

AMP 1-24-16 | 9:00 - 9:30am

Today's Service

- That God would draw unsaved people to our service and into his kingdom. Pray especially for those that reached by Robert's tract ministry.
- That Pastor Jon would teach and preach in God's power in his preaching on Through the Looking Glass, a series on the Beatitudes.
- 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.

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 (sabbatical) (Syosset, NY), Westchester Orthodox Presbyterian Church, Dan Osborne (Mt. Vernon, NY).

Latin America | Basic Facts:



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Geography: Area: 20,286,362 sq km

Comprising 22 countries; 15% of the world's land area. Can be divided into three almost equal areas in terms of population and land area: Central America, Spanish South America and Brazil.

Population: 546,336,631 **Annual Growth:** 0.00%

Urbanites: 80%

Peoples:

Languages: 503

Religion

Largest Religion: Christian

Religion	Pop %	Ann Gr
Christians	503,374,334	92.14 1.1
Evangelicals	91,423,319	16.7 2.6

Answer to Prayer

- The growth of evangelicals in Latin America in the last century, especially the last generation, is spectacular. In 1900, evangelicals numbered about 700,000, or 1% of the population (only about 200,000 of these being in Spanish and Portuguese-speaking countries). By 2010, they reached 91 million, or 16.8% of the population. Most of this growth was fuelled by the steady, faithful proclamation and witness of tens of thousands of laymen and pastors planting small churches out of a passion for the gospel. The New World is home to over 35% of the world's evangelicals. (Answers to Prayer 4)

Prayer Points:

- Illegal drugs, particularly cocaine, cause untold suffering and upheaval. They have wrought havoc in the countries producing the coca leaf as a crop (Colombia, Bolivia, Ecuador, Peru, others), to the countries used for trans-shipment (Central America and Caribbean, but mostly Mexico), to the consumers (primarily the US), but in fact all countries. Addictions, broken lives, violence, crime and corruption, greed, and overwrought judicial, law enforcement and prison systems are all results of this systemic sin. Criminal cartels and leftist guerrillas are funded while legitimate governments are seemingly powerless to stop the billions of dollars enriching wicked men. Gangs involved in trafficking wield more power than the government in some areas. Quite apart from cocaine, new forms of synthetic drugs are more easily produced and harder to detect, but just as dangerous. Current strategies to end the drug trade are not effective at reducing production, demand or dealers. Pray for effective and viable policies to combat this evil, and pray that God might move in such a way as to end the seemingly insatiable appetite that fuels the whole evil structure. (Hot Spots of the Americas 1)
- Widespread human need exists, even in these relatively stable and affluent continents. Economic poverty is the most obvious, having been a defining factor for decades in the political and even theological developments in Latin America. But lack of education and literacy, health issues, lack of clean water and sanitation, and persistent urban violence and crime all continue to plague much of the region. The Caribbean has the highest murder rate of any region in the world. While democratic government continues to take root, in many countries it is a fledgling and needs both integrity by leaders and committed endurance by the population. (Hot Spots of the Americas 2)
- The influence of the Church is simultaneously waning and waxing. The religious forms once dominant in the Americas – Catholicism in Latin America and former French areas, mainline Protestantism in North America and much of the Caribbean – see a marked decline in their relative influence. Secularism, the growing presence of other world religions and the increasing personalization and subjectivization of spirituality all gravitate against classical Christian orthodoxy. Simultaneously, evangelicals and charismatics continue to grow – although not as fast as they once did – and play a greater role in both public life and social transformation. (The Church in the Americas 1)
- Maturity in the churches is a great need. Growth is undeniable in terms of numbers, finances and influence, but sanctification and maturity are often lacking. Churches that grow spectacularly often decline in the same manner. Pentecostals and charismatics demonstrate admirable evangelistic zeal and impact the poorer classes, but they have at times been weak in discipleship, interchurch fellowship and statistical and financial integrity.
 - Consumeristic attitudes toward church, where people attend based on what they can receive and therefore change churches frequently according to taste and mood. Such shallow attitudes undermine congregational health as well as personal Christian growth.
 - Theological depth and biblical understanding of the Word of God are lacking. Few churches place solid grounding in God's Word as a priority. Sermons can be Christian self-help messages rather than plumbing the depths of Scripture. As atheism and other religions assert their claims, believers must be equipped to retain confidence in the claims of Christ and to respond effectively to competing worldviews. (The Church in the Americas 3c, d)