1822 and formed a federation known as Gran Colombia. When Quito withdrew in 1830, the traditional name was changed in favor of the "Republic of the Equator." Between 1904 and 1942, Ecuador lost territories in a series of conflicts with its neighbors. A border war with Peru that flared in 1995 was resolved in 1999. Although Ecuador marked 25 years of civilian governance in 2004, the period has been marred by political instability. Protests in Quito have contributed to the mid-term ouster of Ecuador's last three democratically elected Presidents. In September 2008, voters approved a new constitution; Ecuador's twentieth since gaining independence. General elections, under the new constitutional framework, were held in April 2009.

Facts and Figures

Capitol City: Quito

Population: 14,573,101 (July 2009 est.)

Religion: Roman Catholic 95%, other 5%

Language: Spanish (official), Amerindian languages (especially Quechua)

The Church

The culture has been strongly molded by Catholicism, so though there is freedom of religion, rural populations have not been so receptive to change. However, the impact of the gospel on sections of the Quichua is a modern-day miracle. In 1967, there were only 120 believers among 3 million people; now there are some areas with 45-50% Evangelicals.

Our Prayer

- Pray for unity that transcends class, culture, personalities and denominational labels so that the body of Christ may exert a decisive influence on the life of the nation in the 21st century.
- Please pray for improved availability and quality of pastoral training. Bible schools and seminaries are increasing in number, but insufficiently to meet the need.
- Pray for the less-evangelized—the slum-dwellers of Quito and Guayaquil. Over 60% of the latter's population lives in slums built on a polluted marsh. Few Christian workers have a vision for these deprived people.

Our Partnerships

- Please pray for **The Payne Family**. Phil and Elizabeth brought their family to Quito to work with Youth World/International Teams in 1999. The Lord has richly blessed their ministry in Ecuador. Join them in praying for wisdom in how to lead this growing organization and for the leaders that they are discipling. They ask for daily grace, vision, and boldness as they live out the Gospel in their community.
- Please pray for **Ashley Ruffner**. She, too, is serving with Youth World/International Teams in Quito. Her vision is to be a living example of Christ through intentionally loving, mentoring, serving, and empowering the youth of Ecuador! Ashley is a part of ministering to the international students and expatriate youth. She sees it as her goal to help teach and equip these youth to be leaders and disciples of Jesus Christ. Ashley is also a part of exposing youth groups to missions and the world. She sees this as a vital role in training young people.

*Some statistics and information were gathered from the Operation World Prayer Calendar and CIA World Factbook.