





ECUADOR | NANGARITZA STRATEGY

OUR DESIRE

To see the Lord extend the worship of Christ to the unreached Nangaritza County of southeastern Ecuador through the proclamation of the gospel, the salvation of the lost, and the equipping of the saints in the context of established biblical churches.

CULTURAL SETTING

Nangaritza County is located in southeastern Ecuador where the foothills of the Andes Mountains transition to the Amazon rainforest. The temperate yet humid jungle climate, combined with plenty of rain, has made Nangaritza County one of the most biologically diverse regions in the world. However, due to its remote location, the area remains significantly underdeveloped. Of the more than 8,000 people who live in Nangaritza County, about one-half live in and around the largest town, Guayzimi. The remaining people inhabit about 30 small towns and communities, most of which are accessible by rough dirt roads – and a few only by motorized canoe.

There are three different people groups that live in Nangaritza County: Mestizo, Shuar, and Saraguro. The Mestizos (mixed race) are the majority Spanish-speaking people group in Ecuador. Both the Shuar and Saraguro groups are indigenous peoples which historically had unique cultures and languages. Today, at least in Nangaritza County, those cultural distinctives are not as apparent as they once were.

In Guayzimi, which is the county seat, many people work for the local government or the school system. Family-owned shops are common, and others cultivate produce and raise cattle for commercial purposes. The people in the rest of the towns and communities, and by and large the Shuar and Saraguro people in general, dedicate themselves to agriculture, raising cattle, and/or artisanal gold mining.

Although there has been gospel ministry in the whole of Ecuador for over 100 years, the remote Nangaritza County has only a handful of believers and zero evangelical churches. The dominant local religion is Roman Catholicism mixed with traditions handed down from past generations. There is a serious need for the gospel of Jesus Christ in Nangaritza County.

STRATEGY

Since Nangaritza County is large, remote, and spread out, we will better be able to focus our efforts toward seeing local

churches established throughout the county by prayerfully planning our steps. Strategically speaking, how and where should our efforts be focused? Our primary concerns are evangelizing the lost and equipping the saints for the ministry in the context of local churches – but when targeting an entire county, where should we begin? To Every Tribe uses a three tier regional approach in planting churches: Platform, Network, and Remote Churches.

1. Platform Church

As churches are planted throughout Nangaritza County, our desire is that they would be self-led, self-supporting, and self-reproducing. These churches will be shepherded from their inception to raise up local leadership and in turn plant other churches throughout the various remote communities.

A Platform Church will be helpful to establish a base from which to launch and support the planting of Network and Remote Churches. The Platform Church would be expected to provide godly counsel, earnest prayer, and mature believers to participate in evangelism which would lead to church plants. Ideally, an existing nearby local church would fill this role. However, since there are no churches in Nangaritza County, we will first need to examine the possibility of partnering with a church in a city 1 to 2 hours outside of Nangaritza County. We understand that a church planted in the county seat of Guayzimi would eventually serve as a Platform Church.

Developing a Platform Church in Guayzimi will involve evangelizing the lost, gathering believers, equipping the saints, and appointing local elders to lead the church – all while imparting a vision for seeing churches planted throughout Nangaritza County.

2. Network Churches

Since the small remote communities are quite isolated, Network Churches should first be developed in the larger towns which already serve as more immediate networking locations for the remote communities. The Platform Church will play an integral role in establishing Network Churches.

Locations which would be good candidates for Network Churches are Zurmi, Santa Elena, Las Orquídeas, Shaime, Nuevo Paraíso, and Selva Alegre. These towns are a bit larger and each has a high school to which students from neighboring remote communities travel.

Christ we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ. — COLOSSIANS 1:28

3. Remote Churches

The remaining 23 communities are considered remote since they are small and more isolated. Most have a basic one or two room schoolhouse for elementary education.

The Platform Church and nearby Network Churches will leverage existing relationships to help establish contact and then engage with each of the remote communities, leading to the planting of Remote Churches.

SPECIFIC STEPS

Phase 1: Foundations

- Determine the best location for the Platform Church, whether outside Nangaritza County or in Guayzimi
- Develop the platform capabilities of this church, discipling local men who display leadership calling and giftedness
- Engage in evangelistic outreach focused in Guayzimi and some chosen network towns
- Build a team of both indigenous and To Every Tribe missionaries to reach Nangaritza County
- Continue to research the best candidates of remote communities for future church-planting efforts, identifying and maintaining contacts in each community
- Continue preparations to receive other workers

Phase 2: Movement

- Develop the working relationships between the Platform Church and the Network Churches
- Begin evangelism and church planting efforts in certain remote communities, choosing which particular team members are best qualified for remote missions
- Implement the Eight Phases of Pioneer Church Planting (see below) among the unreached peoples in these remote communities
- Pray for and work toward the development of healthy, indigenous, reproducing churches
- Recruit more workers to live in network towns in order to engage the still unreached communities

Phase 3: Reproduction

• Charge the missionary team to move further into the remotest communities to reproduce the church planting efforts that have proven to be effective

As To Every Tribe missionaries work to equip believers through the development of Platform, Network, and Remote Churches, they will continue to be involved in evangelistic efforts as they live among the people to whom they are ministering, following Christ's example of incarnational ministry. These activities would include:

- Individual, group, and online Bible studies
- Children's Bible clubs and Sunday School
- English language classes
- Partnering with the local government in humanitarian efforts, natural disaster response, and community development efforts

METHODOLOGY

With a strategy in place of where we should focus our efforts, what steps should be taken to plant these Platform, Network, and Remote Churches in Nangaritza County? To Every Tribe emphasizes the Eight Phases of Pioneer Church Planting.

- 1. Arrival Showing people you are here and you care, and taking the time to serve the community by coming alongside the people to live in their world and to serve them.
- **2.** *Trust* Building trust between you and the people through your actions and conversations.
- 3. Spiritual Conversations Taking the time to understand how the people process God, religion, and spiritual things.
- **4. Gospel Conversations** As the Lord opens doors, sharing the whole gospel, taking the time to show how Jesus deals with our shame and guilt and has overcome the evil that is in the world.
- **5.** *Nurture* As the Lord saves people, nurturing the new believers in what it means to live as a follower of Jesus.
- 6. Help For many converts, following Jesus can cause problems in their life. Being a Christian can cause people to be at odds with their family, extended family, culture, and maybe cause them to be persecuted or even martyred. It is the role of the missionary to help people understand how to apply the Bible to the complexities of following Jesus.
- 7. *Discover* Seeking the wisdom of the Lord to help believers understand their gifts and their role in the work of the gospel and the body of Christ.
- 8. Affirm Once a disciple has discovered their gifts it



is important that the missionary publicly affirms that gift in front of all. In many cultures the idea of mutual submission and service is not accepted. The idea of a church, where all serve each other, is novel. We must affirm people publicly to make a way for them to serve in the new community. As we complete the church planting process, we must appoint elders and deacons and give them the public affirmation needed.

To Every Tribe will work through the Eight Phases of Pioneer Church Planting with believers in the Platform Church while discipling them to implement this same methodology themselves to help plant Network Churches and eventually Remote Churches throughout Nangaritza County.

MISSIONARY TEAM

Our plan is to develop a missionary team in Nangaritza County, with the vision of at least two units living in the county seat Guayzimi and other units residing in some of the network villages, such as Selva Alegre or Nuevo Paraiso. This long-term gospel work in a remote county will require several missionary units. Therefore, in addition to any local believers who step into leadership roles, we desire to have additional missionaries join us in Nangaritza County. We're thankful that this field in remote southeastern Ecuador is primed and ready to receive other workers. To that end, To Every Tribe leadership is informing its current First-Term Missionaries of the opportunities to join our cross-cultural church planting efforts in southeastern Ecuador, while also mobilizing other believers called to cross-cultural missions to participate in To Every Tribe's equipping program as First-Term Missionaries.

CONCLUSION

As an unreached region with no evangelical churches, Nangaritza County in southeastern Ecuador presents many opportunities for gospel efforts toward church planting. To Every Tribe is committed to sending and supporting missionaries as well as partnering with local believers to see the Lord establish His Church. As we focus on developing Platform, Network, and Remote Churches throughout Nangaritza County, we ask that our brothers and sisters in Christ throughout the world join us in persistent prayer. May Christ receive the glory, honor, and praise due His name in Nangaritza County!

MISSION

To Every Tribe exists to extend the worship of Christ among all peoples by mobilizing the church, training disciplemakers, and sending missionary teams to plant churches among the unreached.

TIERED REGIONAL CHURCH PLANTING





NETWORK COMMUNITY



PLATFORM COMMUNITY

PHASES OF PIONEER CHURCH PLANTING















GOSPEL CONVERSATIONS









