

CAPRO MISSIONS People Group of the Week:

The Maoré of Mayotte

The Maoré are descendants of Swahili, Arabs and Malagasies who came to call the island of Mayotte their home. The Maoré are a mixing hot of African, Arab and Malagasies. They were colonised by the French and remain in the control of the French till this day. Despite this, they remain strongly connected to their ancient culture and religious practices.



Language(s):

They speak two indigenous languages, Shimaore, a dialect of Swahili and Kibushi, a dialect of Malagasy. French is the official language of administration. Most recently, the Old Testament was translated into Shimaore and work is advancing on the New Testament. Only portions of Scripture are found in Kibushi.

Country(s):

The island of Mayotte is their homeland. This island is an overseas department of France and part of the Comoros chain of islands in the Mozambique channel. A good number of Maoré can be found in the French African island of Reunion and France itself.

Religion:

The Maoré are 99.9% Muslim. Although there is religious freedom and direct, open-air evangelism is permitted, response has been very slow, and most converts have returned to Islam. Maoré folk Islam is heavily shaped by magic and cults practicing spirit possession. Despite this, a spirit of complacency rests upon the people, exacerbated greatly by France's liberal culture and generous social welfare system.

Prayer Points

- The Gospel work has been on this island for more than 40 years and yet an indigenous church has not yet been established, only a handful of local believers meeting in expatriate churches. Let us cry out to the Lord to have mercy on this island, that He would soften the hearts of the Maoré people and draw them to Himself (John. 6:44).
- There has been another outbreak of Dengue Fever on the island which started March 2019, with April 2020 having 3533 confirmed cases and 16 deaths. This has been a challenge to handle since the current COVID-19 situation which has 263 confirmed reported cases on the island. Mayotte only has 1 hospital and 16 beds in the intensive care unit. Pray that God would bring salvation and healing to this Island.
- Pray for bro. C. living in France with his family, that the Lord would water the seed of salvation that was planted when the R's were there. Pray that since he is away from the island and his people, he would not fear to give his life to Christ, pray the same for his wife S. and their 2 children.
- In the last year 2 missionary couples came to serve in Mayotte and 1 left. 1 couple is serving in the hospital and the other family has a gym facility they use in reaching the people. Pray that God would grant them favour with the locals and that God would use them to bring many to Himself. Also pray for Christians to go to Mayotte as missionaries.