

in South Africa

Many have wondered what is transpiring in the Work of God in South Africa. Here is a report from our Regional Director.

by Robert E. Fahey

Johannesburg, South Africa
Kirch - Ambassador College

Johannesburg, South Africa

MOST people think of Africa as a land of steaming jungles, vine-bedecked trees, weird wild animals, black men beating drums and white men only on safari. Some of that picture does exist — but not in the Republic of South Africa! South Africa is as modern as today, with high-rise cities, burgeoning industries, plush restaurants, motorways — and traffic congestion enough to do any British or American city proud!

And — *God* is working here!

A Wealthy Nation

South Africa is a wealthy country. Three-quarters of the free world's gold output comes from beneath South African ground. The world's largest reserves of platinum are also found in South Africa — in 1969 she mined two-thirds of the world's supply. South Africa also possesses three-quarters of the world's known chromium reserves and one-third of the world's known uranium reserves.

In 1970, she unearthed 7.7 million carats of diamonds — 20 percent of the world's total. The Congo produced slightly more, but 40 percent of South Africa's diamond production was gem quality, compared to only 3 percent of the Congo's. Added to this, South Africa mines coal, iron ore, manganese, antimony, zinc, vanadium and copper.

South Africa sits midway on the Cape route from the Far East to Europe (see map on page 3), a location of vastly increased importance since the Suez Canal was blocked in 1967. Presently, 2,270 ships pass by the Cape of Good Hope every month — 75 every day.

All these factors combined have made South Africa far wealthier than most realize. And the whites are not the only ones to enjoy it. South African blacks have the highest average annual income and are the best educated in Africa. Although much remains to be done, black progress has been much greater than is generally realized.

"The Work" In South Africa

Radio Lourenço Marques, located just across the border in the tip of Moçambique, has carried the **WORLD**

TOMORROW radio program since the early 1950s. For the first several years, listeners were advised to send their letters to our office in London, England. But as the volume of mail began to increase, it became obvious we should have an office in South Africa.

This office was opened by Mr. Gerald Waterhouse in March 1963. The location chosen was Johannesburg (population: 1,364,000), largest city in the Republic. Later developments have shown that the choice of this site for our office was correct, since most of the responses to the broadcast and the business contacts necessary to carry on the Work required us to be near this industrial and financial hub of South Africa.

"Jo'burg" is a city set on a hill — perched on the Witwatersrand (or simply "the Rand") 6,200 feet above sea level, an area about fifty-six miles long and sixteen miles wide which rises out of the surrounding hills of the Transvaal.

Mr. Waterhouse set up the basic pattern of the Johannesburg office, following the example of the systems used in Pasadena. He also acquired our present mailing address, Box 1060, Johannesburg.

In late 1965, Mr. Waterhouse, an American citizen, left South Africa because of visa difficulties. At his departure Mr. Ernest Williams, a South African citizen and graduate of Ambassador College, California, was put in charge. He served four years in this capacity.

In August 1969, Mr. Williams was transferred to the Ambassador College faculty in Big Sandy, and I was sent from Melbourne, Australia to supervise the office in Johannesburg. Before leaving Australia, I was granted a one year's business visa in South Africa. I have since been granted a permanent residence visa, but still retain my American citizenship and travel on an American passport.

Steady Growth

Over a period of eight and one-half years, "steady growth" sums up the Work of God in South Africa.

In addition to broadcasting over Radio Lourenço Marques, in 1965 we

began advertising in nationwide magazines. Many responded to these ads, requesting Ambassador College literature. This, of course, resulted in the necessity of hiring additional staff to help cope with the additional mail, typing, posting operations and personal contact with those who requested it. It also necessitated a change of offices to the present quarters in the Netherlands Insurance Building on North Eloff Street.

As time went on, we expanded our ads to various national media, including national newspapers. This campaign has proved very successful. Today we are using regional newspapers throughout South Africa. Our staff of fifteen is kept busy, catching up on the backlog of mail resulting from the regional advertisements.

The Work in South Africa has been built largely as a result of the printed word in the form of ads. South Africans of all races have responded to them and many have gone further in desiring to help others in receiving the vital knowledge they themselves have found profitable.

Presently, the 54,000 **PLAIN TRUTH** and the 22,000 **TOMORROW'S WORLD** magazines distributed in South Africa are printed and posted from our plant in Radlett, England. Our other literature is printed overseas also, but then shipped to us, and posted directly from Johannesburg.

The Johannesburg office serves not only South Africa, but also Rhodesia. We have recently sent an Ambassador College graduate, Mr. Russell Johnson, to process the mail in that country. We also handle the mail from Southwest Africa, Moçambique, the black states of Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Zambia and Swaziland, as well as from the island of Mauritius over 2,000 miles east of Jo'burg in the Indian Ocean.

Some of the Problems

One problem we have is language. South Africa itself has two *official* languages, English and Afrikaans. The latter is used mostly by the descendants of Dutch settlers who first arrived in South Africa in 1652. We now advertise in both languages. The Bantu have several tongues as well,



though most speak English or Afrikaans.

Mr. Dan Botha, representing Ambassador College in the Durban area, speaks three languages: English, Afrikaans and *Zulu*! He would be a hard man to replace since he uses these three languages in visiting!

Mauritians speak French and English, but they prefer a mixture of the two, called Creole, that has been influenced by a variety of Eastern languages as well. Mr. Johnson, our representative in Rhodesia, also speaks French, so he is able to help in Mauritius when needed.

A growing number of Rhodesians and South Africans see the value of the spiritual knowledge disseminated by Ambassador College. Many have contributed financially to help others receive this same priceless knowledge, to the extent that the South African office is able to pay all of its own operating expenses.

Although we *can afford* it, we are not allowed to pay completely for the literature that we receive from overseas, because of government regulations on currency exchanges. But we are able to pay for our full-color, double-page ads in the South African edition of *Reader's Digest*, and all other ads run in South Africa, as well as for all our broadcast time on Radio Lourenço Marques. We were able to pick up most of the tab when Mr. Ted Armstrong and the television crew came to South Africa to do the three programs on Rhodesia. Travel costs for the African baptizing tour, covering many East and West African nations, were also met by the South African office.

Most important of all, people of all races in Southern Africa are coming to find THE WAY to peace and harmony, THE WAY that most people in the world are so far from today. And that's what the Work of God and Ambassador College are all about — helping people, *all people*, find THE WAY! □

Kirch — Ambassador College

OUR OFFICE IN SOUTH AFRICA

The Netherlands Insurance Building in Johannesburg (just below inset photo of our Regional Director, Mr. Robert Fahey) houses our staff of fifteen employees who are helping to carry on God's Work in Southern Africa.