

# NMI Central

NAZARENE MISSIONS INTERNATIONAL

27 March 2024

## Mesoamerica Region



## Nicaragua

Nicaragua gained its independence from Spain in September of 1821 and has been an independent republic since 1838. However, its more recent history has been marked by dictatorship and civil war, with swings right and left in its politics, leaving Nicaragua one of the poorest nations in Latin America. This has created a diaspora of Nicaraguans in other countries seeking some stability. Costa Rica is the country to which the largest number of working Nicaraguans emigrate, with the harvest of bananas and coffee attracting the most seasonal migration. Nicaragua has struggled to progress in its elimination of human trafficking, and low income and seasonal migration of adults to work outside the country has left the young vulnerable to sex and labor trafficking. The Church of the Nazarene established work in Nicaragua in 1937. For over eighty years, the Church of the Nazarene in Nicaragua has been touching many lives with the resurrection message of Jesus, who brings life and hope.



15,941 Members



205 Organized Churches; 16 Not Yet Organized Churches



89 District Licensed and 115 Ordained Ministers on 4 Districts

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## PRAYER



- Pray for retired pastors who have given their lives to the mission of the Church of the Nazarene, some of whose health is very precarious.
- Pray for a fresh commitment by next generations to the mission of God.
- Pray that God will call and send workers into His harvest field in Nicaragua.

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## PRAISE



- Praise God because He has opened doors to preach His word in places where we thought it would not be possible.
- Praise God for servants who have taken up the cross and followed Him to bring His word to areas facing difficult situations.

# NMI SNAPSHOT



The Church of the Nazarene in Nicaragua has sought to study and replicate the life and ministry of Jesus. This means working together across ministries in an integrated way, endeavoring to bring unity to the churches and a shared understanding that all ages matter to God.

“There is no living church without children, there is no active church without young people, and there is no history of the church without adults, which is why we all integrate as one body to be the Church to which God has called us.” (Rev. María Antonia Ponce de Picado, superintendent of the Central District of Nicaragua)



Financial resources have always been a limitation in carrying out the mission here, but God has given His people a spirit of joyful courage, a passion for the lost, and a deep desire to see His Kingdom spread throughout the nation. District leadership and local pastors find creative ways to reach more people in remote areas through integrated ministries, and God is touching many lives with the transformation of the heart. Jesus is known, and His message of love opens doors for evangelism and compassionate engagement with many who have little to live on, who walk great distances for water, and who have no electricity. Helping with food and clothing demonstrates the love of Christ, and those who live in these remote areas are coming to worship God in “enramadas” (huts covered with branches). Simplicity is not an impediment to faith and worship.



Every generation is learning that working as a single team has allowed them to reach more people with a single missionary message: God is one with the Son and the Holy Spirit. This is the model that Jesus taught us and the one that we are replicating with our work of integrated ministries.

The Church of the Nazarene of Nicaragua celebrates its missionary heritage that its ancestors lived and taught. That mission challenges the churches of today to move forward and move out, bringing the message of holiness to all generations.

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**Could You Serve?**

Is God calling you to serve on the Mesoamerica Region?

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