

**RELIGIOUS STATISTICS FOR MEXICO**

*In this newsletter, I thought it would be interesting to share with you some statistics that describe the religious situation in Mexico. Most Mexicans, of course, are Roman Catholic. According to government statistics from last year, however, the percentage of Roman Catholics has declined from 96% in 1960 to 84% as of 2016. In central Mexico, the Catholic population is still more than 90%. However, in both Northern and Southern Mexico, the number of non-Catholics has been increasing rapidly.*



*About 67% of Protestants and Evangelicals in Mexico live in the southeastern region, especially in the state of Chiapas, which borders with Guatemala. There the percentage of Protestants and Evangelicals is over 20%. Of these, 47% live in rural villages with a population of less than 2,500 people. In those and other rural areas, there is still a great deal of religious conflict. One of our students at the Theological Community who is a pastor in a semi-rural area, for example, was recently pulled out of the pulpit during a worship service and beaten by several Roman Catholic men. The number of members of the “historical Protestant” churches in the country is around 900,000 (out of a total of over 120 million Mexicans), while the number of “Evangelical” and Pentecostal Christians is around 8 million.*



*The largest Protestant church in the country is the Presbyterian (450,000). Surprisingly, there are over 1.5 million Jehovah’s Witnesses, while the total number of Muslims in Mexico was less than 4,000 in the last census (2010).*

**MEDICAL ATTENTION IN MEXICO**

*In Mexico, there are many different levels of medical care. Of course, there are a few hospitals and medical centers that offer medical attention that is almost of the same quality as that offered in some of the best facilities in the United States. There are several different health programs run by the federal government that offer medical services at a very low cost to the majority of Mexicans. However, due to the vast number of people that need attention, it can often take a long time to see a doctor or to have necessary procedures done. The quality of attention tends to be rather poor in the opinion of most. There are also private medical facilities for people who can afford the costs or have private medical insurance, which has traditionally not been very common.*

*The average annual income of a General Practitioner in Mexico is \$21,000/year (compared to \$161,000/year in the U.S.), and Specialists make an average of \$25,000/year (compared to \$230,000 in the U.S.). Many doctors, however, only make about \$7,000/year. There are about 2.5 nurses per 1,000 population in Mexico (compared to 10.8 in the U.S.).*



*For minor medical needs (colds, flu, etc.), many Mexicans go to generic pharmacies like this one, where they are able to see a doctor for about \$2.00 (see the patients waiting on the right side of the photo). It is not at all uncommon for doctors to prescribe medicines that patients cannot afford. Pharmacies that sell generic equivalents like this one allow many to purchase medicines much more inexpensively.*

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