

**Cornerstone - Global Ministries**

# One Nation at a Time - GUATEMALA


**The Country**

The Mayan civilization flourished in Guatemala and surrounding regions during the first millennium A.D. After almost three centuries as a Spanish colony, Guatemala won its independence in 1821. During the second half of the 20th century, it experienced a variety of military and civilian governments, as well as a 36-year guerrilla war. In 1996, the government signed a peace agreement formally ending the conflict, which had left more than 100,000 people dead and had created, by some estimates, some 1 million refugees.\*

**Facts and Figures**

**Capital City:** Guatemala City

**Population:** 13,276,517 (July 2009 est.)

**Religion:** Roman Catholic, Protestant, indigenous Mayan beliefs

**Language:** Spanish 60%, Amerindian languages 40% (23 officially recognized Amerindian languages, including Quiche, Cakchiquel, Kekchi, Mam, Garifuna, and Xinca)\*

**Transnational Issues:** Guatemala is a source, transit, and destination country for Guatemalans and Central Americans trafficked for the purposes of commercial sexual exploitation and forced labor; human trafficking is a significant and growing problem in the country; Guatemalan women and children are trafficked within the country for commercial sexual exploitation, primarily to Mexico and the United States; Guatemalan men, women, and children are also trafficked within the country, and to Mexico and the United States, for forced labor


**The Church**

Praise God for the amazing growth of the Evangelical Church in Guatemala, which has grown from 3% in 1960 to 26% in 2000. Thank God for the dedication of missionaries and the effective witness of Guatemalan Christians which have resulted in a great harvest of believers. One community, Almolonga, is believed to be 90% Evangelical. \*

**Our Prayer**

- Pray for those how have made professions of faith, that their faith would be mature and steadfast.
- Pray that as being Evangelical is becoming 'popular', Guatemalan churches might be led by humble and effective leadership who encourage solid growth and a dynamic relationship with Christ.
- Please pray, as the Guatemalan missionary movement has been gaining momentum, for those who would be sent out, that they would receive the support they need to serve as cross-cultural missionaries and that missionary training centers would continue to flourish and prepare those to be sent.

**Our Partnerships**

- Please pray for **Roca de Ayuda's** founder, **Isaura Escobar**, who established the ministry in 1990. The government has recognized RDA as a national asset in its effort to relieve pain and suffering among its population. Pray that Isaura would continue to find favor and establish relationships within the national political arena as well as the local church.
- Praise God that he has allowed RDA to serve thousands of children and families since its inception. Pray that the programs that are being developed are sustainable.
- Please pray for **Hope for Guatemala**, a ministry that cares for orphans in Mixco. Cornerstone supports **Brandon and Shanna Christensen**, who are missionaries with HFG and are home on educational furlough so Brandon can attend seminary.

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

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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