



Day

17

Sept. 29, 2007

Guyana, South America

Guyana (“Land of Many Waters”) is home to enormous rain forests, rivers and waterfalls. Guyana’s cultural diversity is reflected in its music, which follows the lead of other Caribbean countries and India. Radio stations play the latest reggae, dance-hall, soca and chutney music, as well as Indian Bollywood influences of bhangra and other Hindi music. Local television stations air American, British and Indian broadcasts.

The first Muslims to Guyana were probably Fulanis from Africa. Today, Muslims account for about 10% of the population, most of them from South Asia (India, Pakistan and Afghanistan), but also increasingly from African backgrounds. Despite being a minority faith in a country where half the population identifies itself as Christian, Islam has managed to achieve a high profile. Guyanese Muslims are involved in alms distribution (zakat) and other social welfare programs including help for widows. However, the Muslim community is split into traditionalist

and reformist camps which have been in ideological conflict for decades.

Local organizations often host prominent Muslim scholars from South Asia and the Arab world, and many Guyanese Muslims identify strongly with the global “ummah” (the worldwide Muslim community). They are also deeply interested in the issues affecting Muslims abroad, including the conflicts in Palestine, Iraq and Afghanistan.

Also pray for ...

- ▶ *There are at least 1.6 million Muslims in the UK. That is the population of Birmingham (1 million) and Glasgow (600,000) combined. One in eleven Londoners is Muslim. Pray for increased Christian witness to Muslims in the UK. Through love and proper training all believers can become effective witnesses for Christ among Muslims.*



Guyana statistics

- 10% Muslim
- 35% Hindu
- 50% Christian (all denominations)
- 5% Other

PRAYER REQUESTS

- ▶ *Pray for God’s peace and love to be proclaimed effectively to all the different ethnic groups. South Asians are often pitted against Guyanese of African origin.*
- ▶ *Pray that positive Christian music and TV broadcasts can be aired and that the Muslim youth will be influenced by them.*
- ▶ *There are a number of Bible colleges in Guyana. Pray for the training of godly people of faith who can also reach Muslims. Some Muslims have come to faith.*
- ▶ *Serious crime is a growing problem. Pray that God’s principles can be taught to young people and that the youth will be shielded from drugs and gangs.*