

# NMI Central

NAZARENE MISSIONS INTERNATIONAL

26 April 2023

## Mesoamerica Region



## Puerto Rico

The work of the Church of the Nazarene began officially in 1944. For over 400 years, Puerto Rico was a Spanish colony with added influences of French, African, Irish, German, and Chinese immigration to the archipelago of islands. In 1898, the country was brought into a stronger relationship with the United States following the Spanish-American War. Puerto Rico is considered a territory of the United States under a commonwealth arrangement where the U.S. president is chief of state with the territory being administered by an elected governor. Puerto Ricans have been citizens of the United States since 1917. It is a unique arrangement for the diverse inhabitants of Puerto Rico. With increasing regularity, powerful hurricanes ravage the islands, displacing people from their homes, but the Church of the Nazarene is a haven – a place where the love of God and of His people is shared, and community is formed. We are a place of welcome, care, and belonging.



3,825 Members



55 Fully Organized Churches; 1 Not Yet Organized church



67 District Licensed and 73 Ordained Ministers on 2 Districts

---

## PRAYER



- Pray that God will continue to call new workers into the ministries of the growing churches in Puerto Rico, reaching young families, youth, and children for Christ.
- Pray for God's help as we seek to plant churches in the town of Utuado, and San Sebastian, Florida, as well as in other places where He is opening doors of opportunity for ministry and missions.
- Pray that God would provide the various resources needed for the Genesis Project in Myagüez on the Puerto Rico West District.
- Pray that God would graciously provide for the pastors and their families, direct them in their ministries, and renew their strength as they pour out their lives to His glory in Puerto Rico.



## PRAISE

- We continue to praise God on the Mesoamerica Region, for the aid that was sent to the district in September of 2022 when Hurricane Fiona struck the island, devastating large areas. Nazarene Disaster Response assisted the district in providing aid for hundreds of affected families. Distributions through our local churches opened communities to the message of God's love and a realization of our love for them.
- We thank God and Nazarene Missions International for Alabaster funds received, making it possible for us to purchase a building for the Church of the Nazarene in Manati.
- We give thanks to God for His fidelity and love for our two districts in Puerto Rico.

---

# NMI SNAPSHOT



**Puerto Rico church celebrates Holy Week with 11 newly baptized.**

The Church of the Nazarene in Aguadilla, Puerto Rico, held a very special celebration during Holy Week that included two special services and the baptism of 11 persons.

The pastor of the church, Oscar Rivera, said the celebration was doubly special as these were their first gatherings in more than two years. With the easing of COVID-19 restrictions, such as physical distancing and the limit on the number of people permitted to gather, the church was able to have these celebrations with a larger crowd.

At the first service, which was held on Good Friday, more than 190 persons came to commemorate the crucifixion of Jesus. The second service took place on Easter Sunday where more than 180 persons celebrated Jesus' resurrection.



Songs of praise, a dramatization, testimonies from members of the church, the baptism of 11 persons and Holy Communion were all part of the celebration. There was also a sermon on Jesus' words, "It is finished."

"The sanctuary was full," said Pastor Rivera, "as both members of the church and visitors attended the celebration, many of them for the first time."

"All of us who attended could feel in our spirits the presence of the Most High God, and of His Holy Spirit," commented Pastor Rivera. "The atmosphere was one of joy, and because of the great love of God to save the world, tears coursed the faces of many, as persons lifted their hands to heaven in spontaneous praise, loudly exclaiming, 'Hallelujah, glory to God!'"





One of the most beautiful moments of the service was when the 11 newly baptized members were presented in the sanctuary. They walked through the main door and up the central aisle towards the pulpit, dressed in white linen robes. The pastor presented the new brothers and sisters in Christ, each by name, while the congregation stood and received them with applause and expressions of joy and praise to God. It was very special for Pastor Rivera to mention his two children, who were also baptized!

“Although the receiving of these brothers and sisters into the church was a simple celebration, we couldn’t help but remember how similar it will be on that glorious day when our Savior and King returns and there is the marriage supper of the Lamb,” said Pastor Rivera.

Marta González, superintendent for the Puerto Rico West District, said that young Pastor Rivera, from Nicaragua, was pastoring in Miami before transferring to Puerto Rico. He has been working arduously over the years, building the ministry in his community.

### Could You Serve?

Is God calling you to serve in some way in missions? For more information about current opportunities, click [here](#).



See the past archive of NMI Central publications [here](#).



17001 Prairie Star Pkwy  
Lenexa, KS | 66220 US

