



- Population: 1.26 million people in the Lyon area, including 150,000 Muslims

It is not a simple task to proclaim the gospel in the Lyon area; there is a real spiritual battle as the city follows French national trends. It has a largely Catholic past and has been formally dedicated to the Virgin Mary. While 70 % of French people call themselves Catholic, less than 10 % are involved in any regular Catholic practice.

The majority of Muslims in the Lyon area come from North African countries, and some have lived in Lyon for several generations. There is a growing lack of respect from the younger population not only toward their elders but also toward their own religion, though in public they often defend it loudly. Many young Muslims in the area have also been influenced by a South African preacher named Ahmed Deedat, who for many years has poisoned their minds against the Bible through his video teachings. (Deedat died last year.) His statements against the Bible were neither scholarly nor honest. For instance, he said that the Bible was corrupted and changed because in some Bibles the words of Jesus are written in red and not in black type.



Many former Muslims in France say they came to faith through the steady witness of French Christian friends. Among the 150,000 Muslims in the Lyon area, there are nearly 50 Christians from a Muslim background. Since 2001, a group of former Muslim believers has been meeting

## Pray

- ① Pray for a spiritual breakthrough in Lyon among the Muslims and the French people.
- ① Pray for workers to be culturally sensitive and determined in the face of opposition as they work among Muslim young people.
- ① Christians working among Muslims in France often need to address occult influences in the lives of Muslims as well as resentment over racism and prejudice from portions of the French population. Ask God to equip His servants to deal with these challenges.