

West Highland Purepecha of Mexico

The Western Highland Purepecha were christianized as part of Spanish Conquista. The church ideas were assimilated by Purepecha people but not understood well until the 20th century. Mass was held in Latin until the 1950s, then Spanish. More recently Mass is sometimes in Purepecha but usually still in Spanish. Evangelicals use more Purepecha, but even there it is often Spanish because there are no Bible schools in Purepecha yet.

Scripture portions were translated in the 1580s, the New Testament in 1968 and the whole Bible is now being translated as a United Bible Society project.

The people are open to the Gospel when presented appropriately.

The Purepecha are mostly modernized (mobile phones, CD, television, radio, post-secondary education, etc.) but there are also areas that are still less developed (no plumbing, minimal education, etc.).

Image
Unavailable

Primary Religion:

Christianity

Disciples (Matt 28.19):

30%

Churches:

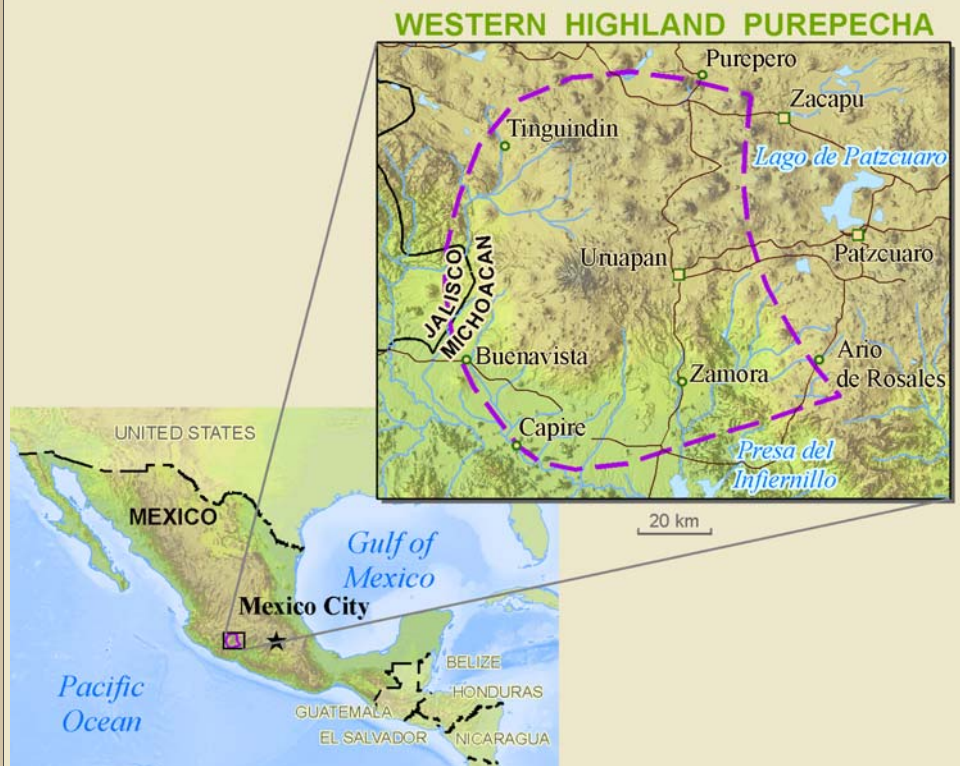
100

Scripture Status (Matt 28.20):

Has NT; OT started

Population (date):

250,000 (2005)



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Item Name	Item Note	
Have They Heard The Gospel?		Profile Summary
Call Themselves Christian (%)	95%	
Believe In Jesus As God & Only Savior (%)	30%	
Prophet/Good Man, But Not God's Son (%)	0%	
Believe In The Local Traditional Religion (%)	30%	
Have Not Heard Who Jesus is (%)	0%	
Number Of Pastors	40 evangelical, 11 RC	
Comment (Pastors)	only Purepecha speakers counted	
Number Of Missionaries Working	4 evangelical, many short term RC	
Comment (Number Of Missionaries)	most of work done by local believers	
Response To The Gospel	open when done appropriately	
Number Of Communities	65	
Comment (Number Communities)	only primarily Purepecha speaking ones	
Number Of Churches	100	
Comment (Churches)	each village has a Catholic church; about 30 evangelical churches	
Any Hinderance To Scripture Distribution?	None foreseen -- lots of interest	
Forms Of Gospel Presentation Available (Summary)	All the above being worked on beside current translation project (with exception of TV for the moment: no Purepecha TV broadcast available for time being)	
What Kind Of Missionaries Are Needed?	Only if highly sensitive to local culture and customs	
Population All Countries		Group Description
World Population For This People	250,000	
Countries Where People Group Lives		Group Description
Country Name	Mexico	
Country Name	USA	
Geography & Environment		Group Description
Map Features	"Area between Zamora, Uruapan, Quiroga triangle"	
Literacy		Group Description
Adult Literacy Percentage	60%	
Comment (Literacy)	First language literacy rate: 40% Second language literacy rate: 60%	
Religion & Response		Status of Christianity
Attitude To Christianity	Receptive	
Comment (Attitude To Christianity)	when within local cultural terms	
Attitude To Religious Change	Somewhat Resistant	
Comment (Attitude Religious Change)	many quite conservative, but some places mass movements as well	
History Of Christianity In Group		Status of Christianity
Year Began	1521	
Comments (History of Christianity)	Christianized as part of Spanish Conquista, assimilated by Purepecha people but not understood well until 20th century. Mass in Latin until 1950s, now Spanish and more recently in Purepecha but not often. Evangelicals using more Purepecha, but even there often Spanish because Bible schools not in Purepecha yet.	
Scripture		Status of Christianity
Translation Status	Scripture	
Scripture Published When	1968	

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Item Name	Item Note
Other Forms Of Gospel Available: Literature	Yes
Other Forms Of Gospel Available: Recordings	Yes
Other Forms Of Gospel Available: Film/Videos	Yes
Other Forms Of Gospel Available: Radio	No