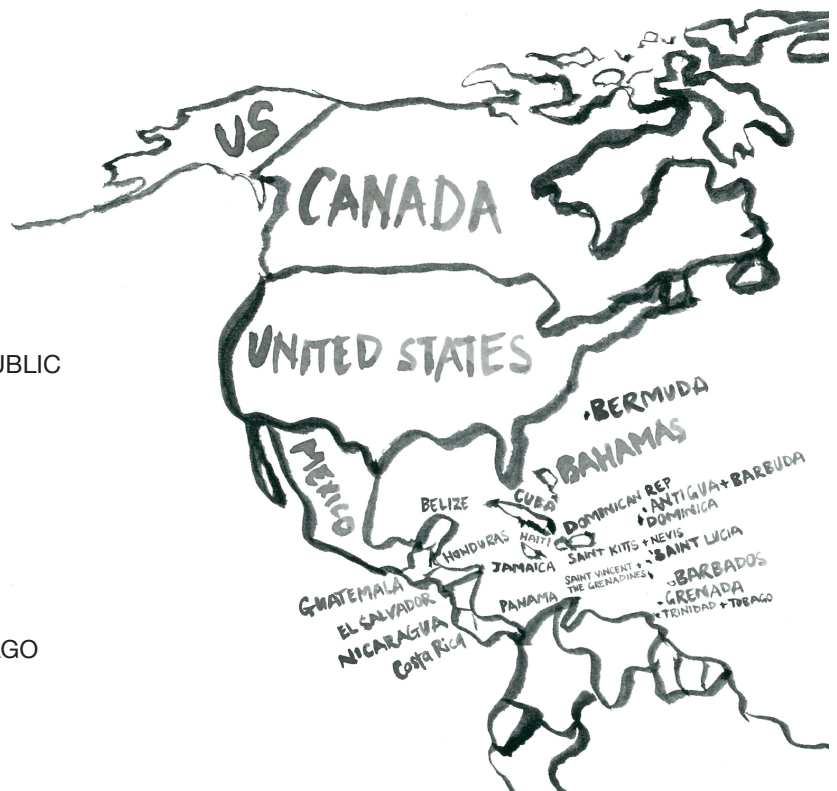


SISTERHOOD FIGHT CLUB

#MIDDAYBABYMIDDAY #SETYOURALARM #BETHECHANGE #PRAYINGFORTHEWORLD

#1: NORTH & CENTRAL AMERICA & CARIBBEAN

- CANADA
- MEXICO
- UNITED STATES
- BELIZE
- COSTA RICA
- EL SALVADOR
- GUATEMALA
- HONDURAS
- NICARAGUA
- PANAMA
- ANTIGUA & BARBUDA
- BAHAMAS
- BARBADOS
- BERMUDA
- CUBA
- DOMINICA
- DOMINICAN REPUBLIC
- GRENADA
- HAITI
- JAMAICA
- ST KITTS & NEVIS
- ST LUCIA
- ST VINCENT & THE GRENADINES
- TRINIDAD & TOBAGO



THE REGION

As a region, North America, Central America and the Caribbean, boasts a wealth of culture, rich and complex history, and world-changing human achievement. Tourism plays a huge role in the economies of the countries in this region. Ruins of ancient civilizations, amazing wildlife, and pristine beaches, draw people from around the world. With Indigenous, Spanish and African influences, the region is a tapestry of dynamic and diverse societies.

KEY STATISTICS

- » An estimated 130 million people across Latin America & the Caribbean are 'chronically poor'
- » Femicide claims the lives of 12 women in Latin America every day. ¹
- » El Salvadoran women have lower levels of education, higher school dropout rates and almost twice the rate of illiteracy compared to men.
- » Los Cabos, Mexico is the world's most dangerous city with a murder rate of 111.33 per 100,000 inhabitants. ²

THE CHALLENGES

In the last decade countries in Central America and the Caribbean saw 70 million people lifted out of poverty and the middle class expand by more than 50%.³ Despite this growth a large portion of the Latin America & Caribbean population – 130 million people – are “chronically poor”⁴ In Central America and the Caribbean, the second half of the 20th century saw military dictatorships replaced by democratically elected governments in many countries.

There has been rapid rise of external debt and rampant inflation. In several countries, desperation resulting from poverty, government neglect, corruption, and limited economic progress has stimulated protest movements. A number of governments have used brutal repression.⁵

The Caribbean is facing an economic crisis. St. Lucian Prime Minister Kenny Anthony has remarked, “Our region is in the throes of the greatest crisis since independence. The spectre of evolving into failed societies is no longer a subject of imagination. How our societies crawl out of this vicious vortex of persistent low growth, crippling debt, huge fiscal deficits and high unemployment is the single most important question facing us at this time.”⁶

In the United States, there are significant socioeconomic disparities. 26.2% of American Indian and Native Alaskans live in poverty.⁷ African-American children are three times more likely to live in poverty than Caucasian children. Unemployment rates for African Americans are typically double and earnings 70-85% comparable to Caucasians.⁸ Racial disparity is particularly notable regarding policing, after numerous high-profile killings of African Americans by police officers over 2014-2015. Almost two thirds of African American men report having been racially profiled by police.⁹ African Americans are incarcerated at nearly six times the rate of whites.¹⁰ In 2014, riots broke out in the US town of Ferguson, Missouri after the 2014 acquittal of Darren Wilson, the police officer who shot and killed black teenager Michael Brown.¹¹

Of the 25 countries in the world that rate “high” or “very high” in the UN’s ranking for “femicide” more than half are in the Americas, with El Salvador being the worst ranked.¹² An estimated 40% of El Salvadorans are poor. El Salvadoran women have lower levels of education, higher school dropout rates and almost twice the rate of illiteracy compared to men.¹³

Latin America and the Caribbean have long been a hotbed for both mental and physical illness and disabilities. It’s estimated that more than 80% of deaths caused by non-communicable diseases occur in low and middle-income countries, such as these. The Caribbean also has the highest HIV infection rate globally, outside of Sub-Saharan Africa.¹⁴

The presence of drug-related dangers continues to pose challenges in this region. Many countries in Central America and the Caribbean are transit points for cocaine bound for main consumer markets in North America and Europe.¹⁵ Many people are aware of Mexico’s drug war and violence however narco-trafficking and violence is not confined to Mexico. Higher per-capita murder rates than Mexico were seen in Honduras, El Salvador, Belize, Guatemala and Panama in 2010.¹⁶ In Honduras, homicides have more than doubled in five years, making it world’s murder capital.¹⁷ Due to the crime associated with the rise of the illicit trade in narcotics, Central America ranks among the most dangerous places on earth for women.¹⁸

SO WHAT DO I PRAY FOR?

PRAY FOR STABILITY AND FREEDOM OF CHOICES.

We pray for economic stability that people might be able to flourish and live healthy and safe lives, that they might have the ability to choose wisely for their children and protect their future. Isaiah 60:1-3, Isaiah 61:4

PRAY AGAINST CORRUPTION.

We pray against greed and political corruption that robs this region of its resources and potential. We pray that just leaders will be birthed and elected. We pray that military conflict will cease allowing nations to be restored. Psalm 7:9, Psalm 2:10-11, Jeremiah 22:3

PRAY AGAINST VIOLENCE.

We pray against domestic violence in this region. We pray for the victims and the perpetrators of violence, particularly drug-related violence. We pray for peace and restoration in families. Psalms 145:18-19, Psalm 140:12, Luke 18:7-8a

PRAY FOR THE VULNERABLE AND OPPRESSED.

We pray against abuse and domestic violence. We pray against racism and discrimination and for marginalised and vulnerable groups to have equal access to education, healthcare and protection under the law. We pray against the effects of illegal drug use, manufacturing, and sale. We pray for health and healing, provision of food and shelter for those in need, and hope for those who are discouraged. Psalm 82:3-4, Isaiah 40:29, Luke 19:10, Jeremiah 31:17, Psalm 91

I BELIEVE THAT THE WEAPON
THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST
MUST BRING TO THIS CURRENT
GLOBAL TABLE OF UNREST AND
CRISIS IS PRAYER. IT'S A WEAPON
THAT MANY OUTSIDE OF FAITH
MAY NEVER TRULY UNDERSTAND
NOR EVER APPRECIATE - BUT
REGARDLESS OF WHETHER THEY
DO OR DON'T PRAYER IS WHAT
ENGAGES THE SPIRITUAL REALM
THAT IS SO OFTEN AT THE CORE
AND CAUSE OF TODAY'S
PROBLEMS."

Bobbie Houston
excerpt Chapter Twenty-one
The Sisterhood

BRAVE WOMEN

Run in Our Family

Vanda Pignato was the first sitting First Lady of El Salvador who simultaneously held a political position as the National Minister of Social Inclusion. The Ministry of Social Inclusion's purpose is to formulate public policies that ensure the realization, respect and assurance of human rights of the traditionally excluded sectors of El Salvador: women, older persons, people with disabilities, gender diversity, and homeless children. One project she has worked to develop is "Women City." Built as a response to gender-based violence, "Women City" offers women survivors of abuse a chance to receive medical attention, legal advice, psychological care, while also teaching them a new trade or skill so they depend less on men to provide for them.

Source: Reuters (2014) Women City Centres Bring Hope to El Salvador's Abused Women
<http://uk.reuters.com/article/uk-women-cities-el-salvador-idUKKCNOJ81SW20141124>

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The Sisterhood Fight Club is all about letting prayer do the heavy lifting as we turn our attention to a world that is broken on many levels and in need of restoration. Our world is a place of beautiful and challenging complexity. We do not claim to be experts, nor to understand or represent this complexity fully. This is a brief collection of information and examples based on our research.

Through prayerful reflection we seek to learn, empathise, add our support to the efforts of brave women everywhere, and continue to grow in our understanding through the help of the Holy Spirit. Let our churches and homes be known as "a house of prayer for all peoples" (Isaiah 56:7).

Join us! Set your alarm at #middaybabymidday and pray with us for the world.



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