

Prayer This Week

Our focus this week is: *Our Congregation*

A. *I praise God this morning for His work in our congregation:*

1. People:

_____.

2. Ministries:

_____.

3. Answered Prayers:

_____.

B. *I draw near to God this morning, asking for His power and will at FBC:*

1. for:

_____.

2. for:

_____.

3. for:

_____.

C. *The Cry of my heart this morning for our congregation is:*

_____.

D. Praying for one another:

Healing & Strength: Pat Robson, Constance McEwan, Bernie Smith,
Rachel Dunkerley-Underwood, Pastor John Teibe,
Mary Richmond, Heine Larsen, Bill Dyck,
Dennis Ripley

Special Request: The Calgary International Learning Centre Spring term begins on Monday. Please pray that the new and returning students will feel welcome. May we create a warm learning community where they will feel the love of Christ.

For confidential or urgent prayer requests, call Erna (prayer chain) at 403-284-3737

Nation we are in prayer for this week

Costa Rica – Latin America



Geography

Area: 51,100 sq km

Agriculturally and ecologically rich land that straddles the Central American isthmus.

Religion

| | | Pop % | Ann Gr |
|------------------------------|-----------|-------|--------|
| Christians | 4,358,653 | 93.94 | 1.3 |
| Evangelicals | 688,771 | 14.80 | 3.7 |

Population: 4,639,827 **Annual Growth:** 1.40% **Capital:** San José

Challenges for Prayer

The Roman Catholic Church is deeply impacted by charismatic renewal. Many have come to a living, personal faith in Christ, which has strengthened the Catholic Church (higher mass attendance, more indigenous seminarians and priests). Although 73% of the nation is Catholic, this percent declines every year, and most Catholics are quite nominal in their faith. From the charismatic renewal, many left the Catholic Church for evangelical churches; however, large and increasing numbers of “post-evangelicals” have returned to the familiarity and structure of Catholicism. Pray for both charismatics who stayed in the Catholic Church and those who have returned – may their faith bring further renewal to the mainstream of Catholicism.

These are signs of progress:

a) Increased cooperative efforts for outreach and mission, despite lingering hesitations on the part of some evangelicals. The Costa Rican Evangelical Alliance, representing the majority of denominations, initiated the programme “Costa Rica Century XXI” to promote the development of churches at every level. Pray for a cutting edge to this vision, and for the leaders of this ambitious programme.

b) Some of the best training options in Latin America. There are 26 Bible schools and seminaries and a very extensive and effective TEE programme (SEAN). Two of the most influential are UNELA (Evangelical University of the Americas) and UBILA (Latin American Biblical University); both train Christians to minister effectively to all segments of society – be it through church work, missions or marketplace ministry. There are plenty of training opportunities; pray that Costa Ricans would use them to raise the bar for leadership and to strengthen the Church.