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Pray with Venezuela on Sunday, August 19, 2018

BY [CARMELO ALVAREZ](#) ON AUGUST 13, 2018

Lectionary Selection: John 6:51-58

Prayers for Venezuela:

Oh, God our creator and giver of life, we pray for the people and the churches of Venezuela. They are passing through critical times. As they face a serious economic, social, and political situation, we call upon your mercy and kindness to provide a vision of peace and justice, to create a national consensus, and to construct a real process of reconciliation.



We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, your son, incarnated in our history, as a giver of life. Amen.

Mission Stewardship Moment from Venezuela:

Venezuela is a very rich country, primarily in natural resources. For decades this has been a constant and prevailing factor in socio-economic and political crises. The recent crisis is closely related to these predominant factors in cultural and religious life. The churches are very diverse and very influential in national life, with the Roman Catholic Church as the largest religious body, The Evangelical Pentecostal Union of Venezuela is a very ecumenical denomination and for decades has been a prophetic voice in national life, denouncing structures of oppression and announcing the justice in God's reign.

In the current situation this denomination continues to be the source of hope in a ministry of accompaniment to the poor sectors, primarily women and children. Today, the support of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the United Church of Christ is needed more than ever, as the country confronts its worst economic crisis ever.

As you meditate and think about your personal stewardship, take a moment to pray and support God's mission in Venezuela. Amen.

(Prayer and Mission Moment by Carmelo Alvarez)

Global Ministries Mission Coworker in Venezuela:

Carmelo Alvarez serves the Evangelical Pentecostal Union of Venezuela (UEPV) and is based in Chicago, Illinois. He works as program consultant for the UEPV. His appointment is made possible by your gifts to Disciples' Mission Fund, Our Churches Wider Mission, and your special gifts.



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Venezuela

Venezuela is located in northern South America, bordering the Caribbean Sea and the North Atlantic Ocean between Colombia and Guyana.

On April 11, 2002, Venezuela experienced a military coup d'état against the democratically elected President, Hugo Chavez. A counter coup led by popular movements reinstated Chavez to the country's leadership.

Although the coup against President Chávez in April failed, democracy in Venezuela remains at risk. The possibility of violent unrest, including another coup attempt, is very real. Eighteen people were killed and 150-185 people were injured, some quite seriously, during the April 11 protest march. Between April 12 and 14, another forty to sixty people were killed. Much of this violence was associated with the widespread looting and protesting which took place during that period. Many of the victims who died were the poor in the western area of Caracas.

Population (2014 est) – 28,868,486

Area – 566,800 mi

Capital – Caracas

Ethnic Background – Spanish, Italian, Portuguese, Arab, German, African, indigenous people

Exports – petroleum and petroleum products, bauxite and aluminum, minerals, chemicals, agricultural products

Imports – agricultural products, livestock, raw materials, machinery and equipment, transport equipment, construction materials, medical equipment, petroleum products, pharmaceuticals, chemicals, iron and steel products

Life Expectancy (2014 est) – M 71 years F 78 years

Infant Mortality (2014 est) – 19.33 deaths/1,000 live births

Adult Illiteracy Rate – 4.5%

More information on Venezuela:

<http://www.globalministries.org/venezuela>