

# NMI Central

NAZARENE MISSIONS INTERNATIONAL

27 April 2022

## Mesoamerica Region



## Trinidad And Tobago

The Church of the Nazarene began work in Trinidad and Tobago in 1926. Trinidad and Tobago consists of two islands just off the northeastern coast of Venezuela. The country has distinctive Creole traditions and cuisines. Trinidad has numerous bird species that inhabit sanctuaries such as the Asa Wright Nature Centre. The smaller island of Tobago is known for its beaches and the Tobago Main Ridge Forest Reserve, which shelters hummingbirds. The official language is English.



6790 Members



31 Fully Organized  
Churches 1 Not yet  
Church



23 District Licensed and 49  
Ordained Ministers

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## PRAYER



- Pray for wisdom and guidance for our new district superintendent, who will be elected in April 2022.
  - Pray for our pastors, leaders, and local churches as they continue to be beacons of light in their communities.
  - Pray for the opportunity to plant new churches in our nation.
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## PRAISE

- We thank God that we can conduct in-person church services once again.
- We thank God for the opportunity to host successful district NMI, NDI, and NYI conventions this year.
- We thank God that most of our churches were able to adapt to the virtual setting during the height of the pandemic and reach out to the vulnerable in their communities.



## Nazarenes offer support to immigrants in Trinidad and Tobago



Language differences were not an issue for the Arima Church of the Nazarene in Trinidad and Tobago (English-speaking) as they ministered to a community of Venezuelan immigrants (Spanish-speaking). After reaching out to the community and learning about their needs, they began teaching English-language classes, provided tabletop stoves, gas tanks, and in some cases, financial assistance. They shared food and provided a location for a local agency to run a child-friendly facility for a year. In addition, the church worked tirelessly to develop a local ministry that would be able to conduct worship services in the Venezuelans' native language.

Volunteers visited the communities where the Venezuelans settled to invite them to English-language classes and services. Many were living in less than adequate conditions. This led to the realization that people's physical needs had to be addressed. "The Arima church is committed to loving and serving Venezuelan immigrants, even if the needs are great." Pastor Rian Williams said.

For Arima, the journey to ministering to immigrants began with a class assignment. The pastor, who was studying at Point Loma Nazarene University, did a project related to Venezuelan migration in Trinidad and Tobago. This is how Pastor Williams and his wife Alvilene felt God calling them to serve this specific group. The challenge they faced was that neither the pastor nor any member of the church could speak Spanish. Alvilene knew a little, but not enough to teach or preach. Despite the limitations, the church pursued the idea with a plan to begin English-language classes for Spanish speakers and worship services in Spanish.

"God started raising up volunteers to help," said Pastor Williams. One such example was Keron Weekes, who currently leads the ministry. Also, when the ministry began, the Lord raised up two English-speaking worship leaders, Farouk Mohammed Jr. and Nicole Brewster, who learned to sing worship songs in Spanish using tracks. By God's grace, the ministry now has native Spanish speakers on the worship team.

Pastor Williams said that God is using the church to minister to Venezuelans in their native language, which has led them to experience a feeling of community and belonging, and that as they worship and fellowship, their loneliness has dissipated. In addition, he said that he is confident that future generations of Venezuelans will experience God's Word and love and become Christlike disciples.

By Mesoamerica Region

### Could You Serve?

Is God calling you to serve in Trinidad and Tobago? Click [here](#) to learn more.



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



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