

Why Mexico City?

The question has been asked, and rightly so, “If we are a pioneering movement with a least-reached people group focus, then why are we still in Mexico—specifically Mexico City?”

Mexico is a complex society made up mostly of “mestizo” people, a European/Indigenous heritage that dates back to the sixteenth century. There are identifiable Indigenous groups in Mexico, many with some level of being reached, others without a known believer among them (<20), and some without the Scriptures in their language or a known church among them (<40) (ethnopedia.com).

In addition, there are another 125 Indigenous and diasporic people groups that have an evangelical presence of 2% or less among them (Joshua Project). Since most of the country is mestizo, it is hard to only focus on Indigenous groups. Instead, we must also consider the socioeconomic groups that are least reached. This isn’t unique to Latin America, but no other region of the world is characterized by such non-Indigenous statistics.

In Mexico City, statistics show a 3.7% evangelical presence. The vast majority of the churches represented in this percentage are among the lower-middle and lower classes—about two-thirds of the population fall within these distinct socioeconomic designations. Using this percentage means that the middle and upper classes in Mexico City have approximately 1.45 evangelicals for every 100 people (1.45%). The population of Mexico City is approximately 21.2 million people, which means that about 8.3 million people have less than a 2% presence of Christ followers. Mexico City is larger than 75% of the countries on the planet.* How can we ignore eight million people clustered together in one of the world’s largest metropolises?

Major cities are melting pots of culture, and Mexico City is no different. There are an estimated 125 least-reached people groups in Mexico. Most, if not all, are represented in this megacity (joshuaproject.net).

Why is the C&MA in Canada present in a city of this magnitude and need? Because there are many who are yet to be reached in this city of cities. If there could be a movement of God in a global metropolis like this, what impact could it have on reaching the least reached on a global scale? Mexico City is the capital of one of the strongest economies in Latin America and is a cultural capital for other parts of the Americas.

Our current strategy includes:

- Planting churches among the professional class of Mexico (the 8.3 million);
- Compassion efforts caring for the most neglected (people struggling with addiction; workers in the sex trade; people with disabilities; Indigenous people experiencing homelessness);
- An Envision Canada site focusing on the least reached (both Mexican and international);
- The Missional International Church plant uses English speakers as a base to reach the diaspora of 125 groups of least-reached people in Mexico City; and
- An international school with a focus on least-reached professional families.

We continue to partner with other churches and organizations to see a fresh movement of God in Mexico City, including groups that are a least-reached focus in Mexico City.

*Stats from Forbes.com and Wikipedia/Religion in Mexico.