

HENDRIX NEWSLETTER—LYON, FRANCE

A Global Outreach Touching All Parts of the French-Speaking World

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The island is poor, but great ice cream



80% of pop. are descendants of African slaves



13% are of Indian origin (from India)



SPECIAL EDITION—GUADELOUPE

We spent the month of April on a mission to the French Caribbean. Although situated 4300 miles from Paris, Guadeloupe is a *département* of France, just like Hawaii is part of the United States. The economy is agricultural, with sugar cane as the primary crop. Most of its 450,000 inhabitants live in rural areas. Unemployment is 26%, and 20% of workers earn less than minimum wage.

Since Guadeloupe is near the equator, temperatures average 80° Fahrenheit. The society is divided into 2 major ethnic groups: African slave descendants, and Indians whose ancestors came to work the cane fields when slavery was abolished in 1848.

BRIEF HISTORY OF THE CHURCH OF CHRIST IN GUADELOUPE

Max & Monique Lanoix were converted in **LYON** in 1981. Three years later, they moved to find work in Guadeloupe and immediately began sharing their faith. Max died of cancer in 1999, and shortly thereafter the congregation split because of personality differences. The St. François church is growing, but sadly the other congregation is dwindling.

The church in Guadeloupe has never had a full-time preacher. Today David Lanoix, son of Max & Monique, serves as preacher & teacher at St. François as well as holding a full-time job. Two other men help out with the teaching. It was encouraging to see that the Hindu man baptized last year is also taking on responsibility within the congregation. Attendance is about 50 on Sundays.

Over the years, Pamela and I have been able to serve through teaching and edifying, and in 2005 we presented our marriage seminar. This year was my 15th mission trip to Guadeloupe.



Most Guadeloupeans are Catholic or Hindu, but there is also superstition & sorcery

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



2009 MISSION

The highlight this year was an audiovisual presentation of God’s Plan for Man, an overview of the Bible. Ten thousand invitations were given personally to family & friends, distributed in mailboxes (legal in France) and sent by mail (*top photo at left*).

As in the past, a major part of my work was to relieve the young brothers of teaching in order to give them rest and the opportunity to hear someone else. I taught 12 times at church in addition to the 3 audiovisual conferences. As usual, Pamela taught ladies’ Bible classes: this year lessons drawn from the Gospel of Mark.

In addition, Pamela and I averaged 2 home visits a day to encourage, teach and answer questions.

GOOD NEWS

The St. François church has had 3 baptisms in the past year. We had 12 visitors for the 3 evenings of outreach. Two adults who were no longer attending church, started coming again. Finally, Monique Lanoix is engaged to Robert Dagenais from Quebec, who was baptized in Guadeloupe last year.

We thank God for all he has done. He blessed our month’s mission there, and surely there is more good news to come.

Lord willing, we plan to return next year. We would like to do more for the Lord and also encourage these brothers and sisters who see few other Christians on their small island.

We thank you for your prayers, and we thank those who made this trip possible through their gifts. God bless you.



Arlin & Pamela Hendrix in Guadeloupe, April 2009

1 Corinthians 3:7-9 -
Neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. The man who plants and the man who waters have one purpose, and each will be rewarded according to his own labor. For we are God’s fellow workers.