

The Central American Providence

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Central American members

In August 3, 1492, Christopher Columbus set off across the ocean, with Queen Isabella of Spain as his sponsor, in search of a passage to India. Three months later on October 12, he arrived on an island among the Bahamas in the West Indies. He named this island San Salvador.

Though scholars now acknowledge that other Europeans and indeed people from continents other than Europe reached the Americas before Columbus, we generally identify Columbus as the first European explorer to have done so because the great migration of Europeans to the Americas began after his "discovery." Columbus himself died believing he had reached India. The navigator Amerigo Vespucci was the first to recognize that Columbus had discovered "a new world."

Following Columbus' landing in the Americas, Spain sent many fleets and the history of Spanish expansion of territory in Central America and South America, including the Caribbean Islands, began. In 1519, Hernan Cortes cast his anchor near the island of Veracruz in the Gulf of Mexico. In 1521, he executed the emperor of the Aztecs, Moctezuma I. Cortes was at the head of those who utterly destroyed the Aztec Empire. In 1537, he executed Inca's last emperor, Manco Capac. Thus, these native empires in Central America and South America became nothing but history.

The Spanish conquests began a miserable history for the native people. As Spain conquered Mayan lands during the 1520s, they expanded their territory to the south from Mexico to Costa Rica. Estimates of native peoples' pre-conquest population vary so widely as to be unreliable. However, that only relict groups of native people remained not long after the Spanish conquest (and mostly to this day) is widely accepted.

The independence of Central America, after three hundred years of exploitation, began with the white social class born in Central America, also known as the Criollo people (Creoles). The war for independence to break away from Spain began in Mexico, in 1810. Within a quarter century, twenty-four nations became independent.

Geographically Central America seems to be part of North America, while culturally it seems to be part of South America. From whichever perspective we look from, it is an important area. Beginning on May 16, 1995, True Parents traveled to the major nations in Central America on speaking tours. Five hundred years had passed since Columbus arrived on the continent. The True Parents of Humankind healed the history of slaughter and devastation by giving true love and true life.



Appointing a vice-presidential candidate Ambassador for Peace

By connecting North America, which had a foundation in Protestantism, with Central America and South America, which were mainly Catholic, they strove to achieve religious cultural harmony. True Parents' eight declarations, which began at the New Hope Farm in Jardim, Brazil, were the result of their sweat and tears shed for the Americas.

On that foundation, on May 8, 2014, True Mother tied twenty-one

Central American nations together including the Caribbean Islands and urged them to harmonize with North America and South America and restore their nations. Since last year, Costa Rica and the Dominican Republic are strategic nations in Central America. This year, in commemoration of the third anniversary of True Father's ascension, Nicaragua became our third strategic nation.

In truth, the established religion in most of the nations of Central America is Catholic. No matter where you go, you find that Catholic culture has a foundation. In other words, preparation exists for restoration of these countries as God's nations, because whenever we hold a Divine Principle workshop, participants can easily understand and accept our theological revelations. The Divine Principle is our greatest tool.

Wherever our members go in Central America or South America, they can feel True Parents' sweat, their tears and the touch of their true love. To that extent, True Parents have loved these nations and have invested everything into these areas. Hence, the victory of Vision 2020 through restoring these nations is our destiny.