

HENDRIX NEWSLETTER—LYON, FRANCE

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

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Arlin & Pamela in Guadeloupe



SPECIAL EDITION — GUADELOUPE

Guadeloupe 101

Guadeloupe is a French-speaking island (just 60 miles long) south of Puerto Rico in the Caribbean. It is a *département* of France, like Hawaii is part of the United States. The economy is mainly agricultural (sugarcane number 1 crop), and most of its 450,000 inhabitants live in rural areas. Pointe à Pitre is the largest city, population 84,000. Unemployment is 26%, and 20% of workers earn less than minimum wage, so the island remains poor.

Since Guadeloupe is near the equator, the sun sets at 6 PM year-round and temperatures average 80 degrees Fahrenheit, with a pleasant tropical breeze. It is humid in the summer and fall is hurricane season, so best to avoid going then. Exceptionally in March 2008, a hurricane hit Florida and we saw 20-foot waves in Guadeloupe as the tail-end of that storm. That was every bit as awesome as the majestic Alps.

Columbus landed on Guadeloupe in 1493. Today the society is divided into two major ethnic groups: 80% are African slave descendants and 13% are Indians (from India) whose ancestors came when slavery was abolished in 1848. The religious make-up is mostly Catholic and Hindu. There is also superstition and even sorcery.

Guadeloupeans are very hospitable and their church potlucks are great! Creole dishes are based on rice & fish/seafood, sometimes quite spicy. A lot of tropical fruit too: mangos, coconut, etc. No snakes on the island, but there is a dangerous 12-inch millipede (hurts bad like a scorpion sting) and we had 3 little ones in our bungalow this year. Lizards & geckos are welcome houseguests to eat mosquitoes.

A Short History of the Work in Guadeloupe

In Lyon in 1981, **Max & Monique Lanoix** were converted and baptized into Christ. In 1984, looking for work, they moved with their 3 children to Guadeloupe. Despite severe financial hardship they immediately began sharing their faith.

By 1986, there were 20 coming regularly to church, and Arlin made his first evangelistic visit. Arlin made a second trip in 1988, and the congregation continued to grow. Since 1992, Arlin has been going to the island almost every year (Pamela since 1995), making a total of nearly 30 mission trips for Arlin.

Max Lanoix died of cancer in 1999, and shortly thereafter the congregation split because of personality differences. The Saint François church of Christ is doing well, but we are sad to say that the Eau Blanche congregation is dwindling.

“One of the best, if not the best, Guadeloupe mission to date.” This sums up our latest missionary trip to the French-speaking Caribbean. As usual, we went to encourage, teach and counsel the Christians as well as their contacts, and that was accomplished. At the same time, we were encouraged and taught by them.

Shortly before our arrival, there had been 3 baptisms in the congregation. On Easter Sunday I had the honor of baptizing **Serdo Chotkan**. His wife **Patricia** has been a Christian for 9 years. When I first met Serdo, coming from a Hindu background, he doubted the existence of God. His faith grew little by little, largely because of the example and faith of his wife and also his own Bible study. The love shown in the Saint François congregation was the deciding factor in Serdo’s decision to commit his life to Christ.



Serdo’s sins washed away in the Caribbean

One of the families at Saint François just completed construction of a nice wooden building that they rent to the church for a low price. It has a large meeting room, 3 classrooms, a kitchen and two bathrooms. The Christians are zealous for the Lord and there are several visitors each week. Unity and love are obvious, and the congregation is planning outreach projects.

During our stay I presented a seminar on God’s compassion, and the members did a lot of publicity for that seminar. I also taught each time the church met, and Pamela taught the ladies’ class. In addition, we stayed busy visiting people at home and discussing personal subjects and answering their questions.

In 2009, we are planning a longer stay in order to accomplish more for the Lord. This congregation has never had a full-time preacher, but they are doing well. **David Lanoix**, son of Max & Monique, serves as preacher and teacher at church in addition to his full-time job. **Pascal Ribac** and **Christophe Zamord** help him out with the teaching, and the members are very faithful in attendance. They are about 50 on Sundays, and they had still another baptism a week after our return to Lyon, 4000 miles away.

OUR WEB SITE

For more information and PHOTOS go to:

www.hendrixfrancophone.com

A Letter from the Church in Guadeloupe

We are a congregation of 48 people (28 baptized Christians) in Guadeloupe, with whom Arlin and Pamela Hendrix have been working for about 20 years. Arlin is not our preacher, but he’s been coming with his wife almost every year and thanks to their teaching the brethren has been uplifted and greatly encouraged.

During the last Easter holiday, we had the pleasure to have them with us and enjoy their fellowship and Bible studies. As a result of their work here, we were blessed with one baptism on March the twenty third. Arlin, who had been having private studies with this new brother, was the one who performed the baptism.

We would like to thank Arlin and Pamela for their support, their patience and caring love that only comes from our Lord. But we would also like to thank all the churches who support their mission financially and through prayers.

God bless all of us.

The Church of Christ at Saint-François,
Guadeloupe (French West Indies)

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