

HENDRIX NEWSLETTER—LYON, FRANCE

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

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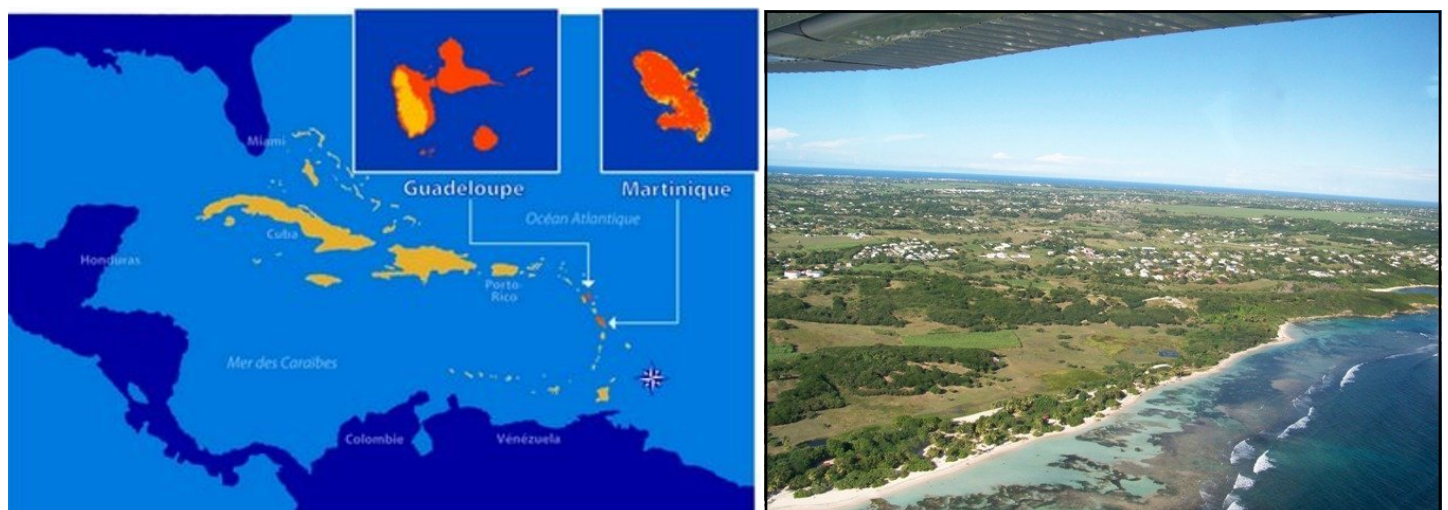
Did you know that the French-speaking world includes islands in the Caribbean, the province of Quebec, many African countries, etc.? The center of the French world is France of course, but there are 55 other francophone nations with 970 million people. Our personal calling is to these French speakers scattered throughout the world. Based in Lyon, we naturally minister most to Europe. We try to get to Africa once every 3 years, and we go to Guadeloupe yearly. Our latest mission trip to Guadeloupe was in December 2010.



SPECIAL EDITION—GUADELOUPE

GEOGRAPHY

Guadeloupe is part of France, like Hawaii is part of the U.S. It is located in the Caribbean, 4400 miles from Paris. The island is the size of Collin County, 1 of the 12 counties in the Dallas Fort Worth Metroplex. Or the size of McClain County (Purcell) in Oklahoma or Greene County (Paragould, Arkansas). However, on Guadeloupe roads it takes 1½ to 2 hours to drive from one end of the island to the other.



ECONOMY

Unemployment in Guadeloupe is at 26%, and another 20% earn less than minimum wage. Unemployment in mainland France is at 9%, the same as the U.S. Hence in Guadeloupe you will see rickety wooden cabins along with modern subdivision houses. Believe it or not, life on the island is even more expensive than in Lyon. For example, the cheapest gas in Guadeloupe costs \$7.50 a gallon, over \$6.87 per gallon in Lyon.

PEOPLE & RELIGION

The population is 400,000, mostly rural. Eighty percent of the people are descendants of African slaves. They worked on the cotton plantations starting in 1640. After the abolition in 1848, forty-five thousand Hindus came from India to replace the slaves. Today they constitute 13% of Guadeloupe's population. Most Guadeloupians are Catholic, but they have kept their animist beliefs as well.

HISTORY OF THE CHURCH OF CHRIST IN GUADELOUPE

Max & Monique Lanoix were baptized in Lyon in 1981, and they moved to the French West Indies because of work in 1984. Max died in 1999, and the congregation has never had a full-time preacher.



THE CHURCH TODAY

There are 2 Churches of Christ in Guadeloupe, and we work with the one located in St. François. David Lanoix, Max's son, does most of the teaching, and Christophe Zamord & Pascal Ribac help David out. One of the local families built the church building with their own means, and they rent it to the congregation. It has a large meeting room, 3 classrooms, 2 bathrooms & a kitchen. Sunday worship has an attendance of 40-50.



OUR WORK THERE

1986 was my first mission trip to Guadeloupe; 2010 marked my 18th visit. I have done several types of seminars over the years, plus 1 funeral, 1 wedding & participated in 2 others. Pamela & I even sang for this last one. In 2005 we presented our marriage seminar, with 44 participants. Pamela regularly teaches ladies' Bible classes. We both also study the Bible with people in their homes & do a lot of counseling. Hospitality comes naturally to the islanders: fellowship is precious and meals shared together are delicious.

