

SISTERHOOD FIGHT CLUB

#MIDDAYBABYMIDDAY #SETYOURALARM #BETHECHANGE #PRAYINGFORTHEWORLD

#7: SOUTH AMERICA

- . ARGENTINA
- . PLURINATIONAL STATE OF BOLIVIA
- . BRAZIL
- . CHILE
- . COLOMBIA
- . ECUADOR
- . GUYANA
- . PARAGUAY
- . PERU
- . SURINAME
- . URUGUAY
- . BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA



THE REGION

South America is the fourth largest continent in the world. This region encompasses many different cultures, ethnicities, languages and histories. South America is known as a continent of adventure, Indigenous cultures, music and passion. Throughout South America, race and ethnicity continue to be among the most important determinants of access to opportunity and economic advancement.¹

KEY STATISTICS

- » The Zika virus continues to spread and many are vulnerable, including pregnant women.
- » Indigenous and Afro-descendants make up 40% of the total population and are a disproportionate segment of the poorest of the poor.
- » Out of the 50 urban areas with the highest homicide rates, 14 are located in Brazil, 2 in Colombia, and 6 in Venezuela.²
- » In this region Colombia is ranked as #47 on Open Doors World Watch List of Christians facing persecution in their nation.

THE CHALLENGES

Indigenous and Afro-descendant peoples in South America represent 40 percent of the total population, yet they remain disproportionately among the poorest of the poor. Due to racism and discrimination, this sector of society is still more likely than the general population to live in extreme poverty.³ While a priority for social inclusion measures, they have not seen the sharp reductions in poverty experienced by the overall population. In countries such as Bolivia and Paraguay for example, over 60 percent of Indigenous peoples and Afro-descendants are considered poor.⁴

In 2016, an outbreak of the Zika virus has infected a significant number of people within this region. The Zika virus can be transmitted through mosquito bites as well as sexually. This virus is spreading and many are vulnerable, particularly pregnant women.⁵ As of February 2016, in Colombia alone, over 5,000 women have been infected.⁶ There are serious concerns that this disease may cause birth defects as well as the neurological disease Guillain-Barre syndrome.

Violence and crime is an issue faced in this region. Out of the 50 urban areas with the highest homicide rates, 14 are located in Brazil, 2 in Colombia, and 6 in Venezuela.⁷ Illegal drug use, manufacturing, and selling has a huge impact on the countries in this region. Colombia, Peru, and Bolivia are the world's leaders in cocaine production.⁸ Throughout the entire region, in both drug production and trafficking areas, there has been an upsurge of violence, corruption, impunity, erosion of rule of law, and human rights violations caused by the emergence of powerful organized crime groups and drug cartels.⁹

Because of poverty in this region, there has been a rise in the number of children living on the street. Street children, by definition, are children who live in abandoned buildings, cardboard boxes, parks, or on the street itself, and have no family care and protection. In Brazil, a common cause is abandonment by poor families unable to feed all their children. An increasingly common cause is AIDS. Other causes are the death of parents or family members, violence in the home, drugs and alcoholism. Once children resort to living on the street there is rarely any way back from this life, and the life expectancy of a child living on the streets is frighteningly low - few are expected to reach their 18th birthday.¹⁰

There is persecution of the Christian Church in this region. According to the World Watch List, created by Open Doors, Colombia ranks 47th out of 50 countries with the most severe Christian persecution. Christians have been killed for their faith by guerrillas, paramilitaries and other criminal organisations. Criminal groups have also ordered the closure of churches, sometimes because these churches have criticised their activity or because they are viewed as accomplices of groups that oppose them.¹¹

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 FOR THE PERSECUTED CHURCH.

We pray for the Church, for those who are facing persecution for the name of Jesus. We pray that those being persecuted will be strengthened, and those who are persecuting will be convicted, repent, and receive salvation. Isaiah 55:7, Romans 5:6-8, 2 Timothy 2:25, Psalm 94:16, Proverbs 31:8, Matthew 9:37-38

PRAY FOR THE VULNERABLE.

We pray against diseases which are robbing people of their hope and potential. We pray for safety over children living on the street, and the restoration of families. We pray against the effects of the illegal drug industry in the region. Isaiah 61:1-3, Psalm 140:12, Isaiah 1:17

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 PEOPLE

Run in Our Family

World Vision has served communities in Colombia by helping sponsored children learn about health and hygiene, how to identify victims and perpetrators of abuse, and bringing what they learn into their households so parents are also benefitting from the program.

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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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 The Colour Sisterhood

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- 4 "As Above"
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- 6 "Zika virus infects more than 5,000 pregnant women in Columbia," Sydney Morning Herald, Accessed 24 February 2016, <http://www.smh.com.au/world/zika-virus-infects-more-than-5000-pregnant-women-in-colombia-20160213-gmti4g.html>
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- 9 As Above
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