Partnering with Latin American Churches to Complete the Great Commission

Steve Nolen

Abstract

My wife, children, and I served 8 years as missionaries in Latin America. While there, we were able to witness first-hand the incredible work God was doing calling many Latin American believers to become cross-cultural missionaries. Then, in 1996, God clearly called us to South Asia where we served as Strategy Coordinator in a large mega-city. While there, our sending agency allowed us to work with Latin American missionaries in that country, as well as to travel several times to do mobilization in Latin America.

A Great Commission Prayer Ministry will provide a way for churches to become houses of prayer with a passion for lost people everywhere. What is a Great Commission Prayer Ministry? The Great Commission will be acted upon and completed through the specific, fervent prayer of right-eous men and women. Great Commission praying will help congrega-tions develop and grow an overall plan of action in prayer. It will help churches to effectively pray for and share Jesus with every person in their sphere of influence. North American Mission PrayerGram Subscribe to this free quarterly prayer request publication from the North American mission fields. Register for an e-mail version at www.namb.net/prayer/register. Latin America has never mattered more for the United States. The region is the largest foreign supplier of oil to the United States and a strong partner in the development of alternative fuels. It is one of the United States' fastest-growing trading partners, as well as its biggest supplier of illegal drugs. The percentage of Latin Americans who approved of U.S. ideas on democracy decreased from 45 percent in 2002 to 29 percent in 2007. This general distrust of the United States has allowed Presidents Hugo Cha´vez of Venezuela, Evo Morales of Bolivia, Rafael Correa of Ecuador, and even Felipe Caldero´n of Mexico to bolster their domestic popular support by criticizing Washington. The following data, unless otherwise noted, came from the Economic Commission on Latin America.

The Great Commission doesn’t belong to any particular era or region of the church; rather, all churches at all times and in all places must endeavor together in making disciples of all nations. Our opportunity in light of these global trends is not only to send from our congregations but to partner with international churches in sending, supporting, and serving missionaries among the nations. If it is the role of every local church to obey the Great Commission for the sake of birthing new local churches locally and globally, where do we begin? I would suggest we start at the same point as Christ’s disciples. He will complete his mission. This post is also available in: French Russian Spanish Italian Portuguese (Brazil). Ryan King.