

Guyana

Challenges for Prayer:

Guyana seems to exist precariously on many levels. It is constantly under threat from persistent claims on its land by Venezuela and Suriname. The political sphere is defined along racial lines. The economy is vulnerable to the climate, as the disastrous floods of 2005 attest. Large-scale emigration has denuded the country of much of its population, including many of the most gifted. Pray that an enduring hope might come to Guyana, most expressly through the transformation that only the gospel can enact.

There is a vital, vibrant, growing evangelical witness, and evangelicals are found in all levels of society. Pentecostal, charismatic (“clap-hand”) and evangelical denominations and fellowships continue to grow despite negative population growth. Churches are still largely divided along racial lines, but the multiracial congregations that do exist are some of the few ethnic bridges in the country. The cross-denominational work of the Guyanese Evangelical Fellowship is vital in this area. Pray for all believers to demonstrate the power of the gospel in their unity, in their words and in holy living.

Most Afro-Guyanese and mixed-race Guyanese are Christian, but nominalism is widespread, stable two-parent families rare (a legacy of the time of slavery) and syncretistic and deviant beliefs common. Obeah Spiritism and witchcraft, Rastafarianism and foreign sects as well as the racist Nation of Islam are influential here. Pray for the true and uncorrupted gospel to radically impact these communities.

The Indo-Guyanese population is mostly Hindu, but with large and equally sized Muslim and Christian communities. Pray for:

a) The many Hindu rural communities and for their evangelization.

b) The large numbers of Muslims – increasingly influenced by Islamist rhetoric. Some have been won to Christ out of this context, but Guyanese Muslims remain the least reached group in the nation.

The Amerindian peoples are largely Christianized and predominantly Catholic, but significant numbers are also becoming Pentecostals through the ministry of **AoG**, Church of God and the Full Gospel Fellowship. **UFM**'s work in the south among the Waiwai, Macushi and Wapishana has resulted in a growing, missionary-minded Church. Pray for the development of indigenous Christian leadership and mature churches that can retain their cultural identity and still survive the impact of modernity.

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