

# Country Support

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and ministries

Paraguay 2016 Ministry Need: \$6,000

Funding the **Paraguay Country Support Account (CSA)** will help resource leadership development



FREE METHODIST WORLD MISSIONS

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Connect with God's heart for the world.

# Paraguay



## Paraguay

### Annual Conference

- ◆ Population: 6,703,860 (57% urban)
- ◆ Major City: Asunción (1.4 million)
- ◆ Evangelical Christians: 6.1%
- ◆ FM Work Opened: 1946
- ◆ FM Churches: 21
- ◆ FM Membership: 858
- ◆ Ordained Elders: 15
- ◆ Conference Ministerial Candidates: 7
- ◆ Superintendent: Ceferino Ramirez Duarte
- ◆ Overseer: Bishop David Roller

## The Free Methodist Church in Paraguay

### Origins

Free Methodist work in Paraguay began in Asunción in 1946 when Harold and Evalyn Ryckman arranged the purchase of a girls' orphanage and school from independent missionaries. The first church was constructed in 1949. A Bible school opened in 1953. With the help of Minoru Tsukamoto, a Japanese from Brazil, work began with the large groups of Japanese immigrants in the late 1950s. Asuncion Christian Academy, a school for missionary children, was started in 1958, later expanding into a cooperative school. The school, which eventually became an independent ministry, continues to operate.

### Present Ministries

The FM churches of Paraguay are clustered around the capital, Asunción, and the southern city of Encarnación. Church-sponsored elementary schools minister in both cities in partnership with International Child Care Ministries.

