

Radio Ministry Reaches Colombian Drug Zones

☒ Drug trafficking brings an estimated \$6 billion into Colombia each year. The country's government is fighting against it, but still the market continues.

One aspect that greatly affects the lives of thousands of people in Colombia is the constant conflict between the government and the FARC, a guerrilla movement that has proclaimed itself as a socialist anti-imperialist organization. To fund their terrorist activities, they get as much as \$2 million a day in illicit drug proceeds. Some FARC units in southern Colombia are reported to be directly involved in drug trafficking activities such as controlling local cocaine base markets.

Regions controlled by this guerrilla group would be the last place you'd expect to find Christians, and Spanish World Ministries has found that the terrorist group likes it that way.

"There is one specific [region] that is called Guaviare," says Daniel Sandoval, with Spanish World Ministries. "This terrorist group has increased the planting, processing and trading of cocaine. Of course, the lack of government programs, the lack of transportation, medical services, and, above all, the control of the Guerilla over

this place
makes this region a difficult missionary field—either for
nationals or
for foreign missionary organizations.”

The terrorist group in this area considers Christian activity
suspicious, Sandoval says.

“If any Christian organization pretends to reach the small
towns in this
region of Guaviare, the guerilla movement will consider them
spies sent
by the DEA, or informants for the government,” explains
Sandoval. “The
question is: Should the people from Guaviare die without
having the
opportunity to hear about Christ? We’re talking about a
population of
about 25,000 people.”

Sandoval adds, “Of course, we know the answer: they need to
hear about Christ.”

How to do this in an area so hostile—not to mention
dangerous—to
believers, though? Spanish World Ministries has found a way.
They are
transcending all boundaries through an unlikely medium: radio.

God has used radio to transform hearts in these hard-to-reach
areas in a
number of ways. For instance, one man involved in planting and
harvesting marijuana and the coca plant and in processing
cocaine was
injured on the job. As he sat there bleeding, waiting for
someone to
come to his aid, he turned on the radio. A Spanish World
broadcast

“happened” to be playing.

After hearing about sin and Christ’s forgiveness, the man immediately surrendered his life. In fact, he even burned his plantation. When he explained the reasoning to his workers, all of them accepted Christ as their Savior as well. And it all stemmed from one radio broadcast.

Spanish World Ministries has been able to break down barriers in Colombia and has also become an encouragement to Colombians in difficult times. During the recent flooding that killed over 400 people and affected 3 million total, the ministry’s broadcasts provided the peace of Christ to many.

“In the midst of these difficult situations, our programs represented a great blessing for many people that needed desperately to hear words of hope and encouragement,” says Sandoval.