

## **February: Praying for the Unreached in Latin America**

### **Week One:**

Latin America stretches from Mexico to the southern tip of South America and while in the past Roman Catholicism was widespread, the religious environment is changing drastically. There is reason to rejoice in the growth of the evangelical movement but much prayer is needed for the purity of the teaching of the gospel, as there is often a mix of Catholicism with animism and occult practices, as well as a rise in secularism and consumerism.

Along with these challenges is the fast-growing spread of Islam, especially in cities where well funded Muslims are creating 'education centers' with the goal of spreading their beliefs and portraying themselves as a religion of peace and advancement.

Pray that God would be preparing the hearts of these people and that He would be setting them free from spiritual bondage, whether it is from traditional and folk beliefs, Islamic practices or secularism. Pray for boldness and provision for believers in Latin America, as well as for protection for Christian workers who face oppressive governments, hostile tribal peoples and religious persecution.

**“Jesus said to him, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen Him.” –John 14:6-7**

### **Week Two:**

Jews represent the oldest monotheistic religion of modern times and because of the richness of their history and culture Jews have a strong sense of identity. South American Jewish communities began as Conversos as many were forced to convert to Catholicism. While this is where immigration of Jewish people started, most Jewish South Americans came in the late 1800s. For many Jewish people their identity stems more from the social and cultural traditions that they practice than from their religious beliefs.

While Jews believe in God as the Supreme Being and Creator of the universe as well as the ultimate Judge, overall they have a history of rejecting Jesus as the Messiah. Pray that God would open the eyes of the Jewish people and that they would see the hope and peace that can be found in Christ alone. Pray that they would see that the coming of Christ does not go against the teachings of the Old Testament but is actually the fulfillment of them.

**“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished.”-- Matthew 5:17-18**

### **Week Three:**

The Latin American people of Japanese descent live in various areas throughout Latin America including Bolivia, Brazil, Argentina, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, and Peru. There are thousands of Japanese immigrants with the largest populations in Brazil and Peru. The majority of Japanese people practice some type of Buddhism or Shintoism.

Pray that God would be working through Latin American believers to bring the truth of the gospel to these people and that they would find their identity and place of belonging in Christ.

**“Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father’s house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.”--John 14:1-2**

### **Week Four:**

Latin Caribbean Americans constitute almost 1,400 people groups with a population of around 678 million. This group includes indigenous people like the Amazons, Aztecs, Hispanic Afro-Americans, Mayans, the Quechua and many more. While there has been progress in reaching indigenous groups with the hope of the gospel there is still much work to be done.

Pray that God would continue opening doors for the gospel to be spread to these groups and for people to understand their need for Christ. Pray that missionaries would be bold in bringing the truth of the gospel to these unreached people and that God would be raising up native believers who can build churches and bring hope to their people.

**“How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without some preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!” –Romans 10:14-15**