

PROVIDENCE CHURCH Prayer for the Nations

Costa Rica

General Information

- Population: 4,639,827
- Area: 51,100 sq. km
- Agriculturally and ecologically rich land that straddles the Central American isthmus.
- Capital: San José.
- Urbanites: 64.3% .
- Costa Rica was sparsely inhabited by indigenous people before it came under Spanish rule in the 16th century.
- Official language: Spanish. English and Mekitelyu spoken on Caribbean coast.

Challenges

- Roman Catholicism (70%) is the official state religion according to the 1949 Constitution, which at the same time guarantees freedom of religion.
- 13.8% are evangelical Protestants.
- Ministry to young people is essential, given that two-thirds of Costa Ricans are under age 30. As with many other nations, alcoholism, drug addiction, violence and immorality plague this generation. Christian student and youth ministry has been weak in the past, but vision is growing and ministry increasing. ECU(IFES) in 17 universities and 17 colleges, Alfa y Omega (CCCI), Maranatha (a Pentecostal student work) and others are very active. On the “Street of Bitterness”, located near the national university, there exist both many social problems and sustained outreach.

Prayer

- The Chinese population is increasing rapidly, with many Chinese immigrating from Taiwan and mainland China. Some have become Catholic, and there are now some growing evangelical fellowships. The Chinese Christian Mission started a work among them in 1985. Pray that workers would be raised up from both Costa Rica and the global Chinese diaspora to reach these people.
- The Meketelyu African Caribbean community on the Caribbean coast is nominally Protestant, but few people have a vital, life-affecting faith in Christ. Pray for revival within these churches and for the more dynamic Costa Rican churches to reach out to these people.
- English speakers may number more than 100,000 and are usually affluent and unconnected to any local church. Pray for ministry geared specifically toward them.

Reference

- <http://www.operationworld.org/cost>
- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Costa_Rica#Religion