



Paraguay



Introduction to PARAGUAY

THE REPUBLIC OF PARAGUAY is a landlocked country in the middle of South America. The nation's European and indigenous roots can easily be seen across the country, and there is also a significant Mennonite population. Though it has had instances of corruption in its political past, Paraguay has slowly begun to grow its economic future due to increased exports.

The PARAGUAYAN people

Total population:	6,995,655
Children under 15:	2,564,675
Average Life Expectancy:	75.77 years
Per capita annual income:	\$4,200
% children in primary school:	92.44%
Average years of education:	12 years
Literacy rate:	94%
Internet users:	894,200
Cell phones in use:	5.791 million

Major/official language(s):

Spanish
Guarani

Risk issues impacting children:

- Poverty often forces children into labour or prostitution.
- There is a lack of health information available for young people.

More about PARAGUAY

Capital city:	Asunción
Type of government:	Constitutional Republic
Square kilometers:	406,752

General terrain: Grassy plains and wooded hills east of Rio Paraguay; west of Rio mostly low, marshy plain, and dry forest and thorny scrub elsewhere

Major industries/jobs: Sugar, cement, textiles, beverages, wood products, steel, metallurgic, electric power

National motto: "Peace and Justice"

Major airport(s): Asunción

Reaching PARAGUAY

Currently classified as World C: Christian

Major religions:

Christian - 97%
Other or unspecified - 1.9%
None - 1.1%

Christian groups:

Roman Catholic - 86.8%
Protestant - 4.8%
Other - 4.3%
Independent - 3.7%
Anglican - 0.3%
Orthodox - 0.2%

Unreached People Groups: 1 (negligible% of pop)

Average annual Christian growth: 0.022

Average annual baptisms: 138,609

Foreign missionaries: 1,300

Per million: 220.18

National Christian workers/pastors: 2,300

Per million: 389.54

Number of churches/congregations: 2,528

Children's ministry in PARAGUAY

Overview: • Paraguay is a predominantly Christian nation, mostly of Roman Catholic background. There is also a steadily growing, active Protestant minority.

- Since the Protestant church in Paraguay is still very young, there are few children's ministry programs.
- In some places Sunday School classes, Saturday clubs, and even Christians schools have begun outreach and discipleship to children.
- However, there is little follow-up discipleship at home, nor is there much discipleship for the older children 10 to 13 years old. As a result, the change in children's hearts is often short lived.

Focus for Prayer

Training children's leaders for outreach in
2,528 congregations

Strategies for reaching and discipling
2,564,675 children for Christ