

NMI Central

NAZARENE MISSIONS INTERNATIONAL

31 May 2023

South America Region



Uruguay

The work of the Church of the Nazarene in Uruguay began in 1949. Located on the Cono-Sur Field of the South America Region, Uruguay's port city of Montevideo was founded by the Spanish in 1726, giving it a prominent trade and commercial role in that empire. In the 1820s, Argentina laid claim to Uruguay and Brazil annexed it. However, in 1828, Uruguay finally secured its freedom from these foreign and neighboring powers. It has struggled with military overreach in the 20th century but now enjoys some of the freest political and labor conditions in South America. As with its complex national history, the Church of the Nazarene has at times had its challenges in finding its way to and sustaining growth. A recent survey revealed that in Uruguay, approximately 43% of the population is Roman Catholic, only 10% are protestants, 9% profess other religions, 21% are atheist or agnostic, and 17% perceive themselves as "believers" without following any religion. But, as you will read in the story that follows, there is new vision, renewed spiritual energy, and the celebration of new waves of evangelism and church planting that indicates new hope for the Church of the Nazarene in Uruguay.



6,934 Members



73 Fully Organized Churches; 3 Not Yet Organized Churches



33 District Licensed and 24 Ordained Ministers on 2 Districts

PRAYER



- Pray for a fresh vision and unity for the whole church in Uruguay.
- Pray for the opening of closed churches and for the new pastors and leaders called by God to the ministry.
- Pray for the continued health and strength of our pastors.
- Pray for the planting of new churches and their healthy development, growth, and impact in places and cities where the Church of the Nazarene is not present.



PRAISE

- We thank God for new and emerging leaders and for those called to and serving in pastoral ministry.
- We thank Almighty God for wisdom and guidance in the recovery of properties that seemed lost and for the new chapter in our Nazarene history that is being written in these places.
- We thank God for the dedication and commitment of our national ministry leaders and for the fruit of their ministries to their church and the kingdom of God.



The new church family in Montevideo at the “Siloé” church opening.

The Church of the Nazarene in Uruguay is celebrating! During the month of March, a new church was organized in Montevideo, Uruguay’s capital city. The church of Siloé (named after the Pool of Siloam in John 9:7) is evidence that there is always hope when the Church searches for and finds relevant approaches to evangelism, care, and community. The pastor hopes that just as in the story in John’s Gospel, those who come to the church will receive the spiritual and physical miracle when they “submerge” themselves, like the blind man, in the love, healing, and salvation that they receive in Jesus Christ through the church.



Pastors and leaders of the Church of the Nazarene attended the event and shared this historic moment of joy with the local church. According to Pastor Néstor de la Rosa, senior pastor of the Siloé church, “this moment was awaited with great expectation, and represents a beautiful new beginning in this church.”

According to Reverend Eduardo Meza, coordinator of Holistic Ministries in Uruguay and superintendent of the Uruguay South District, “moments like these are special because in addition to being an official act of the church, it is also historical in its representation of hope for the Church of the Nazarene in this country.”



Rev. Eduardo Mesa prays for pastor Nestor de la Rosa.

Could You Serve?

Is God calling you to join Him in bringing hope to situations where hope seems to have dimmed? For more information, click [here](#).



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