



03

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 - (PART OF THE UK)
 - (PART OF FRANCE)

SOUTH AMERICAN FACTS




Winter months:
June – August

Summer months:
November – February



02 SOUTH AMERICA

Welcome to the South American continent.

If you were a missionary coming from North America or Europe before the mid-twentieth century, you would have to take a ship to get here. You would sail south through either the Atlantic Ocean or the Pacific Ocean, and it took a long time. If you were a missionary in the later 20th century, then you might have used smaller planes or one of the many trains when traveling within the continent.

Once you arrived, your mission board who sent you would have a place for you to rest and get to know your surroundings. And you would have to learn the language of the people. The main languages are Portuguese, Spanish and Quechua. Why those three? Let's have a quick history lesson to understand the people who live in South America.

Indigenous people lived throughout the continent. They were known as Amerindians. The Inca population was the largest and most powerful. Then the Europeans arrived in the 15th century. The Spanish and the Portuguese were some of

the first. They defeated the Incas and other indigenous groups and settled there. Later the Dutch, French, and English arrived and did the same. So you can see where the languages came from. The explorers and conquerors brought their own languages, while many of the indigenous people continued to speak their own Quechua language.

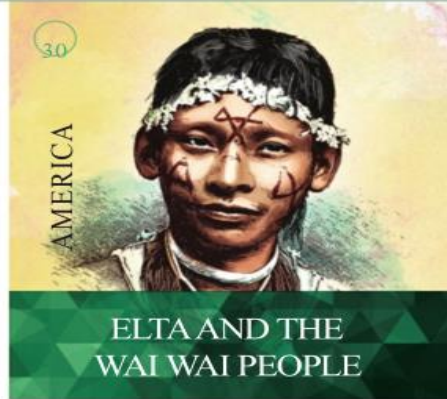
Unfortunately, the Europeans brought in slaves, people who had been captured in various African countries. They made the slaves work on their coffee and sugar plantations and in the coal mines. In the 1800s many of these people rebelled against their European masters. Slowly, one by one, each country became independent, forming the twelve countries we know today.

Along with their languages, the Europeans also brought their religious beliefs. The Spanish and Portuguese were Roman Catholic and they made it the official church. This was one of the first challenges Protestant missionaries found. The Catholic priests and bishops held a lot of power with the local people and government, and made it difficult to preach to the people.

There are other interesting facts to learn about South America and you will find those as you read on. Let's meet the missionaries and see where they worked!



A. Copacabana
Rio de Janeiro Brazil.
B. Donkey on road in rural
Demerara (now Guyana).
C. Downtown Buenos Aires
Argentina at night



The story of the Wai Wai people continued with Elka. Like all of his people, Elka's life had been ruled by fear of evil spirits. As witchdoctor and chief, he used charms to persuade the spirits to heal or drive away another evil spirit. So when Bob Hawkins and his family came to live with them, the Wai Wai couldn't understand how the God he told them about could be more powerful than the evil spirits. They only really understood when Elka became a Christian and threw away his basket of charms. They learned that Jesus loved them and His love was stronger than any evil spirit.

When Elka became their minister as well as their chief, four other men were also ordained as elders to help him. One day Elka challenged his people to tell others about Jesus, so they no longer had to live in fear.

Mawasha, one of the elders, organized a mission trip. They went to nearby villages and invited them to come and hear the gospel. The Katwena and Shedeu people were suspicious. In the past they had fought with the Wai Wai. But when they arrived, they were greeted with joy.



The Wai Wai shared their homes and their food with their former enemies, and told them about Jesus. Many were converted. Word began to spread in the jungle, and more tribes arrived to hear about Jesus from Elka and his people.

Soon the village became so large there was no more room for houses or people. Then Elka said, 'We need to go and stay with other tribes to teach them, instead of bringing them back here.' So elders Mawash and Yakuta formed a party that went out into the Brazilian jungle searching for more tribes who needed to know the gospel. Sometimes missionaries went with them, but many times they went on their own, cutting through jungle growth, climbing mountains and swimming across rivers. They had to be on the lookout for jaguars, anaconda snakes and other dangerous wildlife. And sometimes the tribes they met were fierce and threatening. However, even today the Wai Wai people have not stopped sending out their own people to spread the gospel.

SOUTH AMERICAN FACTS

Amazon Rainforest animals:



Colorful birds



Giant snakes



Piranha (flesh eating fish)



Millions of insects



Llamas & alpacas live in mountains



Jaguars live in grasslands along with deer and cows



John Smith
(1790-1824)



The Hawkins Brothers
(20th century)



Elka and the
Wai Wai People



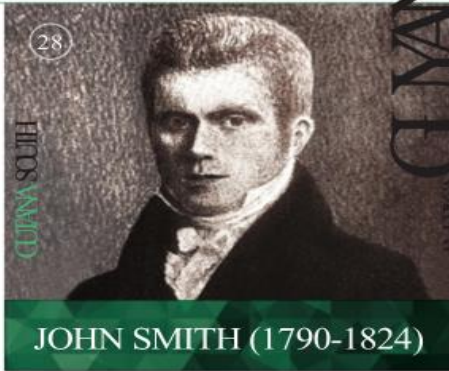
Maria Hartmann
(1798-1853)



Ashbel Green Simonton
(1833-1867)



José Manoel da Conceição
(1822-1873)



Starting at the northern part of the continent, we meet John Smith who was an English missionary to Demerara (now called Guyana). His life didn't start out very well. Shortly after he was born in Rothwell, Northamptonshire, his father was killed on the battlefield.

His early education was at Sunday School, where he learned to read and write. However, when he was apprenticed to a biscuit maker in London, his master realized John was intelligent and helped him become better educated. This led to John's desire to serve God as a missionary. In 1816 he married Jane Godden and

applied to the London Missionary Society. He was ordained in December that year, and left for Demerara (Guyana) a few months later.

He was assigned to be the pastor of Bethel Chapel, the African slaves' church. While the slaves were happy to have a minister, the white plantation owners were not. The governor, Major-General John Murray, threatened John that he must not teach the slaves to read. For the next six years John preached and cared for his congregation, even though the hot humid climate was affecting his health.

In August 1823 a rebellion broke out. The slaves had heard false rumors that they would be freed, but their owners were trying to prevent it. Ten to twelve thousand slaves rose up in rebellion, beating and sometimes killing their masters. Once the soldiers brought order to the country, they arrested John Smith, blaming him for the rebellion. He was accused of making the slaves discontent with their lives, and failing to report to the authorities that a



River house on stilts in Guyana

rebellion was being planned. Although John was innocent, he was convicted on the evidence of tortured slaves and condemned to death. While he was in prison awaiting his execution, he died in February 1824. His death was reported in Britain, provoking outrage. Parliament received 200 petitions about abolishing slavery. William Wilberforce, a British politician, used Smith as an example in his campaign against slavery. Slavery was made illegal in the British Empire in 1833, which included Demerara.

SOUTH AMERICAN FACTS



The Amazon River is the second longest river in the world: 4000 miles, 6437 km. It begins in Peru, runs through Colombia and Brazil, and empties into the Atlantic Ocean.



John Smith
(1790-1824)



The Hawkins Brothers
(20th century)



Elka and the
Wai Wai People



Maria Hartmann
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SURINAME

GUYANA

SOUTH AMERICA



MARIA HARTMANN
(1798-1853)

Moving to the country next door, we find ourselves in Suriname with Maria and her husband John Gottlieb Hartmann. They were Moravian missionaries sent to Suriname by the German Moravian church in 1826. They chose to live in the largest city, Paramaribo, where John preached the gospel and Maria raised their five children.

With other missionary couples, they also tried to minister to the slaves that worked on the plantations for their Dutch owners.

1. Protestant denomination that began in the 15th century in Bohemia and Moravia.

Since the slaves could not leave their estates, the missionaries visited them by boat on the rivers. They gave what medical help they could and shared the gospel with them. In the city of Paramaribo, the governor agreed to let the Hartmanns build a church and even helped to pay for it.

When Maria's husband died in 1844, she chose to remain in Suriname to carry on the mission's work. With her children



Paramaribo

grown, she was free to make trips into the bush country where groups of escaped slaves lived.

The bush country was dangerous and the runaways knew that their owners would not chase them down there. But they had no access to medical help or education, so Maria became a teacher and nurse to them.

In 1853 she helped found a church in the Koffiekamp region, which consisted of three small villages. As she grew older, Maria began to suffer from elephantiasis, a painful disease caused by infected

mosquitoes. Even though she was ill, Maria remained in Suriname, ministering to the bush people until her death in 1853.



Koffiekamp

SOUTH AMERICAN FACTS



The Dutch settled in Suriname and brought in slaves to work on their plantations.

