



Trio and Wayana Tribes of Suriname

The Trio and Wayana live in the dense rainforests that cover most of the country. Access to the interior region is difficult and limited to boat and some air transportation.

When World Team missionaries first encountered these indigenous people over 55 years ago, they were not met with open arms. Both the Trio and the Wayana were suspicious of their motives. More than once, they considered killing them.

Each tribe would soon discover the missionaries' pure motives, and the love of Jesus Christ would motivate them to carry out the same gospel.

Over a half-century later, approximately 80% are believers and are vigorously seeking out other tribes with the saving message of Jesus Christ.

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Missionary Vision

The Trio and Wayana churches are autonomous and led by a plurality of leaders. They have a missionary vision and are sending teams to unreached tribes still inaccessible to outsiders. But the churches are not yet fully established or ready to stand on their own.

Church leaders have requested further, specific leadership training and World Team is committed to providing that support.

The best example of this occurred only a few years ago when a plane bringing outsiders came to a Trio village offering to build schools and provide generators. Their only request was permission to build a house for their god. The Trio replied that they already had a house for worshipping God, but the visitors told them Jesus was dead.

Upon hearing this, the Trio leaders ordered the false teachers to take their supplies and leave immediately.

The visitors were Muslims and wanted to build a mosque in the village. While the church leaders had wisdom to discern that the message was false, they had no understanding of Islam.

World Team missionaries and national pastors were invited to spend a week with them opening the Scripture and studying what God says about false teachers and how to stand firm in the truth of God's Word.

Once isolated because of living deep in the jungles, today, the tribes have more exposure to the outside world through telecommunication and social media. Because of this, they are vulnerable to false teaching and deception.

Watch-Care Workers Needed

By air and by boat they came...

Plane after plane brought Indians from faraway villages. Loaded canoes carried Indians and Bush Negroes from villages up and down the river to Lawa. They came from Suriname, Brazil, and French Guiana for the Interior Bible Conference.

Soon the village was bustling. Make-shift huts were filled to capacity. The sound of the cow's horn called people to the church. The conference was officially underway even though they had gathered three days earlier. They just couldn't wait to get started.

Each day's program included five speakers, with singing before and after each one. But that wasn't enough! The people rose at 4 am and sang until about 6 am, when they would break for baths in the river and then breakfast. After the last speaker of the day and a short break to eat, they'd sing again until 10 pm. This continued day after day.

As they met together, the Word of God went forth in power, hearts were pierced, conviction was evident, hope was awakened, and precious souls were snatched from darkness and brought into the kingdom of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Forty-nine received the Lord that week, and sin was publicly confessed. Forty-nine were baptized with their tribespeople watching along the river bank. Then together, we worshipped the Lord, participating in the Lord's supper—many for the first time.



Ministry Overview

People	Trio and Wayana Tribes
Language	Indigenous Amerindian languages
Location	Interior of Suriname
Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tribal leadership development• Mentoring /Coaching leaders• Biblical training• Youth ministry• Evangelism and discipleship

Workers Needed

A team is needed to provide watch-care and continue coaching and mentoring emerging leaders.

Team members will begin by living among the tribes in order to learn their languages, customs, and culture. Throughout this time, they will be mentored by missionaries experienced in the language and culture.

Afterward, they will live in the capital city of Paramaribo but make scheduled trips to the different villages to further develop leaders. Part of their ministry includes developing and implementing a training curriculum.

This watch-care ministry requires team members who exhibit a strong and intimate relationship with God and who can endure periods of isolation from urban living.

Also vital are a strong understanding of tribal worldview, the ability to communicate within the context of the culture, and a commitment to teamwork.

Join the Team!
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Glorifying God by working together to establish reproducing churches focusing on the unreached peoples of the world.