

# NMI Central

NAZARENE MISSIONS INTERNATIONAL

3 August 2022

## Mesoamerica Region



## Puerto Rico

The Church of the Nazarene began work in Puerto Rico in 1944. Puerto Rico is a Caribbean island with a landscape of mountains, waterfalls, and the El Yunque tropical rainforest. It has a population of approximately 3.19 million people and the official languages are English and Spanish. In 2017, Puerto Rico was devastated by Hurricane Maria with a death toll of nearly 3,000 people. Nazarene Compassionate Ministries responded by sending thousands of Crisis Care Kits, drinking water, generators, and other humanitarian items. The global church responded with an outpouring of funds and volunteers to help Puerto Rico recover.



4,026 Members



55 Fully Organized Churches and 1 Not Yet Fully Organized Church



24 District Licensed and 45 Ordained Ministers

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## PRAYER



- Pray for the development of the Genesis Initiative in the city of Mayaguez and that the participating missionaries will be granted visas.
- Pray for the church planting projects in Utuado Village and San Sebastián.
- Pray for the health of the pastors in Puerto Rico.
- Pray for the Lord's provision for thousands of families who are in need because of the sudden and excessive increase in the cost of living in Puerto Rico.



## PRAISE

- We praise God for His faithfulness during the pandemic. Arecibo Cotto Church of the Nazarene has been able to resume in-person meetings, and there has been a great increase in the people being reached.
- We praise God because a pastor who was previously a part of the Salvation Army donated a property that includes a house at a strategic point in the town of Humacao. This has created an opportunity for the Church of the Nazarene to restart work in that area.
- We praise God for the work done by those who participated in Encuentro 2022. 7 concrete houses could be repaired in multiple towns and there was also work done in churches.
- We praise God for the commitment of pastors, their families, and lay leaders who have continued the work of the church in the midst of very challenging times.



## More than 250 Volunteers Visit Puerto Rico for Encuentro 2022



The Puerto Rico West District of the Church of the Nazarene hosted Encuentro 2022 with more than 100 Puerto Ricans and 276 visitors from the continental USA, including families, youth, and children.

Encuentro is a ministry that provides opportunities to individuals and groups in the USA to share the message of the gospel both in their communities and outside of them. This goal is accomplished through service to the community.

The team held VBS events with games and Bible stories for the children. They rebuilt the roof of a church building that was in poor condition. They also mixed and poured cement to repair the parking lots and walls of several church buildings.

n one of the Nazarene academic institutions, they provided materials for and built ramps to make the area accessible to people with special needs.

“At the beginning of this missions trip, I hoped to make a difference in the life of just one person, but I did not realize that person would be me,” said Shasta Risner, a member of the Church of the Nazarene in Valparaiso, Indiana. “I have never felt closer to God than I do now after my experience in Puerto Rico. I am grateful to each person I met and that I will be friends with for the rest of my life.”

On July 1, they held the closing service in Hatillo, Puerto Rico, where Rev. Jerry Porter, general superintendent emeritus, preached a message from the Word. More than 500 people attended the event. That afternoon, about 100 young people accepted Jesus as their Savior, including both Americans and Puerto Ricans. “We praise God for what he is doing in our youth!” said Alanys Plaza, who serves in Communications and district NYI.

“Encuentro 2022 represented quite a challenge in times like these. Nevertheless, when God is in the middle of something, it’s worth the effort,” said Marta González, Puerto Rico West District Superintendent. “Encuentro has led to an awakening of the mission and unity in the Church that marks this generation of Nazarenes to impact others with the love of Jesus and to continue His work.”

Alanys said it was a week filled with challenges, but they saw the hand of the Lord work every day. “We are fortunate to be a part of such a special church, where the Lord allows us to connect with other people! It was a privilege to serve with our American brothers and sisters and we will never forget this incredibly blessed experience.”

*-By Mesoamerica Region*

### Could You Serve?

Is God calling you to serve on the Mesoamerica Region? Click [here](#) to learn more.



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