

The Mauritian Creoles in Mauritius



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Mauritius Island, a land area of about 15-by-20 miles long and wide, lies 560 miles east of Madagascar, off east Africa. The island is home for a mixed group including indentured workers, Chinese traders, European settlers and those who descended from slaves. The language they speak is called Morisyen or Mauritian Creole. This includes the estimated 300 inhabitants of the Agalega and the 40,000 of Rodrigues as well as those in the main island.

Many men in the region earn their living fishing in the surrounding coral reefs. Some men have a reputation for excellent masonry projects, while others work in textile factories, raise sugar cane, or serve in the tourism industry. Per capita it has one of Africa's highest incomes.

Afro-Creole heritage enriches the Mauritian culture with many types of unique folklore, music, and dance traditions. One of those musical forms, sega, originates from the rapid rhythms of slave songs.

The Afro-Creole descendants tend to be monolingual in the Morisyen language; Euro-Creoles often speak English and French as well. Mauritius Island currently enjoys social and political stability, but religious inequality could easily become volatile depending on changing government policies.

Just an interesting note—the dodo, a flightless bird and a national symbol, comes from Mauritius. It was unfortunately hunted into extinction in the 17th century.

Approximately 32 percent of the general population is Christian. Another 66 percent follow Hinduism or Islam.

Primary Religion:

Hindu

Disciples (Matt 28:19):

Perhaps 20%

Churches:

Yes

Scripture Status (Matt 28:20):

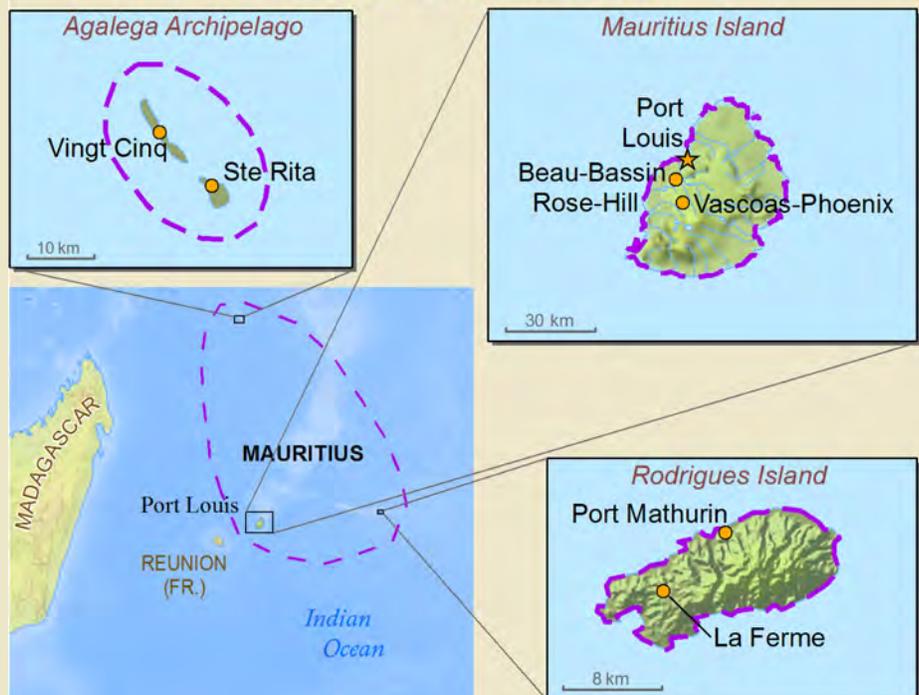
New Testament

Population (date):

800,000 (2005)



MORISYEN HOMELAND



The Mauritians of Mauritius

Have They Heard The Gospel?

Response to the Gospel	Number of Churches Unknown
Is the Word of God Translated?	Because of the successful release of the Morisyen New Testament in February 2011, Mauritian church leaders have requested that translators make Psalms available.
Comment:	This team plans to publish Psalms in print, in MP3 format, and CD audio versions. They are working with three project facilitators, a trainer, and an outside consultant. Three major denominations are partners in the area with the Bible Society and The Seed Company to complete this work. Two other denominations will help review the material, and also use it, when it is completed.
Other Gospel Presentations	
Audio:	Yes
Video	The "JESUS" film has been produced as well as other Christian videos.
Bilingualism	English and French are generally accepted as the official languages of Mauritius and as the languages of government administration, the courts and business. The constitution of Mauritius is written in English. Most or at least many Mauritians are equally fluent in English and French. In Mauritius, people switch to languages according to the situation; French and English are favored in educational and professional settings while Asian languages are used in religious activities and Mauritian Creole as mother tongue. French is mostly used in the media and literature.