

AMP 8-30-15 | 9:00 - 9:30am

Today's Service

- That God would draw unsaved people to our service, and into his kingdom.
- That Dick Gerber, OPC Minister from Willow Grove, PA would preach in God's power as he is filling the Reformation Pulpit while Pastor Jon and his family are away.
- That God's presence would be palpable and that all in attendance would be changed by the goodness, power, and love of God.

RPC Outreach

- That we the people of RPC would desire to be a word and deed church.
- That God would open up great and lasting opportunities of community service for RPC.
- That the congregational meeting on September 13th will be well attended. We will be voting to ordain Tom Harmon as an elder, voting to install a pastor, and voting to petition Presbytery to become a particular church of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church. Pray also for the Session meeting on September 10th and the Presbytery meeting on the 19th.
- BBQ&A will be held at Cunningham Park on September 13 & 20. Pray that it would be well attended and that it would be a time of good fellowship, service, and edification for all involved. Pray for Pastor Jon's preparations for the message he gives and for his answers to the questions he receives.

Regional Church

- Pray for the other churches of our presbytery: Westminster Orthodox Presbyterian Church, Jonathan Holst (Hamden, CT); Orthodox Presbyterian Church in Bohemia, Meindert Ploegman (Bohemia, NY); Orthodox Presbyterian Church in Franklin Square, William Shishko (Franklin Square, NY), Trinity Church, Ben Miller (Syosset, NY), Westchester Orthodox Presbyterian Church, Dan Osborne (Mt. Vernon, NY).

Maldives | Basic Country Facts:

Operation World Denomination Statistics



Christians	Deno ms	Pop %	Affiliates	Ann Gr
Protestant	290	7.39	8,172,000	3.9%
Independent	21	2.43	2,689,000	3.1%
Anglican	1	0.03	28,000	2.3%
Catholic	1	82.62	96,945,000	0.8%
Orthodox	3	0.03	38,000	-1.0%
Marginal	52	2.61	2,889,000	2.2%
Unaffiliated		1.22	1,348,000	2.9%
Doubly Affiliated		-6.29	-6,965,000	0.0%

Ethnic Breakdown: mestizo (Amerindian-Spanish) 62%, predominantly Amerindian 21%, Amerindian 7%, other 10% (mostly European) Note: Mexico does not collect census data on ethnicity (2012 est.)

Major Languages: Spanish only 92.7%, Spanish and indigenous languages 5.7%, indigenous only 0.8%, unspecified 0.8% Note: indigenous languages include various Mayan, Nahuatl, and other regional languages (2005)

Religion: Roman Catholic 82.7%, Pentecostal 1.6%, Jehovah's Witnesses 1.4%, other Evangelical Churches 5%, other 1.9%, none 4.7%, unspecified 2.7% (2010 est.)

Population: 121,736,809 (July 2015 est.)

Life Expectancy: male: 72.88 years female: 78.55 years (2015 est.)

Government: federal republic

Economic Conditions: Mexico's \$1.3 trillion economy has become increasingly oriented toward manufacturing in the 21 years since the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) entered into force. Per capita income is roughly one-third that of the US; income distribution remains highly unequal. Mexico has become the United States' second-largest export market and third-largest source of imports. Mexico has free trade agreements with 46 countries, putting more than 90% of trade under free trade agreements. Although the economy is expected to experience stronger growth in 2015 as a result of increased investment and stronger demand for Mexican exports, growth is predicted to remain below potential for reasons of inefficiencies, with a large portion of the economy and workforce in the informal sector, and corruption. The increasing integration of supply chains, development of the energy sector, and government-to-government focus on trade facilitation will continue to make the North American region increasingly competitive and contribute to Mexican economic development and strength.

GDP Per Capita: \$17,900 (2014 est.)

GDP - composition, by sector of origin: agriculture: 3.5% industry: 36.4% services: 60.1% (2014 est.)

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Education: In 2004, the literacy rate was at 97% for youth under the age of 14 and 91% for people over 15, placing Mexico at the 24th place in the world rank according to UNESCO.

The National Autonomous University of Mexico ranks 190th place in the Top 200 World University Ranking published by The Times Higher Education Supplement in 2009. Private business schools also stand out in international rankings. IPADE and EGADE, the business schools of Universidad Panamericana and of Monterrey Institute of Technology and Higher Education respectively, were ranked in the top 10 in a survey conducted by The Wall Street Journal among recruiters outside the United States. (wiki)

State of the Church: Catholicism is the dominant religion in Mexico, with about 82.7% of the population as of 2010. In recent decades the number of Catholics has been declining, due to the growth of other Christian denominations - especially various Protestant churches and Mormonism - which now constitute 9.7% of the population, and non-Christian religions. Conversion to non-Catholic denominations has been considerably slower than in Central America, and central Mexico remains one of the most Catholic areas in the world.

An estimated 2 to 5 million Mexicans (~2% to ~4.5%) adhere to the veneration of Santa Muerte, and most of them see themselves as members of the Catholic Church, even though the Vatican condemns this practice. Movements of return and revival of the indigenous Mesoamerican religions (Mexicayotl, Toltecayotl) have also appeared in recent decades. Buddhism and Islam have both made limited inroads, through immigration and conversion. (wiki)

Prayer Points:

- Mexico is a growing nation that is still discovering its own identity. Meso-American origins, Hispanic history and a dynamic but turbulent relationship with its neighbours all shape Mexico profoundly. This search often manifests itself through religious identity (both animist and Catholic) and the inevitable accompanying anti-Protestant sentiment. Pray that Mexicans, both indigenous and mestizo, might find their ultimate identity and destiny in the love of Christ and the purposes of God. (OW 1)
- Many socio-economic challenges face Mexico. The state recognizes the difficulty of traditional solutions and increasingly invites Christians and churches to show initiative and partnership in meeting the many human needs. Pray for:
 - a) The poor, both the impoverished rural poor and the exploited slum-dwellers. While the president's top-priority goal is to reduce poverty, the gap between rich and poor in Mexico is the widest of all OECD nations. Fully 60% of Mexico's population struggle with poverty.
 - c) Corruption in politics and the police. The advent of multiparty politics unseated the increasingly corrupt PRI, but the problem remains in all levels of government. Corruption in government has seen millions embezzled, and corruption in the police forces allows for greater growth in organized crime.
 - d) The massive drug trade and gang violence that accompanies it. Drug trafficking is big business in Mexico – thanks to both the USA's insatiable habit and Mexico's own growing troubles. Sadly, this structure of sin brings huge amounts of money into Mexico's economy, so the desire to halt it is less than the cost and effort to do so. (OW 2)
- The relationship with the USA shapes Mexico inexorably. Despite resentment on both sides, the reality is that the countries need each other. Pray for
 - c) Immigration and labour issues. Migrant Mexican labour in California and other US border states has long been a feature of national life. They number nearly 13 million and are overwhelmingly male and predominantly young. (OW 3)
- For 300 years the Catholic Church dominated Mexico. Recent times have seen it stripped of much of its privilege and power, while retaining a high degree of cultural influence. Catholicism in Mexico is very diverse in expression, from liberation theologians to charismatics to conservatives to syncretistic "popular Catholicism". There is encouraging growth in Christ-centred renewal within the Catholic Church, but frequently the figureheads of such movements leave to start their own independent megachurches. The Alpha course is having a positive impact within Catholicism. Most Mexicans are culturally Catholic but not practicing; only 10% are regular churchgoers. Many others blend elements of Amerindian spiritism, including gods and goddesses, into folk Catholicism. Pray for renewal to spread and deepen by the Holy Spirit's power, and for the polluting influences of ancient gods and the spirit-world to be broken among those with Christo-pagan beliefs and practices. (OW 4)
- Evangelicals have grown, even amid some opposition in certain areas. Growth is in both international denominations and in vigorous newer indigenous movements. Pray that the momentum might be maintained. The highest concentrations of evangelicals are in large cities, in northern states bordering the USA and in southern states where there is a higher proportion of Amerindian peoples. Returnees from the USA are influential in bringing evangelical Christianity back with them. Many Mexicans seek a spirituality beyond what they see as empty religious traditions; both evangelicals and charismatic Catholics benefit from this searching. Pray for this growth to be sustained in both numbers and spiritual depth. (OW 5)