

# Church Planting & Development

*your opportunity*  
to partner with national leaders  
and ministries

**Paraguay Need: \$6,000**

The **Paraguay Church Planting & Development (CPD)** will help fund these strategic initiatives:

- ◆ Church Planting
- ◆ Leadership development and pastoral formation
- ◆ Transformational ministry in communities

FREE METHODIST WORLD MISSIONS

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# Paraguay



Connect with God's heart for the world.

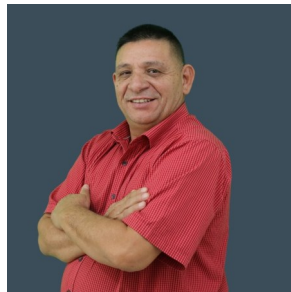
# Paraguay



## Paraguay

### Annual Conference

- ◆ Population: 7,264,000 (57% urban)
- ◆ Major City: Asunción (1.4 million)
- ◆ Evangelical Christians: 8.01%
- ◆ FM Work Opened: 1946
- ◆ FM Churches: 20
- ◆ FM Membership: 955
- ◆ Superintendent: Ceferino Ramirez Duarte
- ◆ Overseer: Bishop Linda Adams and Area Director Ricardo



Ceferino Ramirez Duarte

## 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 majority of FM churches in Paraguay are clustered around the capital, Asunción, and the southern city of Encarnación. The Community Church Planting movement is having an impact in Paraguay, where 38 houses of peace opened this past year. They are also actively involved in ministerial formation and pastoral care. The church ministers through two ICCM-sponsored schools and several cafeterias that provide food for those in need. Pastor Ceferino was recently elected to his fourth term as conference superintendent.

### Pray for:

- development of healthy leaders and multiplication of committed disciples
- churches that actively participate in the transformation of individuals, families and society