

# Guinea

**Republic of Guinea/République de Guinée**

**G. Randy Adams**, Area Coordinator

**Albert Stewart**, Superintendent

**Population:** 9,800,000

**Area:** 94,927 sq. mi.

**Capital:** Conakry

**Languages:** French (official), Malinké, Susu, Fulani

**Religions:** Islam, 85%; Christian, 8%; indigenous, 7%.

Guinea is a curved shaped, West African nation lying on the Atlantic Ocean and extending inland to encompass the coastal plain, mountains, a savannah interior, and forest. Guinea is sometimes called Guinea-Conakry per its capital, to differentiate it from the neighboring Guinea-Bissau (whose capital is Bissau). Slightly smaller than Oregon and a former part of French West Africa, Guinea became an independent nation on October 2, 1958. Under the new president, Sékou Touré, it became the first avowedly Marxist state in Africa.

Guinea possesses major mineral, hydropower, and agricultural resources, yet remains an underdeveloped nation. The country possesses over 30% of the world's bauxite reserves and is the second-largest bauxite producer. The mining sector accounted for about 75% of exports in 1999. The United Pentecostal Church in Guinea was started by Liberian preachers crossing over from Liberia. Though they do not speak French, they do have a common dialect with the Guineans and are able to preach and teach to them. The work continues to be supported and helped by the church in Liberia and is progressing.