Snapshot Section

Country Name:
Département de la Guadeloupe
(Department of Guadeloupe)

Country Founded in:
Discovered by Christopher Columbus November 3, 1493
Settled by French colonists in 1635, and annexed into French kingdom in 1674
Guadeloupe remains an overseas department of France

Population:
456,698 (2007 est.)

Note: As of February 22, 2007, Saint-Martin and Saint-Barthélemy officially became overseas collectivities of France independent of Guadeloupean jurisdiction. This population figure and further figures may not reflect the loss of these two islands' statistics.

Government Type:
Republic – Guadeloupe is one of five overseas departments and one of 26 regions of France. It has two legislative houses for the island: General Council and Regional Council.

Geography/location in the world:
Guadeloupe consists of five island groups in the Lesser Antilles of the Caribbean. These islands, Basse-Terre, Grand-Terre, Le Désirade, Les Saintes, and Marie-Galante are located north of Dominica and southeast of Puerto Rico at the arc of the Lesser Antilles.

Number of people groups:
There are 7 people groups residing in Guadeloupe with French Creole dominating the population (443,526).

Picture of flag:
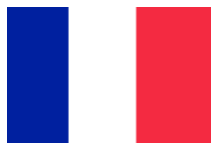
Official Flag (France)   Unofficial local flag

Religion Snapshot:

Major Religion and % of population: Roman Catholicism (85.1%)

All religions and % for each:
       Roman Catholicism (85.1%)
       Christianity (9.5 %)
              Protestant (6.8%)
              Independent (0.52%)
              Marginal (3.4%)
              Unaffiliated (1.9%)
              Note: Some are doubly affiliated, accounting for a total percentage
                    greater than 9.5%.
       Hinduism (0.5%)
       Baha'i (0.4%)
       Muslim (0.4%)
       Non-religious/other (4.1%)

Government interaction with religion: Guadeloupe is under the French policy of freedom of religion.

Sources consulted:
http://www.peoplegroups.org/MapSearch.aspx?country=Guadeloupe
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Guadeloupe
http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0107545.html
Operation World. 21st Century. 2001.

Basic Facts

Country Name:

Département de la Guadeloupe
(Department of Guadeloupe)

Demographics:

Guadeloupe has a primarily younger population with 73% being under the age of 45. 23.6% is between the ages of 0 and 14 years old, 67.1% is between 15 and 64 years old, and the remaining 9.2% is age 65 or older. The ratio of males to females is 0.97.

The breakdown of ethnic groups existing in Guadeloupe is as follows:
Black/Mulatto: 75%
White: 11%
Tamil/East Indian: 9%
Lebanese/Syrians: 3%
Chinese/others: 2%
The population growth rate is 0.88%

The birth rate among Guadeloupeans is 15.05 births / 1,000 people. The death rate is 6.09 deaths / 1,000 people. Infant mortality is 8.41 deaths / 1,000 live births. The fertility rate per woman is 1.9 children. Males have a life expectancy of 74.91 years while females have an expectancy of 81.37 years, giving a total life expectancy among Guadeloupeans of 78.06 years.

Language:

The official language of Guadeloupe is French. However, the common language among Guadeloupeans is Guadeloupean Creole French, which is a part of the Creole language division. Islanders will use Creole in everyday conversation while employing the use of French in formal contexts. Other languages of Guadeloupe include English and Hatian Creole French.

Society/Culture:

Across the board, the Guadeloupean culture can be described as a mixture of African and European influences that come together under the banner of "Creole." From the arts, to styles of dress to food, the culture is a vibrant blend of these influences that has only continued to evolve in its own fashion over time.

Particularly important in Guadeloupe are the arts. In 1960, a Guadeloupean inhabitant, Saint-John Perse, who used the pseudonym of Alexis Léger, won the Nobel Prize for his

poetry. Other writers such as Maryse Conde, Simone Schwartz-Bart, and M. Ernest Pepin hail from Guadeloupe as well. Their works include such variety as from news reports to descriptive cultural epics.

Painting and sculpting are also important artistic trades found in Guadeloupe. Michel Rovelas, Claude Cancelier, and Jean-Claude Echard are among the famous painters and sculptors that Guadeloupe claims. Guadeloupean photographer, Karim Sahai, has worked on productions for movies such as Lord of the Rings, Men in Black, King Kong, X-Men, and The Waterhorse.

Also very important and culturally rich in Guadeloupe are the dances and music styles. Typical musical styles that are popular in Guadeloupe include "the Zouk," "La Biguine," and "Gwo Ka La Base." These styles all have basic rhythmic beats at their roots while "Gwo Ka La Base" is made up primarily of this. The "Ka" is a drum that was invented during the slave era, and the music is made up of seven rhythms. "La Biguine" is more of a jazz style of music that has a full orchestra of woods, strings, and drums. "The Zouk" is among the most famous type of music known in Guadeloupe and has been exported to international fame. It is composed of rhythms and is a product of all different kinds of music that influenced the Caribbean. Dances complement all of these musical styles and usually have important meanings, reflecting the emotions and scenes of daily life.

The local dress is also important to the culture of the islands. For women, the basis for the local dress is a basic dress, over the top of which is worn a grass skirt. Important for all islanders is the wearing of hats, as it protects them from the Caribbean sun. Men have stuck to the traditional straw hat while women have created several different styles of headdress which all have a unique name to accompany them. Jewelry is also an important part of the style of dress, much of it being gold. Necklaces and bracelets are common and also have their own unique names, such as "thick syrup" or "cabbage" necklace.

Food is another aspect of Guadeloupean culture that is rich in Creole style. Foods are a spicy blend of the many cultural influences present on the island: French, African, East Indian, etc. Foods often include lots of different kinds of fruits and fish. Pork and blood sausage, along with rum punch, salted codfish and crab calalou are among dishes that are served during special occasions. There are a great number of restaurants on each island that will serve all the local favorites.

In the family unit, the woman is the strong dominant figure of the household. The man is often gone if not always absent, resulting in a strong bond between mothers and their children. There are also close ties to relatives who will often help out with the raising of children. Outside the home, women have significantly less influence and they will often be undercompensated and held in much less esteem in the workforce. Males dominate the world outside the home, much in accordance with the Latin American machismo. Males will often engage in polygamous relationships, having children out of wedlock.

Since the French settled the islands in 1635, Roman Catholicism has been the dominant religion in Guadeloupe. Under French law, there is no official religion and emigrants are

free worship and continue in their native religion. Many inhabitants will continue to claim Catholicism today, but in many cases, they will not worship on a regular basis, although some traditional Catholic beliefs still are a regular part of the culture, such as the baptism of infants.

Hinduism is popular among the East Indian population and there is a presence of African magic-religious practices. Many people believe in sorcery and supernatural creatures and will combine these ideas with that of their Catholic background, forming a type of syncretistic belief system.

Holidays celebrated in Guadeloupe include the national holidays of France, such as Bastille Day (July 14), Labor Day (May 1), and New Year's Day (January 1). However, they also have other important celebrations throughout the year, including Carnival (February – March), the festival of the cookers (August 9), and the anniversary of the abolition of slavery (May 27) which is celebrated at the feast of Victor Schoelcher, the man responsible for the abolition, on July 21.

Etiquette is an important part of the culture of Guadeloupe as well. Casual conversations are held in Creole, but it could be considered rude to begin a conversation with a stranger in Creole. It would be normal to begin this conversation in French. Greetings consist of shaking hands or kissing for people who are well-acquainted with one another. Guadeloupeans are known for their hospitality and enjoy having people for food, music, and dancing. "Traditional values emphasize 'reputation' for men and 'respect' for women." http://www.everyculture.com/Ge-It/Guadeloupe.html

Soccer is the most popular sport of Guadeloupe with stars such as Thierry Henry, William Gallas, Lilian Thuram, Louis Saha, and Willy Gueret all having ties to the islands. Cockfighting is also a popular sport.

http://guadeloupe-guide.info/past.and.present/culture/
http://en.webcaraibes.com/guadeloupe/culture_3.html
http://www.everyculture.com/Ge-It/Guadeloupe.html
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Guadeloupe#Culture

Government:

Guadeloupe is an overseas region and an overseas department of France. Therefore, it is under the same governmental system as France. France is a republic divided into three branches of government: the executive branch, the legislative branch, and the judiciary branch.

The executive branch is comprised of the President and the Prime Minister. President Nicolas Sarkozy was elected May 16, 2007 and he appointed Prime Minister François Fillon.

The legislative branch is comprised of Parliament, which is made up of two houses: the National Assembly and the Senate.

The judiciary is based on civil law and made up of the judicial branch and the administrative branch. Each of these has their own supreme court, the *courts of cessation* for the judicial branch and the *Conseil d'Etat* for the administrative branch. France has various legal subdivisions, which include regions, departments, and communes. The national government is prohibited from imposing themselves on the legal operations of the divisions.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Government_of_France

Guadeloupe is both a region and a department of the French government and it is divided into three *arrondissements*, which is made up of 34 communes. These 34 communes are each governed by an elected municipal council. Guadeloupe sends three representatives to the Senate and four representatives to the National Assembly in Paris where they are represented in the national government. They receive a prefect from France who comes to act as the local executive of the central government on the island. In addition to this local executive, there are also two locally elected assemblies. These include the general council with 42 members and the regional council with 41 members.

The current prefect since November 5, 2007 is Emmanuel Berthier. The president of the General Council is Jacques Gillot, elected March 26, 2001. The president of the Regional Council is Victorin Lurel since April 22, 2004. Members of both councils are elected by local popular vote to serve six year terms.

The judicial system of Guadeloupe consists of a number of courts. Overseeing the entire department of Guadeloupe is the French Cour d'Appel. This court also has jurisdiction over French Guiana and Martinique. The base for this court in Guadeloupe is in the capital city of Basse-Terre. Other court systems in Guadeloupe include two higher courts called "Grande Instance," and four lower courts referred to as "Tribunaux d'instance."

There are a number of political parties at work in Guadeloupe, all of which have leaders. These include: The Communist Party of Guadeloupe or PCG, led by Mona Cadoce; FGPS, led by Dominique Larifla; The Left Radical Party or PRG, led by Flavien Ferrant; The Progressive Democratic Party or PPDG, led by Henri Bangou; The Socialist Party or PS, led by Jules Otto; The Union for French Democracy or UDF, led by Claudine Lacave; The Union for a Popular Movement or UMP, led by Gabrielle Louis-Carabin.

In addition to these parties, there are a few political pressure groups in Guadeloupe. These are: The Christian Movement for the Liberation of Guadeloupe or KLPG; The General Federation of Guadeloupe Workers or CGT-G; The General Union of Guadeloupe Workers or UGTG; The Movement for Independent Guadeloupe or MPGI; and The Socialist Renewal Movement.

http://www.indexmundi.com/guadeloupe/government_profile.html
http://www.worldstatesmen.org/Guadeloupe.html
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Politics_of_Guadeloupe
http://www.britannica.com/eb/article-54659/Guadeloupe

Economy:

Guadeloupe began as a plantation economy, producing sugarcane, cocoa, and coffee by way of slave labor. Through trade with France, the island was able to maintain stability through the plantation economy. However, with the abolition of slavery in 1848, labor costs forced the economy of Guadeloupe into a recession. The former slaves were replaced by paid Asian laborers, called Coolies, and the plantation owners struggled to overcome the increase of production costs. The island was forced to find other means by which to drive the economy.

Recently, the tourism industry has stepped up to take the place of agriculture as its primary means of economic growth. With the increase in the number of cruise ships docking at the island, and visitors from all over the world coming to see the island's beauty, tourism has aided greatly in helping to provide a more stable economy. However, the islands' expenditures still far outweigh their income, and they rely on large subsidies from France in order to continue to function economically.

Traditionally, Guadeloupe's primary crop was sugarcane. However, in recent years it has been replaced by bananas as being the major export, comprising about 50% of export earnings. Other crops include eggplants, pineapples, and flowers, as well as cattle.

As of 2003, Guadeloupe's GDP was $3.513 billion. Per capita, its GDP was $7,900. GDP composition includes 15% agriculture, 17% industry and 68% services, according to a 2002 estimate. Its revenues totaled $637.7 million while its expenditures totaled $680.1 million with capital expenditures of $112.5 million. Exports of bananas, sugar, rum, melons, and spring water allowed for an export revenue of $147.8 million f.o.b. (free on board). Primary export partners in 2004 included France comprising 60% of exports, Martinique at 18%, and the U.S. at 4%. Major imports include foodstuffs, fuels, vehicles, clothing, and construction materials. Import partners as of 2004 included France, supplying 63% of imports, Germany with 4%, the U.S. with 3%, Japan with 2%, and the Netherlands Antilles with 2%. Import costs totaled $1.766 billion c.i.f. (cost, insurance, and freight).

As of 2003, 26.9% of Guadeloupeans were unemployed with an extremely high percentage being among the younger age groups.
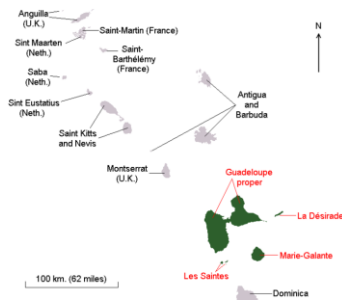
http://guadeloupe-guide.info/past.and.present/economy/
http://www.indexmundi.com/guadeloupe/economy_profile.html

Literacy:
90.1 % (2004 est.)

Land/Geography:

Geographic Coordinates: 16°15′N, 61°35′W

Guadeloupe is an archipelago made up of a five island groups. The main portion of Guadeloupe consists of two twin islands, Basse-Terre to the west and Grande-Terre to the east.   A narrow river called the Riviere Salée (Salt River) separates the islands. Another island lies to the east of this mainland and is called La Désirade. Southeast of the mainland is Marie-Galante, and south of the mainland are the Iles des les Saintes. Guadeloupe's total area is 1,780 km². The land portion totals 1,706 km² with the remaining 74 km² being water area. In proportion, Guadeloupe's total area is about 10 times the size of Washington D.C. Guadeloupe has 306 km of coastline and it used to have one border country with Netherlands Antilles (Sint Maarten) on the island of Saint-Martin. However, with the withdrawal of Saint-Martin from the jurisdiction of Guadeloupe, Guadeloupe now has no bordering countries. Guadeloupe has an exclusive economic zone of 200 nautical miles and territorial sea of 12 nautical miles.

The western island of Basse-Terre has a mountainous topography that is largely volcanic, as do most of the other smaller islands. However, the eastern Grande-Terre consists of rolling plains and hills with a few bluffs that reach to a height of 150 m. The highest point in elevation on Guadeloupe is the pinnacle of Soufrière, a volcano that reaches to a height of 1,467 m. The lowest point is the Caribbean Sea at 0 m. The capital of Basse Terre lies on the western side of the southern tip of the island, Basse-Terre.

Guadeloupe has a subtropical climate with a moderately high humidity that is tempered by northeast trade winds. The coastal temperature usually stays within the range of 77° to 82° F (25° and 28° C) while in the mountains, above 580 m, the temperature can drop to 61° F (16° C), and on top of Soufrière, temperatures can drop to 39° F (4° C). There is predominantly two distinct seasons on Guadeloupe. The dry season lasts from December to April, and the wet season lasts from July to September or October. In the mountains, rainfall may exceed 100 inches. Hurricanes occasionally come in from the South.

The terrain of Guadeloupe is mostly volcanic. Therefore, the soil is fertile and produces a large variety of vegetation. Approximately two-fifths of the islands' total area is covered in forests, mostly on Basse-Terre. Mangrove swamps are found near the Riviere Salée. Basse-Terre also has a large mountain chain running north to south consisting of larger peaks such as Soufrière, Mount Sans Toucher, and Mount de la Grande Découverte. These mountains form a watershed for which the rivers run down into the sea on either side.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geography_of_Guadeloupe
http://www.country-info.com/facts/Guadeloupe.htm

History

Guadeloupe was first inhabited about 300 B.C. by a group of Amerindians known as the Arawaks. This group was accomplished at agriculture and fishing and survived peacefully on the island for 1100 years. Then, in the 9th century, another Indian group, the Caribs, wiped out the Arawaks.

The Caribs named the island Karukera, which means "island of beautiful waters." Then, on his second journey to the New World, Christopher Columbus "discovered" the island on November 3, 1493.[*] Inspired by a monastery he had visited, he chose to name the island Santa María de Guadalupe de Extremadura, which would be shortened by the French to the French version of Guadalupe or Guadeloupe.

Due to the fierce nature of the Carib Indians, the Spanish were unable to colonize the island and it remained an important docking station for ships until the French brought its first wave of settlers to try to colonize the island in 1635. They were successful at the cost of a large number of the Carib Indian lives. Guadeloupe was annexed into the French kingdom in 1674.

The first settlers had great difficulty profiting from the farming done on the island, so the Compagnie des Iles de l'Amérique, under which the first French settlers came to the island, sold Guadeloupe to Charles Houël who introduced new crops such as sugar, coffee, and cocoa. Bolstering the island's economy, it became primarily a plantation based economy, and Guadeloupe began to import slaves from Africa to work in the fields.   Sugar remained the primary export and source of income for Guadeloupe until 1870 when there was a worldwide sugar slump.

Following its annexation into the French kingdom in 1674, Guadeloupe has remained under French control with only a few short periods of foreign control. The first of these periods was during the Seven Years War, from 1759 to 1763, when Britain gained control of the island. During this time, Guadeloupe's chief city, Pointe-à-Pitre was established. Guadeloupe was ceded back to France under the Treaty of Paris which gave Guadeloupe back to France in exchange for its territory in Canada.

Control of Guadeloupe was lost a second time during the French Revolution from 1789 to 1792, but then, in 1794, slavery was abolished under the Convention of Paris and Victor Hughes was sent to Guadeloupe to implement the abolition of slavery there. The same year, Britain again took control of the island. Guadeloupe fell under the Reign of Terror from 1794 to 1798 as many plantation owners were executed. In 1802, Napoléon Bonaparte reinstated slavery, but was opposed in Guadeloupe by an uprising led by Louis Delgrès. Delgrès fought with 300 rebels to oppose the French army, and when it became clear that they could not withstand the army, they chose to take their own lives. This act still stands as an important symbol of heroism for Guadeloupeans today.

The final loss of control of Guadeloupe for the French began in 1810, when the British again occupied and controlled the island. They held it for three years until they ceded it to Sweden following the Napoleonic Wars. Then, in 1814, the island returned to French control under the Treaty of Paris. Britain and Sweden did not fully recognize this secession until 1815 under the Treaty of Vienna.

Slavery remained present in Guadeloupe until 1848 when Victor Schoelcher finally brought about the total abolition of slavery in all of France. At this time, the slaves quickly abandoned their fields and the plantation owners were forced to look for a new source of labor. Indentured servants were imported from India and China to work the fields. However, being forced to pay the workers caused many of the plantation owners to become unable to compete with foreign markets for sugarcane production and the economy of Guadeloupe fell sharply. Following World War I, it began to produce new crops, and in 1923, Guadeloupe exported its first shipment of bananas. In 1928, a cyclone devastated the island and it had to be reconstructed.

Political changes have seen some tension as with the introduction of a compulsory work program under Governor Sorin. This program began in 1940 and lasted for three years until the Free French gained control in 1943. Guadeloupe became an overseas department of France in 1946 and the Department of Guadeloupe began to gain the additions of the other Antillean French islands in 1960. The addition of these islands would not be complete until 20 years later.

In 1970, Soufrière threatened to erupt, and in 1989 Hurricane Hugo did significant damage once again to the island. In 1994, Guadeloupe became an observer in the Association of Caribbean States. In 2003, Saint-Martin and Saint-Barthélemy gained independence from Guadeloupe and became their own overseas collectivities of France.

[*]This date is uncertain. Another date of November 14 was also found as being the day that Columbus landed on the island.

http://www.antilles-info-tourisme.com/guadeloupe/histogb.htm
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_Guadeloupe
http://www.iexplore.com/dmap/Guadeloupe/History
http://guadeloupe-guide.info/past.and.present/history/

Christian History

Missionaries began to travel to Guadeloupe in the early 16th century with the first arriving about 1523. Hostile Carib Indians killed many of these but priests from many orders, such as Capuchins, Dominicans, Jesuits, and Carmelites, replaced them. In 1850, Guadeloupe became a *suffragan* diocese of Bordeaux in France. Since then, Roman Catholicism has remained the dominant religion on the islands. Nearly all Guadeloupeans are baptized into the Catholic Church although relatively few of them remain faithful to the Catholic religion and practice it. Magical and superstitious practices originating from the African background and culture continue to exist today. Many believe in magic and supernatural creatures with powers. A growing number of

the population are becoming atheistic, these being mostly among the youth, intellectuals, and liberals.

Traditionally, priests have always come from metropolitan France to serve in the churches on the islands. The first local priests were ordained in 1925. A majority of priests are still metropolitan.

The first Protestant movement to work in Guadeloupe was the Moravians. They were the first group to work in the Antilles and began congregations in Guadeloupe. Since World War II, other groups have moved into the area to start work and new congregations. Among these are the Church of God (Cleveland), Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada, Seventh-Day Adventists, and West Indies Mission. Seventh-Day Adventists and West Indies Mission have been the most successful in Guadeloupe.

Similar to France, Guadeloupe has no official religion, but France made efforts to maintain its Catholic hierarchy over Guadeloupe until 1970 when a bishop made liberal statements to the public. Since then, the Guadeloupean Catholic Church has continued to move toward a more independent status from the metropolitan French Catholic Church.

Today, there are a number of Catholic radio stations and a Catholic TV program. Missionaries are sent out to work in other countries such as Martinique, France, Algeria, Haiti, and Ecuador. The non-religious and atheist groups in Guadeloupe are in a rising trend while the Christian groups are seeing a corresponding downward trend. Projections expect the non-religious population to reach 4% by 2025 and potentially 10% by 2050.

http://www.everyculture.com/Ge-It/Guadeloupe.html
World Christian Encyclopedia Volume I

Religions

Non Christian

Hinduism (0.5%): Hinduism was brought to Guadeloupe by the indentured servants of the Tamil Nadu region of India following the abolition of slavery. This group was treated harshly until 1904 when Henri Sidambarom aided in gaining the Indians some political rights. Since then, the Indian culture has steadily integrated with that of the Guadeloupeans and many of the native Tamil forgot how to speak the language and have adopted the French Creole culture altogether. Most have been Christianized, but a recent revival in Hindu culture has brought the number of people practicing the Hindu religion back up.

Baha'i (0.4%): The Baha'i faith was brought to Guadeloupe sometime in the 20th century and had only 500 adherents (0.2%) in 1970. As of 1995, the group had grown to 0.4% of the population at 1,380.

Islam (0.4%): Islam came to Guadeloupe with the migration of Syrian Arabs to the region. This group is relatively few in number and has difficulty raising funds to build a mosque. As of 1995, their numbers were at about 1,800 adherents, dropping from 3,000 in 1970 which was then about 0.9% of the population.

Spiritists (0.3%): This belief system is what has survived of the African beliefs that came over with the slaves in the early plantation period of Guadeloupe. Mostly, due to a general apathy toward religion among Guadeloupeans, people have taken bits and pieces of all of their religious backgrounds to piece together a syncretistic belief system that practices Hindu and African magical practices while worshipping the image of the Virgin Mary.

Non-religious (1.7%): This group continues to grow as Guadeloupe becomes more liberal and intellectual. This group grew from 2,900 (0.9%) in 1970 to 6,670 (1.7%) in 1995.

Atheism (1.1%): This group is represented by the Communist Party of Guadeloupe and it also continues to grow quickly and steadily. It is up from 2,000 (0.6%) in 1970 to 4,200 in 1995.

http://www.hinduismtoday.com/archives/1998/2/1998-2-12.shtml
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hinduism_in_Guadeloupe
http://www.mosquee-guadeloupe.com/accueil_islamenguadeloupe.htm

Eglise Adventiste du Septième Jour (Seventh Day Adventists): Began in 1965, this is one of the fastest growing groups in Guadeloupe. Already it is the largest non-Catholic group. In 2001, there were 51 Seventh-Day Adventist congregations with 10,170 members and 16,000 affiliates. In 1995, there were 6 clergy, 43 full-time workers, 1 college and 42 Sunday Schools. At the time, the movement also boasted 182 adult baptisms.

Témoins de Jéhovah (Jehovah's Witnesses): This group began around 1935 and is also one of the fastest growing groups in Guadeloupe. Over a period of 20 years, from 1975 to 1995, the number of adult baptisms doubled, from 200 to 400. As of 2001, there were 103 congregations with 7,675 members and 16,500 affiliates. After Catholicism and the Seventh-Day Adventists, Jehovah's Witnesses make up the third largest religious group in Guadeloupe.

Roman Catholic Church (85.1%): Roman Catholicism has been the dominant religion throughout Guadeloupe's history. Catholic missionaries arrived during the 17th century in efforts to Christianize the native Caribs. In 1850, Guadeloupe became a diocese of Bordeaux. *Now, almost all Guadeloupeans are baptized into the Catholic Church and claim the Catholic faith, even if they do not practice it at all.*

Christian or Evangelical

Assemblées de Dieu (Assemblies of God): This church began as a combined French and Canadian mission in 1957. As of 2001, they had 12 congregations making up 1,500

members and 3,300 affiliates. In Guadeloupe, they have some radio programs and have 2 foreign missionary personnel.

Association des Eglises de la Guadeloupe (Association of Guadeloupean Churches): This is a nondenominational group that began in 1947 as a mission of the U.S. In 2001, this group had 24 congregations of 3,500 members and 9,000 affiliates. They have 14 foreign missionary personnel and one seminary.

Convention Baptiste (Baptist Convention): The Baptist Convention in Guadeloupe began in 1964 as a mission of the Southern Baptist Convention of the United States. In 2001, it had 11 congregations of 811 members and 1,354 affiliates.

Eglise de Dieu (Church of God): This group began as a mission of the Church of God (Cleveland) in 1946. As of 2001, there were 5 congregations of 794 members and 1,300 affiliates.

Eglise du Nazarène (Church of the Nazarene): This church began in 1980 as a mission of the Church of the Nazarene and had only 1 congregation of 15 people in 1995. It also had only 70 affiliates at that time.

Eglise Evangélique de la Guadeloupe (Evangelical Church of Guadeloupe): This Presbyterian reformed church had 7 congregations with 800 members and 1,400 affiliates in 1995. It began with French missionaries and military chaplains sent to French personnel on the islands.

Eglise Morave (Moravian Church): This is the oldest protestant church in Guadeloupe as the Moravians were the first to send missionaries to the Antilles to do Protestant mission work. In 1995, they remained at 1 congregation of 200 members and 300 affiliates. There have been many immigrants from other areas of the Caribbean.

People Groups

22293
Black Carib (3,431)

The Black Carib people group is a subgroup of the Afro-Caribbean Francophone people cluster. These have migrated to Guadeloupe from the British Virgin Islands as their language is an English dialect of Creole.

Their primary religion is Catholicism and there is not a Bible translation or gospel recording in their Creole language. However, they can use English translations.

22273
Dominican (535)

Dominica is the island just south of Guadeloupe. There is lots of travel between these two regions. The Dominicans, few in number, speak Spanish and have a Catholic background. Bible translations, gospel recordings and the Jesus film are all available in their language. It is unknown how many of this group in Guadeloupe, if any, are evangelical Christians.

16348
East Indian (13,938)[*]

This group is also known by the name Caribbean Hindi. This group came to Guadeloupe following the abolition of slavery when they replaced the slaves as paid labor in the fields. They brought with them their culture, their Hindu religion, and their language, Tamil.

Until the beginning of the 20th century, this group was treated poorly by the other island inhabitants. However, since that time, they have gained political rights and have begun to assimilate into the Guadeloupean culture.

A majority have been Christianized, with 56% being Christian adherents, although there has been a recent revival in interest in the Hindu culture. Many also speak the Creole French language of the island as well. Bible translation, gospel recordings, the Jesus film, and radio broadcasts are all available in their Tamil language.

[*]Joshua Projects reports a much smaller population count for this group at 4,400. It is unknown why there is such a large difference between these two sites.

22272
French (5,415)

This group came from metropolitan France, mostly to fulfill military or civil service duties. Some are descended from the plantation owners of the early plantation era of Guadeloupe. This group is primarily Catholic and has 10% evangelicals. Their primary language is French.

16349
French Creole (443,526)

This is the largest group of people in Guadeloupe. This group comes from the mixture of the African slaves with the white slave owners that intermarried and formed a new culture and French dialect known as Creole. This group is primarily Roman Catholic and 5% of them are evangelical Christians.

22292
Haitian (14,212)
The Haitians are a people group that migrated to Guadeloupe from Haiti. They speak a slightly different dialect of Creole French known as Haitian Creole French. Their background is also Roman Catholic. However, 30% of the Haitian population in Guadeloupe is evangelical.

16350
Syrian Arab (749)

This group forms a small community on Guadeloupe that is primarily in the trade businesses with jewelry, fabric, and clothing. This group descended from the Levant Arabs of the Middle Eastern Saudi Arabia, Iraq, and Syrian areas. They speak the Northern Levantine dialect of Arabic. Traditionally, Levantine Arabs are of the Sunni Muslim faith, but many of the inhabitants of Guadeloupe have converted to Catholicism. There are gospel recordings, Bible translations, and radio broadcasts available in their language, but the Jesus film is not available.

Missiological Implications

1. Evangelical Christians and churches must understand that Catholicism is primarily a name that the people associate themselves with. The Church does not guide them to behave in any specific spiritual or moral way. These peoples need to be brought face to face with the Spirit of Truth to convict them of sins in their lifestyles and be guided into a moral life. Evangelicals should develop plans to witness to Roman Catholics and teach believers in Guadeloupe to use these methods with the peoples.

2. Evangelical Christians and churches must pray for and work toward the conversion of the many people who hold syncretistic belief systems. The attachment to traditional religion shows a desire for spirituality among the people, but also reveals the lack of knowledge as to what true spirituality looks like. They are willing to put all belief systems together into one. Christians need to present the truth of the Bible to the people and point to it is a guide for what spiritual disciplines and rituals should be practiced.

3. Evangelical Christians and churches should seek to teach the Christian and Biblical ethic to the people in these islands. Slavery helped to create the Creole culture that *Guadeloupeans* embrace today. The slave system promoted extramarital affairs and meaninglessness in marriage relationships. A high number of single parent households still exist today. The people need to be taught that sexual relationships should occur within the context of marriage and that husbands are to love their wives as wives submit to their husbands. The family unit should be a place of love and support and a symbol of God's design for his own relationship with his people.

4. Evangelical Christians and churches should seek to address the problems of the extremely high rate of unemployment and poverty in Guadeloupe. The people recognize that they need help to survive. Relief ministries that include a direct presentation of the Gospel will receive a hearing.

5. Evangelical Christians and churches should seek ways to reach the many people groups that have migrated to Guadeloupe for different reasons. Most of these have adopted the Catholic Church in name only and retained their own religious practices.. Perhaps these groups would be open to change and can be reached with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Links:

http://translate.google.com/translate?hl=en&sl=fr&u=http://www.kazcoco.com/musique.php&sa=X&oi=translate&resnum=5&ct=result&prev=/search%3Fq%3Dla%2Bbiguine%26hl%3Den%26safe%3Dactive%26rls%3Dcom.microsoft:en-US Music styles of Guadeloupe

http://www.worldstatesmen.org/Guadeloupe.html Political leaders of Guadeloupe

http://www.in-west-indies.com/guadeloupe/discover/history.htm History and Timeline

http://www.ethnologue.com/show_country.asp?name=GP language info