

Gabon

Gabonese Republic/République Gabonaise

G. Randy Adams, Area Coordinator/Official UPCI Representative

Population: 1,400,000

Area: 103,347 sq. mi.

Capital: Libreville

Language: French (official)

Religions: Christian, 55-75%; animist; Islam, less than 1%

Missionaries appointed to Gabon: Randy and Carolyn Adams (see Togo) and Joel and Lisa Richardson

Slightly smaller than Colorado, Gabon is surrounded by Equatorial Guinea, Cameroon, the Congo, and the Atlantic Ocean. It was organized as a French territory in 1888, became an autonomous republic within the French Union after World War II, and reached total independence on August 17, 1960. Dense, tropical forests cover most of the nation, whose major exports are crude oil and timber. A small population, abundant natural resources, and considerable foreign support have helped make Gabon one of the more prosperous black African countries.

In early 2001, Desiré Rakotondratsimba opened the first United Pentecostal Church in the nation of Gabon. Rakotondratsimba and his wife and family moved to Gabon from Madagascar, where they were faithfully and actively involved in the Malagasy UPC. Area Coordinator Randy Adams reports that the Gabonese church has 140 constituents, one licensed minister, and five churches and preaching points.