

Pray for the world in 2012!

The following pages of maps and flags and other information were compiled in December 2011 and January 2012. The information was accurate at the time of compilation, but details (names of presidents, kings, etc.) may change during the course of the year.

Sources include www.worldatlas.com, <http://education.nationalgeographic.com>, www.persecution.com, and www.kidsofcourage.com.

The prayer requests are from the 2012 VOM Prayer Calendar. You can use this information to pray for the world with or without the calendar.

WILL YOU PRAY?

The 2012 VOM Prayer Calendar

The Voice of the Martyrs' 2012 Prayer Calendar will help you fellowship with and pray for these persecuted believers, sharing in their trials and being encouraged by their tremendous faith. The calendar features photos and brief stories of persecuted Christians, many of them youths, who exhibit an unwavering trust in Christ despite persecution.

The prayer calendar makes an excellent gift for family and friends, serving as a daily reminder to pray for the persecuted church. For as little as \$4, you can give the gift of prayer to the persecuted church while giving family and friends the opportunity to fellowship with those persecuted for their faith.

But Jesus called them unto Him, and said,
"Suffer little children to come unto Me, and forbid them not:
for of such is the kingdom of God." Luke 18:16 (KJV)

Visit

http://etools.vomusa.org/a/vomso/bg_vomso_wdbm-20111205-PrayerCalendar_443.html

to request your 2012 Voice of the Martyrs Prayer Calendar.

www.scripturemelodies.com



The flag of Mexico was officially adopted on November 2, 1821. The basic design is taken from the French Tricolor flag and the red, white and green are the colors of the national liberation army of Mexico. The coat of arms (centered) in the white band is the badge of Mexico City, the country's capital. Its main feature is an eagle, and it is said that an Aztec legend told them to build their new city on the exact spot where they saw an eagle sitting on a cactus, eating a snake.

Chiapas

Chiapas, officially Estado Libre y Soberano de Chiapas, is one of the 31 states that, with the Federal District, comprise the 32 Federal Entities of Mexico.

Capital

Tuxtla Gutierrez

Size

More than 4 million people live in Chiapas.

Main Languages

Spanish

Time

At 6:00 a.m. U.S. Central Standard Time, it is also 6:00 a.m. in Chiapas.

History

Mexico was ruled by Spain for 300 years until it became an independent country in 1810.

Religion

The constitution of Mexico states that the country has freedom of religion.

Persecution

Religious freedom is usually respected in Mexico. But “traditionalists” in Chiapas sometimes persecute people who do not want to follow their customs. Traditionalists follow some Catholic teachings, but mix the teachings with practices from the ancient Mayan religion, which does not follow the Bible.

Mexico: Children in Chiapas (from www.kidsofcourage.com)

February 1, 2008



Manuel Mendez was 12 years old. He was in the first grade at a school in Chiapas, Mexico. Manuel was still in first grade because he had been expelled so many times. He struggled to stay in school.

Getting an education was important to him. "I want to be a teacher," said Manuel, "so I can teach my mother and father how to read." (Many adults in Chiapas never had the chance to go to school or to learn to read.)

Manuel had not been expelled for bad behavior. Instead, he was one of many children who had not been allowed to stay in school because of his parents' faith.

Over the past few years, traditionalists have stopped evangelical children from registering for school, or have gotten them expelled. Traditionalists follow some Catholic teachings mixed with unbiblical practices of the ancient Mayan religion. Evangelicals believe in the truth of the Bible and in sharing the Good News of Jesus with others.

On one registration day, traditionalists with rocks and guns prevented evangelical children from entering a school. The students stayed out of school for the whole year.

The next year, they went to school in a house. After that, the evangelicals built a 12 foot by 20 foot shed as a school room. About 60 students were expected to attend school in the shed. Manuel was one of them.

Evangelical children have been forced out of school in several towns in Chiapas. A report from one town said three children were expelled from their elementary school. Then their parents were put in jail for 15 days! They were punished for their faith in Christ.

Ask God to help Manuel and others to continue serving Him, even when it is difficult. If you are able to go to school in peace, thank God for your freedom. Ask Him how you can use your freedom to do His will.

Pray for Chiapas (Mexico).

1 – Evangelical Christians continue to suffer at the hands of community leaders in the Chiapas region.

2 – Pray for Christians attempting to return to their community after being run off.

3 – Many Chiapans are enslaved by traditional practices. Pray that they will find freedom in Christ.

4 – Pray for President Felipe Calderon.

Link to map:

http://education.nationalgeographic.com/education/mapping/outline-map/?map=Mexico&ar_a=1