

NMI Central

NAZARENE MISSIONS INTERNATIONAL

8 March 2023

Mesoamerica Region



Haiti

The work of the Church of the Nazarene began officially in Haiti in 1950. Haiti's history has been marked by occupation, oppression, and forced labor, all of which have led to generations of social and political unrest. In 1804, Haiti declared its independence, led by Jean-Jacques Dessalines, and became the first country in the world to be led by former slaves. Once known for the wealth of its natural resources, Haiti is now considered the poorest nation in the Western Hemisphere due to significant corruption. Often the victim of devastating natural disasters like earthquakes and hurricanes, with few resources to meet the needs of its own people, there is a significant diaspora of Haitians in North America and elsewhere. The Church of the Nazarene is a denomination that stays when others are leaving and serves through ministries of compassion when disasters strike.



147,182 Members



755 Fully Organized Churches; 22 Not Yet Organized Churches



197 District Licensed and 292 Ordained Ministers on 12 Districts

PRAYER



- Pray for strength for our leaders and volunteers as they continue to address the increasing needs that have arisen from the 2021 earthquake and the poor living conditions that are yet unresolved.
- Pray that God will deliver Haiti from the cycles of unemployment and insecurity that arise from corruption and oppress the people and that our churches will remain faithful with doors open and Nazarenes ready to serve despite the significant security problems that afflict the country.
- Pray for all our members in local churches who also face food insecurity and safety concerns and that the disruption of church activities and compassionate efforts by gangs of bandits will cease.

PRAISE



- We thank God for what He is doing through the Church of the Nazarene in Haiti, which despite the situation continues to preach and live out the Word of God in a challenging environment.
- We thank God for continuing growth of our churches in Haiti, the country with the largest membership on the Mesoamerica Region.



Relief supplies being distributed to those in need.

More than 1,000 Families Receive Food and Tarps in Haiti through Nazarene Compassionate Ministries

In the midst of the pandemic, on August 14, 2021, Haiti suffered another earthquake that devastated much of the country. Dhariana Balbuena, the NCM coordinator, was present to support the Haitian team in organizing and mobilizing a prompt response.



Volunteers preparing food parcels.

Teams of volunteers worked every night to organize and prepare food parcels that were distributed the next day. “The work did not stop,” said Dhariana. “The excellent logistics were allowing us to serve many people every day.” This work dynamic allowed more than 1,000 families to receive food packages and tarpaulins to meet physical needs and provide shelter.

Immediately, the Central Field of the Mesoamerica Region and leaders in the Dominican Republic purchased and delivered tarps. Dhariana said, “despite the challenges, and thanks to the fact that we are one church, part of the same family, Nazarenes helped to provide these essentials for recovery and shelter.”



NCM tarps provided for shelter.

Haitian volunteers worked throughout the response efforts, serving their own people. “We praise God for willing people, we have a good team of local volunteers,” Dhariana said. Teams of volunteers wore colorful t-shirts they had designed to share joy with those who had lost so much in the gray aftermath of the earthquake. This spirit of joyful service made such a difference in the lives of many. As a result, local media and press agencies came to report on the work being done in these desperate times by Nazarenes. One of the most popular radio stations in Port-au-Prince interviewed the district superintendent of the Haiti South District, Rev. David Eliassaint, who was one of the active volunteers in the response efforts.



District superintendent being interviewed about the Nazarene response.

This spirit of service continues in Haiti in the midst of the social, political, and economic conditions there. Many of the general populace are facing deprivation, harassment by gangs, and uncertainties for the future, but they know that the Church of the Nazarene is at work to help, and the support given is making a significant difference in many communities.

Could You Serve?

Is God calling you to serve on the Mesoamerica Region?
For more information, click [here](#).



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