



# Guadeloupe

## Department of Guadeloupe

### Caribbean

### Geography

**Area** 1,780 sq km. One larger pair of islands and three smaller islands: Marie Galante, Les Saintes, La Désirade.

Population	Ann Gr	Density
2010	467,182	0.51%
2020	483,814	0.31%
2030	491,843	0.11%

**Capital** Basse-Terre 13,100. **Urbanites** 98.4%. **Pop under 15 yrs** 22%. **Life expectancy** 79.1 yrs.

### Peoples

**African descent** 71%.

**South Asian descent** 15%. Mostly Tamil.

**Creole** 2%.

**Other Caribbean** 3%. Haitian, Dominican, others.

**Arab** 2%. Lebanese/Syrian.

**European** 7%. Mostly French.

**Literacy** 90%. **Official language** French. The French Creole is widely spoken. **All languages** 4.

**Languages with Scriptures** 3Bi 1w.i.p.

### Economy

Agriculture, services and tourism are sustained by large subsidies from Europe. The standard of living is heavily dependent on imports. There is widespread unemployment, especially among youth. Both the standard of living and the cost of living are higher than many Caribbean islands. Though Guadeloupe is a French *département*, 2009 was marked by protests and riots over Guadeloupe's standard of living, which is notably lower than that in France.

### Politics

French colony since 1635. Overseas Department of France since 1946. This status allows access to public funds from France and the EU, creating low motivation for more autonomy and greater demands for French subsidization.

### Religion

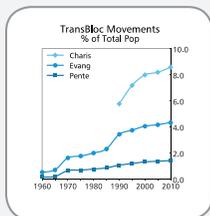
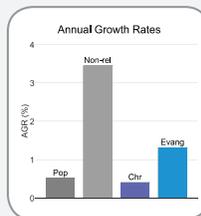
Religious freedom, but with a strong secularist tendency.

Religions	Pop %	Population	Ann Gr
Christian	94.09	439,572	0.4%
Non-religious	4.61	21,537	3.5%
Muslim	0.50	2,336	0.5%
Hindu	0.50	2,336	0.5%
Baha'i	0.30	1,402	-5.1%

Christians	Denoms	Pop %	Affiliates	Ann Gr
Protestant	12	7.29	34,000	1.4%
Independent	5	0.54	3,000	2.9%
Catholic	1	85.04	397,000	0.1%
Marginal	2	4.00	19,000	2.9%
<i>Doubly affiliated</i>		-2.78	-13,000	0.0%

Churches	MegaBloc	Congs	Members	Affiliates
Catholic Church	C	52	210,000	397,300
Jehovah's Witnesses	M	135	9,000	17,200
Seventh-day Adventist	P	61	12,700	15,700
Evangelical Ch (WT)	P	27	3,500	9,000
Assemblies of God	P	16	1,400	3,500
Ch of God (Cleveland)	P	11	1,250	1,700
Baptist Convention	P	13	750	1,200
Evang Reformed Ch	P	14	719	1,200
Ch of the Nazarene	P	5	720	900
Other denominations[11]		38	2,353	4,915
<i>Doubly affiliated</i>				-13,000
<b>Total Christians[20]</b>		<b>372</b>	<b>242,392</b>	<b>439,615</b>

TransBloc	Pop %	Population	Ann Gr
<b>Evangelicals</b>			
Evangelicals	4.3	20,273	1.3%
<b>Renewalists</b>			
Charismatics	8.6	40,080	1.5%
Pentecostals	1.4	6,630	1.2%



# Challenges for Prayer

**1** **The protests, strike and riots of 2009** were the largest in Guadeloupe's history and pointed to deep dissatisfaction with its relationship to France. Many feel like second-class citizens in a cul-de-sac of poverty, resentful of the continued colonial dynamic with France and its rich white scions living on the islands. Though a settlement was based around increased wages for tens of thousands, the deeper issues of autonomy and identity will continue to simmer. Pray for wisdom for both France and Guadeloupe's leaders to handle these issues in peaceful ways that bring genuine long-term benefit to the people.

**2** **The grim legacy of slavery** has left its mark in the endemic economic disparity and in the lack of meaningful marriage relationships. Over 40% of households have only one parent; 90% of these are led by the mother. Racial tension and class envy are other marks left by slavery's long history. Pray that the gospel may transform and uplift this society.

**3** **Christianity, especially Catholicism, is a cultural veneer for most.** The rapid growth of sects and evangelical groups highlights the spiritual emptiness. Occultism and magic are widespread influences. Pray for the Holy Spirit to convict of sin and bring many to true repentance.

**4** **Evangelicals hardly existed before 1946**, but through the work of World Team, Southern Baptists and **AoG**, a strong network of churches has sprung up, supplemented by several other recent denominational arrivals. Many evangelical groups practice strict, even legalistic, codes of conduct in order to avoid moral compromise and occult influence. Pray for a greater degree of unity, collaboration and a profound understanding of the freedom to be found in Christ.

**5** **Areas and peoples less reached with the gospel:**

a) *The outlying islands are less evangelized* – Marie Galante, Les Saintes and La Désirade. **WT**/Evangelical Church work on these islands. But island communities are closely knit, making it difficult for believers to break with tradition.

b) *Those of Asian descent* – most are Tamil in background, but also Chinese and Arab. Most Tamils are nominally Catholic, while retaining many of their Hindu beliefs. There is at least one Chinese congregation.

c) *Haitian immigrants* are proving quite responsive to the gospel through the ministry of the Evangelical Baptist Mission.

d) *The metropolitan French* are largely from France; they are mostly in military or civil service. Few show any spiritual interest.

**6** **Leadership training** for the growing churches is provided locally through the Evangelical Church's **TEE** programme with 250 students and through the **YWAM** **DTS**. Pray that national Christian workers may be called for service at home and to the Francophone lands around the world.

**7** **Specialist Christian ministries** for prayer:

a) *Young people.* The **GBU(IFES)**, with a strong evangelistic and missionary focus, is very active in the schools and university, where secular-humanist values are propagated. **YWAM** works with young people, **WT** and **CEF** with children. **CEF** runs Good News Clubs, trains workers to evangelize children and has a weekly radio broadcast and correspondence course for children.

b) *Literature.* **CLC** runs a bookstore on Guadeloupe. The Gideons and The Bible Society distribute Bibles and Christian literature.

c) *Broadcasting.* *Radio Souffle de Vie* is a Christian FM station running 24/7. There are other Christian broadcasts from outside Guadeloupe available on radio, television and, of course, via the Internet.