

GROWTH OF THE NEW APOSTOLIC CHURCH
(PART 2)**Objective**

The children learn about the conditions under which the New Apostolic Church spread in the beginning.

Contents**■ Establishing congregations in**

- Australia,
- South Africa, and
- South America.

■ Assistant Chief Apostle Schlaphoff.

Introductory Remarks

1 Establishing congregations in Australia, Africa, and South America

In Australia, as well as North and South America, congregations came into being when New Apostolic people from Europe—primarily from Germany and Switzerland—emigrated there.

The first congregations in South Africa were established by Evangelist Klibbe who had been sent there in 1889 from Australia.

Although the people's priority was to build a new life for themselves in their new homeland, they also enthusiastically testified about their faith.

Initially, services were either conducted outdoors or in private homes. Later on, simple means were used to build churches. The language used in the services was mostly German, the mother tongue of the immigrants. That is why in the beginning the congregations remained small. Only after the divine services were conducted in the language of the particular country, the congregations grew and new ones could be established.

2 Notes regarding the lesson

Since it will hardly be possible to discuss the development of God's work in three continents in one lesson, select one of the three continents together with the children.

Part A: Australia

Part B: South Africa

Part C: South America

If more time is available, two or all three can of course be discussed.

Following the lesson's lead-in, continue with either part A, B, or C. Part D is dealt with in all cases.

Lesson Plan

Lead-In

Discussion

Repeat the following from the previous lesson:

From Hamburg, Germany, the New Apostolic Church spread to

- the Netherlands, and from there to Java, Indonesia, and
- Chicago and New York, USA.

Teacher's Presentation

With the exception of the island of Java, these areas are in the Northern Hemisphere. God's work also spread in the Southern Hemisphere between 1884 and 1914. New Apostolic people, mostly from Germany and Switzerland, emigrated to Australia and South America. They constituted the nuclei of the New Apostolic congregations in these two continents. The first congregations in South Africa were established by Evangelist Klibbe. He had been sent with this commission from Australia to South Africa in 1889.

Implementation

Part A: Australia

Workbook, Exercise 1

The children take turns reading the letters. Afterwards discuss the following:

Discussion

- Together with his wife and three children, H. Friedrich Niemeyer emigrated to Australia. He was 30 years old. There he made a new life for himself with great difficulty and enthusiastically testified about his faith.
- He was ordained an Evangelist for Australia through a letter from Germany.
- On 25 July 1886 he received the Apostle ministry during a stay in Germany.
- God blessed his work. Some congregations could be established in Australia.
- In 1889 the first church in Australia was dedicated on Family Niemeyer's property.

Teacher's Presentation

In June 1910 a group of 237 German immigrants arrived in Brisbane, on the east coast of Australia. Most of them were New Apostolic. They settled in Riverleigh, about 100 kilometres from the coast. Priest Jakob Dietz was among them.

In 1912 Apostle Niemeyer left the New Apostolic Church to establish a separate denomination using the name "Apostolic Church of Queensland". About 2,000 members went with him. Only a few continued to stay with the Chief Apostle. They were now being looked after by Priest Dietz, who was ordained an Evangelist through a letter by Chief Apostle Niehaus. The flock of God's children increased somewhat through additional immigration.

Contact with the Chief Apostle was interrupted for several years by World War I (1914–1918).

Through a letter Jakob Dietz was ordained District Apostle in 1926. During the time of his ministerial activity, the New Apostolic Church in Australia was officially recognized by the state.

Discussion

Emphasize the following again:

- When Apostle Niemeyer went his own way, Priest Dietz looked after the few children of God.
- Although most of the members left the New Apostolic Church in 1912, those who remained worked unwaveringly for the Lord. God laid His blessing on this.
- Until the time following Word War I, God's work in Australia only spread among German immigrants. This changed in 1935 when divine services started to be conducted in English.

Part B: South Africa

Workbook, Exercise 2

The children take turns reading the letters.

Discussion

Discuss the following:

- Evangelist Carl Klibbe was sent to South Africa in 1889 to establish congregations there.
- He began his work in Cape Town initially, but despite intensive efforts, he was not successful. After having moved to East London he succeeded in establishing a congregation.

Teacher's Presentation

- He was ordained Apostle by letter in 1893.
- In 1902 W. Schlaphoff was commissioned to move from East London to Cape Town to establish a congregation there.

Wilhelm Schlaphoff, who had been born in Hanover, Germany, in 1867, had emigrated to South Africa in 1890. Already in Germany he had been in contact with a New Apostolic congregation. In 1901 he once again came in contact with God's work in East London and was sealed with his family the following year. After receiving the Deacon ministry and the commission to evangelize in Cape Town, he moved there in January 1903. Apostle Klibbe sealed the first souls in Cape Town in 1904. The first church was constructed in Claremont, Cape Town, in 1906. In addition to German, Wilhelm Schlaphoff, who had since been ordained a Priest, soon also conducted divine services in English and Afrikaans.

In September 1913 Wilhelm Schlaphoff, who now bore the ministry of a Bishop, was ordained Apostle during a stay in Germany. Apostle Klibbe had separated himself from the Chief Apostle that same year.

For many years Wilhelm Schlaphoff and his family lived in great poverty. At times his children had to go barefoot because there was no money for shoes. Apostle Schlaphoff died in 1928 at the age of 61. By that time there were 39 congregations and about 7,000 children of God in South Africa.

Through the work of other ministers, congregations were established in Johannesburg in 1910 and Pretoria in 1912, as well as in several other cities.

Discussion

Emphasize the following:

- The first congregations were formed among German immigrants. Since the divine services were conducted in German, it was difficult to win people for God's work other than Germans.
- After Apostle Klibbe had separated himself from the Chief Apostle and left the New Apostolic Church, Apostle Wilhelm Schlaphoff, who had been ordained in 1913, looked after the congregations in South Africa. The district continued to develop with great blessing.

Teacher's Presentation	<p>Part C: South America</p> <p>The first congregations in South America were founded in Argentina. Argentina is a big country with a small population density. From the northern border to the southern tip it is more than 4,000 km, extending from the subtropics to the Antarctic.</p>
Workbook, Exercise 3	The children take turns reading the letters.
Discussion	<p>Afterwards discuss the following with the children:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Our brothers and sisters who had emigrated to Argentina longed to attend the divine services and to be looked after by ministers. They turned to Chief Apostle Krebs, requesting him to send servants of God to them. ■ On 16 September 1900 Sietse Faber was ordained as an Apostle in Amsterdam for South America. ■ Despite difficult circumstances, the Apostle was able to gather some children of God and serve the small number of congregations.
Teacher's Presentation	<p>During World War I (1914–1918), contact with Apostle Kofmann in Europe—under whom Apostle Faber worked—and the Chief Apostle was disrupted. Apostle Faber was active as an Apostle until 1916. Thereafter he was evidently unable to carry on for health reasons. He died in 1928 in great poverty. Chief Apostle Helper J. G. Bischoff assumed responsibility for the district in 1923.</p> <p>After World War I, from 1921 to 1923, many European families emigrated to South America in search of better economic conditions and a peaceful country. Among them were New Apostolic families. Most of them settled in Buenos Aires, the capital of Argentina, and its vicinity. Owing to the circumstances at the time, Chief Apostle Helper Bischoff ordained the required ministers by letter.</p> <p>Divine services were also conducted in Brazil and Paraguay. By 1930 there were six congregations in South America.</p>
Discussion	<p>Emphasize the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Building up God's work in South America was difficult. With the exception of the New Apostolic people in the greater Buenos Aires area, the members of the Church lived far apart. In addition, they mostly had to work hard on making a new life for themselves.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ There were not enough ministers. From 1916 on, Apostle Faber was unable to carry on in his ministry. ■ The divine services were conducted in German, which prevented growth among the primarily Spanish- and Portuguese-speaking population.
Teacher's Presentation	Despite initial difficulties, God's work in South America prospered.
Workbook, Exercise 4	The children do the exercise.
	Part D: Assistant Chief Apostle Schlaphoff
Workbook, Text	The children read the text about Assistant Chief Apostle Schlaphoff.
Discussion	<p>Discuss the following with the children:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The decision to conduct services in the local language contributed to the growth of the congregations. ■ Even during very difficult times, God directed circumstances in such a manner that God's children were looked after (for example, during World War II). ■ Letters were often the only means of keeping in touch with the Chief Apostle. ■ Time and again people were found who willingly placed themselves into God's service and worked along in building up His work. They did not even shrink from great exertion. Today it is almost unimaginable how strenuous travelling was at the time.
Conclusion	
Workbook, Theme Picture	<p>The children study the theme picture and discuss it.</p> <p>Europeans emigrate south-east (Australia), south (South Africa), or south-west (South America) and happen on the local people.</p>
Conclusion	
Workbook, Map	The children locate the countries treated in this lesson where congregations were established.

Notes

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