

# NMI Central

NAZARENE MISSIONS INTERNATIONAL

5 July 2023

## South America



## Argentina

The work of the Church of the Nazarene began officially in 1919. Located on the Cono-Sur (Southern Cone) Field of the South America Region, Argentina is often referred to as a “crucible of races.” The background of the vast majority of Argentina’s population is European (mainly of Spanish and Italian descent) and the “mestizo” (a mixture of European and Amerindian ancestry). While nine of ten people in Argentina say they are Christians, most admit that they do not practice their faith beyond occasional celebrations of Christian holidays. These factors make the work of the Church of the Nazarene both challenging and critical for this generation. In the story below, we celebrate, with the churches in Argentina, the ordination of ministers who enter the “crucible” to bring faith, healing, and hope to Argentina. The South America regional office is located in the capital city of Buenos Aires. There are currently 10 missionaries serving in Argentina.



21,314 Members



233 Fully Organized Churches; 15 Not Yet Organized Churches



219 District Licensed and 179 Ordained Ministers on 12 Districts

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## PRAYER



- Pray for the presidential elections, due to be held in October. In the midst of the current economic crisis, the outcome could be crucial.
- Pray for the churches in the city of Rosario, as they face significant social challenges and the insecurities that accompany the growing sale and distribution of illegal substances.
- Pray for the families of our pastors and congregations as together they contend with the economic crisis and the limits it has put on growing the ministry with reduced resources.
- Pray that God will continue to call a new generation of ministers to take up and advance the work of the Church of the Nazarene throughout Argentina.

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## PRAISE



- We praise God for the 12 districts that have carried out the VGC conference (Living the Great Commission). This tool helps local churches self-evaluate and project growth with goals that encourage them to share Jesus.
- We praise God for the results of the Planting Dynamic Churches initiative, which has led to the starting of new extension works around the country.
- We celebrate 100 women from across the country that attended the Ministry to Women meetings held in El Calafate, where our southernmost church is located.
- We give God thanks for His call and the response of leaders who bless the Church of the Nazarene globally. Two Argentinian pastors and leaders have been elected by the regional NYI and NMI caucuses to be regional NYI president and regional representative to the global NMI council.



## Kids Kaleidoscope

NMI is committed to engage children and youth, providing missions information and activities, designed to awaken and nurture a spirit of missions in the hearts of children. Click [here](#) to access Kids Kaleidoscope, a monthly addition to NMI Central to awaken and nurture a spirit of missions in everyone.

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## NMI SNAPSHOT



It takes time to prepare for ministry. Recently, 10 new elders were ordained for the work of the Church of the Nazarene in Argentina. Ordination services were conducted on the Northwest and North Patagonia districts during the first quarter of 2023.

In Argentina, the Church of the Nazarene has a broad and strong presence. The districts that carried out the ordinations are examples of how important it is to form, train, and send pastors out to continue the work of the Lord.



The ordination services brought great joy to the ordinands and to regional and district leaders in attendance, as well as the churches these elders represent. When a minister completes his or her studies and practical ministry requirements, he or she is eligible to be ordained as an elder in the Church of the Nazarene. Ordination is a ceremony that includes all of the elders who are present and is led by a general superintendent. As part of this ceremony, the elders will gather around the individual who is being ordained and will pray that the Lord will bless their ministry. They place their hand on the shoulder of the person being ordained and if they cannot reach that person, they will place their hand on the shoulder of the person in front of them. This is called “laying on of hands by the clergy.” As an ordained elder, ministers have full rights and privileges to carry out their call from God to preach and lead with the gifts that God has given them.

Every generation needs ministers who will dedicate their lives to carrying out the work of the Church as pastors, leaders, teachers, and missionaries so that the transformative message of the Gospel may reach people around the world. Because of this dedication, the Church of the Nazarene has grown across Argentina, and its influence is growing beyond its borders.



Dr. Fili Chambo, general superintendent in jurisdiction, said, "One of the reasons for the growth of the Lord's work is the obedience of his servants to fulfill the great commission." The churches in Argentina celebrate this special moment in the development of the work of the Church of the Nazarene.

### Could You Serve?

Is God calling you to participate in His mission? For more information, click [here](#).



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