

**Inter-American Division
Fast Facts and Mission Posts
Second Quarter 2021**

Columbia

1. The Seventh-day Adventist Church in Colombia is comprised of the North Colombian Union Conference and the South Colombian Union Conference. There are 1,758 churches, 889 companies, and 286,131 members. In a population of 50,374,000, there is one member for every 176 people in Colombia.
2. In 1894, Frank C. Kelley went from the United States to Bogota as a self-supporting missionary, paying his expenses by teaching English and selling photographic goods. He went back to the U.S. for a time, married, and then returned to Colombia, but his wife's health required their return to the U.S. in 1899. The Kelleys returned to Colombia in December 1920, where they worked for two and a half years before permanently returning in 1923.
3. In the early nineteenth century, Adventists went to the islands of San Andres and Providencia, which belong to Colombia but are located north of Panama. In 1901, S. Parker Smith (son of Uriah Smith) and his wife opened a school on San Andres. In 1908, Smith wrote in the Review and Herald that there was a church of 19 members on San Andres and a larger one on Providencia, and that Adventist work was carried largely through the school on the islands. During 1916 and 1917, several colporteurs entered mainland Colombia.
4. About 90% of Colombians are Christian, mostly Roman Catholic (71%–79%), with a significant minority of Protestants (17%). The rest of the population is atheist or agnostic or claim to believe in God but do not follow a specific religion, and a fraction of a percent adhere to non-Christian religions. More than 35% of those who claim a religion report that they do not actively practice their faith.
5. The 1991 Colombian Constitution guarantees freedom of religion.
6. The official name of Colombia is the Republica de Colombia or Republic of Colombia. The country is named after explorer Christopher Columbus and is a presidential republic.
7. The capital city of Bogotá, with a population of 8 million, is the largest city in Colombia and is located in the middle of the country, on a high plateau in the Andes. It is one of the highest capital cities in the world at an altitude of 8,661 feet (2,640 meters).
8. Around three-fifths of Colombians are mestizo, or mixed indigenous/European heritage. About one-fifth of Colombians have African or mixed African/European ancestry and mostly live in the coastal regions and traditional sugar-growing areas. The European population (mainly of Spanish origin) has declined to about one-fifth. Only about 1% of the population are indigenous, a much lower percentage than in other Andean countries.
9. Castilian Spanish is the official language in Colombia and a lot of effort has been made to preserve its linguistic purity. There are also more than 180 indigenous languages and dialects in Colombia.
10. Literacy rates in Colombia are higher than the world average; more than 94% of the people can read and write.
11. The most popular sport in Colombia is soccer, but the country also has a traditional, national sport called Tejo. Tejo involves throwing a metal puck (the tejo) across a distance of around

60 feet (18.5 meters) to a pipe or spring set in a 1x1 yard (meter) board covered with clay and set at a 45-degree angle. A major component of the sport is its use of small, exploding packets containing gunpowder, set on the edges of the pipe, which bang loudly when hit by the puck.

12. Colombia is famous for two exports: It produces world-renowned coffee and is the world's leading source of emeralds.
13. The national flower of Colombia is the *Cattleya trianae* orchid; the national bird is the Andean condor, the largest flying bird in the world by combined weight and wingspan; and the national tree is the wax palm tree, the tallest palm in the world.
14. Colombia was inhabited by semi-nomadic tribes until the arrival of the Spanish in the fifteenth century. It gained independence from Spain on July 20, 1810, and in 1886 the Republic of Colombia was established.

Mexico

1. The Seventh-day Adventist Church in Mexico has five unions: the Central Mexican Union Mission, the Chiapas Mexican Union Conference, the Inter-Oceanic Mexican Union Conference, the North Mexican Union Conference, and the Southeast Mexican Union Mission. There are 4,626 churches, 4,380 companies, and 778,320 members. In a population of 126,577,000, there is one member for every 163 people in Mexico.
2. The earliest Seventh-day Adventist missionary work in Mexico dates to 1891, when an American tailor, S. Marchisio, went to Mexico City to sell the English edition of "The Great Controversy." Two years later, in 1893, a group of missionaries, including Dan T. Jones, Dr. Lillis Wood, Ida Crawford, Ora Osborne, and Alfred Cooper and his wife, arrived at Guadalajara and helped open a medical mission and a school. Later, the clinic developed into the Guadalajara Sanitarium. The Review and Herald (July 10, 1894) reported this venture as the first Adventist attempt at medical missionary work outside of the United States.
3. The first church in Mexico was organized at Guadalajara around this time, in connection with the establishment of the medical mission, and in 1896, the Review and Herald reported that a missionary periodical called *El Amigo de la Verdad* (The True Friend) was printed at Guadalajara.
4. Catholicism has been the dominant Mexican religion since it was introduced during the Spanish colonization of the sixteenth century, and Mexico is the second-largest Catholic country in the world after Brazil.
5. According to the 2010 census, 83% of the population of Mexico is Roman Catholic, with 10% other Christians, 0.2% other religions, 5% no religion, and 3% non-specified.
6. Spanish is the official national language of Mexico and is spoken by the majority of the population, but there are about 60 indigenous languages are still spoken, including Huastec in Veracruz; Maya in the Yucatán; Mazahua, Nahuatl, Otomí, Tarastec, and Totonac in the Mesa Central region; Tzeltal and Tzotzil in Chiapas; and Zapotec, Mixtec, and Mazatec in Oaxaca.
7. Mexicans take their sports seriously. In pre-conquest times, losers of a ritual ball game were often put to death. There are still dangerous sports, like bullfighting and rodeo (invented in Mexico), where competitors risk their lives.
8. The most popular sport in Mexico is soccer. Mexico hosted the Football World Cup in 1970 and 1986, and Mexico City hosted the Summer Olympic Games in 1968.
9. Mexico has a rich indigenous heritage and was deeply affected by several centuries of rule by the Spanish. Today, most Mexicans are mestizos (a mix of indigenous and Spanish blood).
10. Mexico has produced great artists throughout its history, including the Maya and other indigenous groups, who made murals, sculptures, and jewelry. Modern Mexican artists, too, produce great paintings, sculptures, murals, and photographs.
11. Gray whales swim thousands of miles (kilometers) each year from Alaska to northern Mexico, to breed in the waters off Baja California.
12. Mexico's first sophisticated society was created by the Olmec people, who appeared in the southeastern part of the country around 1200 B.C. They were followed by the Maya, the Toltec, and the Aztec peoples.
13. Mexico's ancient societies built huge cities and amazing pyramids, created beautiful works of art, and studied astronomy to determine when to plant crops and hold ceremonies.

14. More than half of population of Mexico lives in the center of the country, but vast arid areas in the north and the tropical south are only thinly settled. Nearly 80% of Mexicans now live in urban areas as people from impoverished rural areas have streamed into Mexico's cities, and Mexico City, the capital, is one of the highest density cities in the world.
15. Mexico is one of the world's more biologically diverse countries; made up of mountains and tropical rainforests, deserts and swamps, it supports myriad types of animals.
16. Mexico is a central component in the migratory patterns of many species. Innumerable ducks and geese fly every autumn into the mountains of Mexico. Millions of endangered monarch butterflies migrate each year from the United States to spend the winter on the forested peaks in eastern Michoacán state. Michoacán's Monarch Butterfly Biosphere Reserve was designated a UNESCO World Heritage site in 2008, although pollution from Mexico City and logging activities threaten the butterflies and their roosting trees.
17. The three colors of Mexico's flag hold deep significance for the country: Green stands for hope and victory; white means purity; and red represents the blood shed by the nation's heroes.
18. At nearly 2,000 miles (3,200 km), the border between Mexico and the United States is the second-longest in the world, after the border between the United States and Canada.
19. Mexican food is known for its range of flavors and spices, particularly hot chilies. Popular dishes include tacos, burritos, and enchiladas, which can be found in restaurants around the world.
20. From birth to death, an individual's status and opportunities in Mexico are strongly influenced by family ties. Due to the economic advantage, or necessity, of sharing accommodation, three or more generations often share a household, in both rural and urban areas. Whole families, grandparents, adults, teenagers, and small children commonly attend events together.
21. Weddings are usually grand, family-oriented events, as is the traditional quinceañera, celebrating a young woman's fifteenth birthday.

Trinidad and Tobago

1. Trinidad and Tobago is in the Caribbean Union Conference. The island of Trinidad makes up the South Caribbean Conference, while Tobago comprises the Tobago Mission. There are 162 churches with a membership of 67,422. In a population of 1,362,000, that's one Adventist for every 20 people in Trinidad and Tobago.
2. Adventist teachings were probably introduced to Trinidad and Tobago around 1879 through literature sent from England. As early as 1880 or 1881, a group of Sabbath keepers, led by James R. Braithwaite, met in Tobago. By the early 1880s, Adventist literature was being sent to Trinidad and Tobago by the International Tract and Missionary Society (ITMS) in the United States. The first specific positive response to Adventist teachings in Trinidad came through a copy of Ellen White's "Patriarchs and Prophets," which was passed to an individual who became one of the first Sabbath keepers in the island.
3. There were several self-supporting American and West Indian literature evangelists in Trinidad during the 1880s and '90s and, in February 1894, a minister, Andrew Flowers, and his wife, Rachael, arrived as the first official missionaries. Unfortunately, Andrew Flowers contracted yellow fever and died in Port of Spain in July 1894, and his wife returned home shortly after.
4. The first Seventh-day Adventist church was organized at Couva, Trinidad, with 28 members, in November 1895.
5. According to the latest national census, 33.4% of the population of Trinidad and Tobago is Protestant, 21.5% is Roman Catholic, 14.1% is Hindu, and 8% is Muslim. Smaller numbers belong to traditional Caribbean religions with African roots, and even smaller percentages are Jehovah's Witnesses, Buddhists, or unaffiliated.
6. Inhabited mainly by people of African and Indian descent, Trinidad and Tobago has a per-capita income well above the average for Latin America and the Caribbean because of its large reserves of oil and gas. However, dependence on these reserves has left the country vulnerable to world crude prices. The price crash during the 1980s and '90s resulted in a large foreign debt and widespread unemployment.
7. Trinidad and Tobago is a major trans-shipment point for cocaine and, like many other countries in the area, has been troubled by drug- and gang-related violence.
8. Although English is the official language, most people speak Trinidad English, a creole language.
9. In 1498, Christopher Columbus visited the islands. Legend has it he named Trinidad after the three peaks at its south-east corner and Tobago after a local type of tobacco pipe.
10. From 1802 to 1814, Britain obtained first Trinidad and then Tobago from Spain and France, respectively and, in 1889, Trinidad and Tobago was combined as a single British colony. The country became an independent republic in 1976.
11. Slavery was abolished in Trinidad and Tobago in 1834, and indentured laborers were then brought in from India to work on the sugar plantations. Today, Hindus make up around a quarter of the population of Trinidad and Tobago.
12. Trinidad and Tobago's population is comprised of about 40% East Indian, 39% black, 18% mixed race, 0.6% white, and 0.4% Chinese.

13. Trinidad and Tobago is an island country in the southernmost area of the West Indies made up of two main islands, Trinidad and Tobago, and several smaller islands. Trinidad, the larger of the islands, has an area of about 1,850 square miles (4,800 sq km) and is seven miles (11 km) north of the Venezuelan coast. Tobago is located 20 miles (30 km) northeast of Trinidad and has an area of about 115 square miles (300 square km).
14. Trinidad and Tobago contains the largest natural deposit of asphalt in the world. The Pitch Lake of La Brea, in the south of Trinidad, covers 100 acres (40 hectares), is around 250 feet (76 meters) deep, and is estimated to contain 10 million tons. Legend has it that it was “discovered” by Sir Walter Raleigh after indigenous people showed him the site. There are natural Sulphur pools in the area as well that are reputed to have healing properties.
15. Some of the best quality cocoa in the world is said to come from Trinidad and Tobago; the famous trinitario variety is the main ingredient in high-quality chocolates around the world.
16. The famous “limbo” was created in Trinidad, originating in the island’s African heritage. A stick is balanced on two upright sticks, and the contestants have to bend over backward to walk under the stick without touching it or letting any part of their body, other than the bottoms of their feet, touch the ground. After each round the bar is lowered until only one person can pass successfully under it. The world record is six inches (15 cm). Sometimes the contest is made even more exciting by lighting the stick on fire.
17. Trinidad is one of the world’s most important nesting sites for the giant leatherback turtle. Grande Riviere beach on the north coast is home to the second-largest leatherback turtle nesting site in the world, with up to 500 turtles visiting per night to lay their eggs.
18. The Moruga Scorpion, originating in southern Trinidad, is officially the second-hottest pepper in the world, reaching 2 million units on the Scoville heat scale. In comparison, a bell pepper registers zero-100, and a jalapeno can reach 10,000.
19. Trinidad and Tobago has one of the highest number of bird species per square mile (kilometer). Although a tiny country compared to Brazil and Venezuela, it has a similar number of species, with a total of 482 species of birds, including 17 types of hummingbird.
20. The only new acoustic instrument invented in the twentieth century came out of Trinidad and Tobago’s oil industry. Steelpans, or steel drums, are considered the island’s national instrument, and the first ones were made from oil drums. Calypso music and steel drum bands feature in carnival celebrations on both islands.
21. According to the United Nations, Trinidad and Tobago is the happiest country in the Caribbean.

Recipe: Colombia**Colombian Hot Chocolate with Cheese (Chocolate Caliente con Queso)***Makes 2 cups**Ingredients*

2 c (475ml) whole milk

1-3 tsp (5-15ml) sugar

2 oz (55g) milk or semi-sweet chocolate, chopped

Pinch of ground cinnamon

2 oz (55g) white cheese like mozzarella, haloumi, or queso fresco, chopped into small cubes

Instructions

Gently heat the milk, sugar, chocolate, and cinnamon in a saucepan. When the chocolate has melted, whisk until smooth. Pour into two mugs and divide the cheese between the mugs. Wait a minute for the cheese to start melting and then eat with a spoon.

Game: Trinidad and Tobago

Moral

Players: Up to six

Equipment: a tennis ball and something to draw the lines, like chalk

Draw eight boxes, about a yard (1m) square so you have two rows of four boxes. At the short end, number the bottom left box (1), the one above it (2), the one above that (3) and the top left (4), then move over to the top right box and number it (5), the one below it (6), the below that (7) and the bottom right box (8). The boxes should look like this:

4	5
3	6
2	7
1	8

The first player stands in front of box 1 and rolls the ball into it. Then, the player picks up the ball and bounces it once in box 1. The player then places his or her left foot into box 1 and bounces the ball in box 2. Then the player puts his or her right foot into box 2 and bounces the ball once in box 3 and puts his or her left foot in box 4. This continues till the player reaches and bounces the ball in box 8.

In round two, the player rolls the ball into box 2, steps into box 1, picks up the ball in box 2 and bounces it twice. The player continues stepping and bouncing until reaching box 8.

The player keeps doing this, rolling the ball into the next furthest box, stepping in the boxes to reach the ball, and then bouncing the ball to match the number in the box. At the end, the player will bounce the ball 8 times in box 8. Then, the player turns around and bounces the ball 8 times in each box as he or she steps back to the beginning.

If the player steps on a line or bounces the ball on a line or fails to bounce the ball the correct number of times, it is the turn of the next player.

To make it more challenging for older children, each player can clap every time he or she bounces the ball.

Song: Mexico**What a Friend We Have in Jesus (Oh, Que Amigo Nos Es Cristo)***Spanish*

¡Oh, qué amigo nos es Cristo!
 El llevó nuestro dolor,
 Y nos manda que llevemos,
 Todo A Dios en oración.
 ¿Vive el hombre desprovisto
 De paz, gozo y santo amor?
 Esto es porque no llevamos,
 Todo a Dios en oración.

¿Vives débil y cargado
 De cuidados y temor?
 A Jesús, refugio eterno,
 Dile todo en oración.
 ¿Te desprecian tus amigos?
 Cuéntaselo en oración.
 En sus brazos de amor tierno,
 Paz tendrá tu corazón.

Jesucristo es nuestro amigo,
 De esto pruebas Él nos dió,
 Al sufrir el cruel castigo
 Que el culpable mereció.
 Y su pueblo redimido
 Hallará seguridad,
 Fiando en este amigo eterno,
 Y esperando en su bondad.

English

What a Friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear.
 What a privilege to carry, ev'rything to God in Prayer.
 O what peace we often forfeit, O what needless pain we bear,
 All because we do not carry, ev'rything to God in Prayer.

Are we weak and heavy laden, cumbered with a load of care?
 Precious Saviour, still our refuge, take it to the Lord in prayer.
 Do thy friends despise, forsake thee? take it to the Lord in prayer;
 in his arms He'll take and shield thee, thou wilt find a solace there.

Blessed Saviour, Thou hast promised, Thou wilt all our burdens bear
 May we ever, Lord, be bringing, all to Thee in earnest prayer.
 Soon in glory bright unclouded, there will be no need for prayer
 Rapture, praise and endless worship, will be our sweet portion there.