

A stylized, monochromatic illustration of a world map. The map is rendered in a light gray tone against a dark background. Various human figures and ships are placed across different continents and oceans, symbolizing global connectivity and trade. In North America, a figure in a long coat stands on the left. In Europe, a group of four people, including a woman in a long dress and a man in a suit, are gathered. In Asia, a figure in a dark jacket stands on the right. In Africa, two figures are shown in the center, one in a patterned dress and one in a dark dress. In South America, two figures are shown on the left, one in a light shirt and one in a dark shirt. In the Pacific, two figures are shown on the right, one in a dark shirt and one in a light shirt. Three large steamships are depicted in the oceans, each with multiple smokestacks and emitting smoke. The overall style is reminiscent of early 20th-century graphic design.



ASSISTANT CHIEF APOSTLE HEINRICH FRANZ SCHLAPHOFF

In 1928 Apostle Wilhelm Schlaphoff passed away in South Africa. He had come to the country in 1890 as a German emigrant, became New Apostolic in 1902, and was instrumental in building up God's work in South Africa.

On 5 December 1928 Heinrich Franz Schlaphoff, the son of the deceased Apostle, received the Apostle ministry by way of a letter. Under his leadership, God's work was also brought to South Africa's neighbouring countries (such as to Northern and Southern Rhodesia, Nyasaland, etc.).

In 1929 Apostle H. F. Schlaphoff was also entrusted with the district of South America. His first journey there was in 1930 during which he visited the countries of Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay. During his second journey to South America in 1931, he saw to it that from then on the divine services were held in the language of the country, if possible. This step had already met with success in South Africa where, already early on, the divine services were conducted in English or Afrikaans.

Apostle H. F. Schlaphoff was ordained Assistant Chief Apostle in 1933. This was of great significance for the time that followed. During World War II, the Assistant Chief Apostle looked after all congregations outside of Europe (Africa, North and South America, Asia and Australia) since this was not possible for Chief Apostle Bischoff, who lived in Germany. From 1951 to April 1952 Assistant Chief Apostle Schlaphoff only looked after the congregations in the Southern Hemisphere. At that time there were Apostles in all of the areas he looked after. While active in this ministry, he undertook many long journeys into the areas he looked after. As of 7 April 1952 Heinrich Franz Schlaphoff worked in South Africa as District Apostle. In 1954 he approached Chief Apostle Bischoff with the request to relieve him of his responsibilities as an Apostle. He remained faithful until his death in 1965, following the Apostles that were given.



The map shows the countries described in this lesson in which congregations were founded.



EXERCISE 1



In 1883 Hermann Niemeyer emigrated from Germany to Australia with his family. The following could be letters which one of his sons wrote to his friend back home in Germany. The letters are based on actual happenings.

Read the letters aloud!

HATTON VALE, 1 MAY 1886

HATTON VALE, 10 MAY 1886

DEAR WILHELM:

WE'VE BEEN IN AUSTRALIA FOR THREE YEARS ALREADY. THERE'S CERTAINLY A LOT THAT HAPPENED DURING THAT TIME! IT REALLY WASN'T EASY TO GET USED TO EVERYTHING NEW. BUT I'LL TELL YOU SOME OF THE DETAILS.

AT FIRST, MY FATHER WAS ABLE TO WORK HERE WITH MY UNCLE, WHO'S BEEN IN AUSTRALIA FOR QUITE SOME TIME AND IS WELL OFF. BUT BUILDING A NEW LIFE FOR THEMSELVES WASN'T ENOUGH FOR MY PARENTS. MY FATHER TALKED TO THE OTHER GERMAN IMMIGRANTS WITH A LOT OF ENTHUSIASM ABOUT GOD'S WORK. THIS PROBABLY LED TO MY FATHER AND UNCLE GOING THEIR SEPARATE WAYS.

WE NOW LIVE IN HATTON VALE, WHERE MY PARENTS STARTED A FARM. IT'S UNBELIEVABLY HARD WORK TO CLEAR THE LAND AND MAKE THE SOIL USABLE FOR FARMING. IT REALLY IS DISCOURAGING SOMETIMES. BUT MY FATHER DOESN'T LET THINGS GET HIM DOWN. AND OVER AND OVER AGAIN HE IS STILL TELLING THE OTHER IMMIGRANTS ABOUT GOD'S WORK AND THE APOSTLES THAT ARE ACTIVE AGAIN. HE NEVER GETS TIRED OF IT. HE'S ALSO CORRESPONDING WITH THE MINISTERS IN GERMANY. APOSTLE KREBS WE STILL KNOW PERSONALLY.

AND JUST IMAGINE, ONE DAY THERE WAS A LETTER FROM GERMANY IN WHICH MY FATHER WAS INFORMED THAT HE HAD BEEN CALLED AND SELECTED AS AN EVANGELIST. NOW HE IS ABLE TO CELEBRATE HOLY COMMUNION WITH US. HE'S GATHERED A SMALL CONGREGATION TOGETHER.

IT'S AUTUMN HERE NOW AND MY FATHER IS GOING TO GERMANY. THAT'S WHY I'M GIVING HIM THIS LETTER TO PASS TO YOU, AND HOPE TO ALSO GET A LETTER FROM YOU WHEN HE COMES BACK.

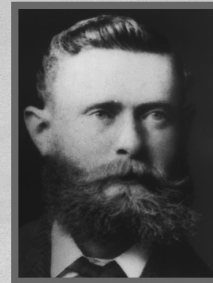
WITH THE VERY BEST OF WISHES,

YOUR FRIEND
HERMANN

HATTON VALE, 12 NOVEMBER 1886

DEAR WILHELM:

FIRST OF ALL, THANKS A LOT FOR YOUR LETTER. IT WAS REALLY EXCITING TO HEAR FROM YOU. SOMETIMES I DO GET HOMESICK FOR GERMANY AND ALL OF YOU.

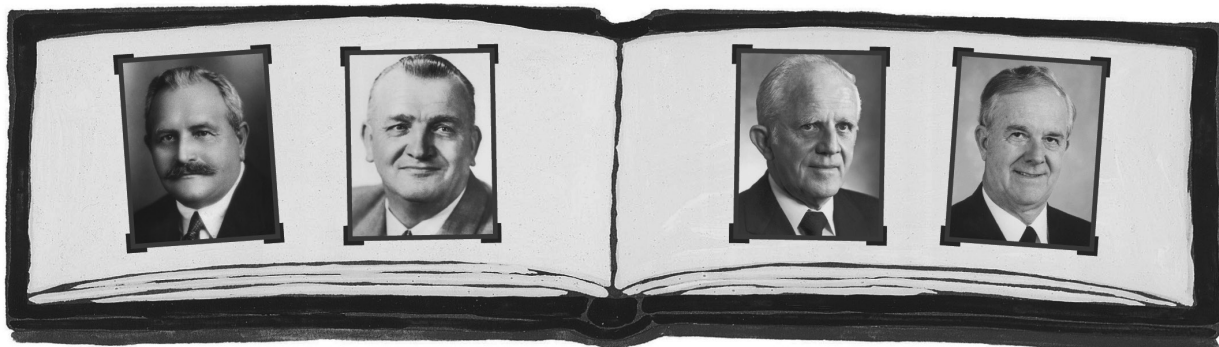


FATHER CAME BACK WITH GREAT NEWS. HE WAS SELECTED AS AN APOSTLE. NOW HOLY SEALING CAN TAKE PLACE HERE. FATHER IS ALSO PLANNING TO BUILD A CHURCH FOR US HERE IN HATTON VALE. THAT WOULD THEN BE THE FIRST NEW APOSTOLIC CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA. AND JUST IMAGINE WHAT ELSE HAPPENED WHILE HE WAS GONE. ON OUR FARM THERE ARE HUGE TREES, WHICH SHOULD ACTUALLY BE REMOVED. BUT MY FATHER HASN'T DONE IT YET, BECAUSE IT REALLY IS A GREAT DEAL OF WORK. WHILE HE WAS IN GERMANY THERE WAS A HURRICANE HERE, WHICH KNOCKED DOWN THE TREES. FORTUNATELY, OUR HOUSE WASN'T DAMAGED. MY FATHER WAS REALLY HAPPY AND SAID THAT GOD HAD DONE MORE FOR HIM WHILE HE WAS GONE THAN HE HIMSELF COULD HAVE DONE IN YEARS. WE'RE VERY THANKFUL.

THAT'S ALL FOR TODAY.

WITH THE VERY BEST OF WISHES,

YOUR FRIEND
HERMANN



▲ From left: Apostles in Australia: Jakob Dietz (* 8 December 1871, † 16 August 1941; Apostle since 15 November 1926), A. Abicht; O. Gerke; A. Rosentreter

EXERCISE 2



Carl Klibbe came to Australia as a German emigrant, where he came to know Evangelist Niemeyer, the later Apostle. He decided to follow the Evangelist and became his enthusiastic coworker. In 1889 Apostle Niemeyer sent Carl Klibbe to South Africa as an Evangelist with the commission to spread God's work there.

The following could be letters Evangelist Klibbe sent to Apostle Niemeyer.

Read the letters aloud!

CAPE TOWN, 6 NOVEMBER 1890

DEAR APOSTLE:

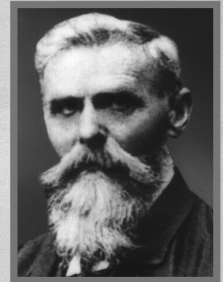
I HAVE TO TELL YOU TODAY THAT I DID NOT SUCCEED IN ESTABLISHING A CONGREGATION HERE IN CAPE TOWN. I AM VERY DISAPPOINTED. DESPITE INTENSIVELY BRINGING TESTIMONY AMONG THE GERMAN IMMIGRANTS, MY WORK REMAINED WITHOUT SUCCESS. SINCE I BELIEVE THAT I WILL NOT ACHIEVE ANYTHING HERE IN THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE, I WILL CHANGE MY FIELD OF WORK TO ANOTHER AREA.

PLEASE CONTINUE TO REMEMBER ME IN YOUR PRAYERS.

WITH GREETINGS OF MUCH LOVE,

YOURS,

CARL KLIBBE



EAST LONDON, 8 JULY 1893

DEAR APOSTLE:

I AM MUCH HAPPIER AS I AM WRITING THIS LETTER. HERE, IN THE HARBOUR CITY OF EAST LONDON, I WAS FINALLY SUCCESSFUL IN ESTABLISHING A CONGREGATION AMONG THE GERMAN IMMIGRANTS.

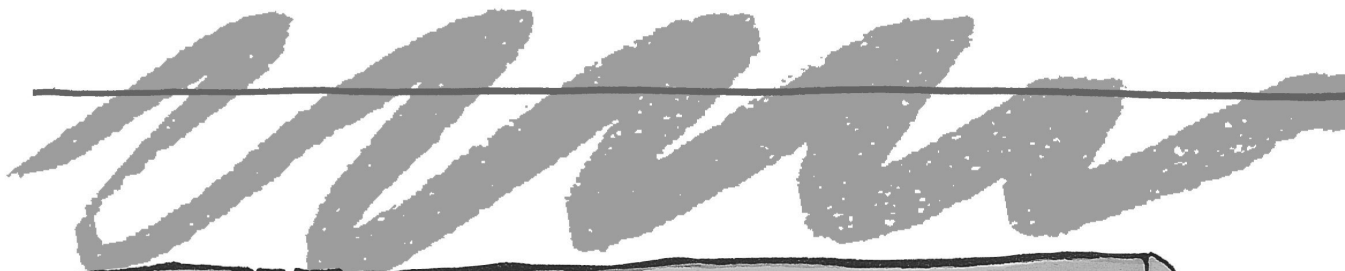
TODAY I RECEIVED THE NEWS THAT I HAVE BEEN ORDAINED APOSTLE FOR SOUTH AFRICA. I PRAY THAT THIS ORDINATION WILL WORK AS A GREAT BLESSING FOR SOUTH AFRICA. NOW HOLY SEALING CAN FINALLY ALSO BE ADMINISTERED HERE.

WITH GREETINGS OF MUCH LOVE,

YOURS,

CARL KLIBBE

▲ Apostle Carl Klibbe (*24 December 1852, † 22 May 1931; Apostle from 1893 to 1913)



EAST LONDON, 25 DECEMBER 1902

DEAR APOSTLE:

WITH GREAT JOY I AM ABLE TO REPORT TO YOU TODAY ABOUT A SPECIAL EVENT IN BUILDING UP GOD'S WORK IN SOUTH AFRICA.

AT PENTECOST THIS YEAR I WAS ABLE TO ADOPT AND SEAL THE MASTER-SHOEMAKER WILHELM SCHLAPHOFF WITH HIS FAMILY. SINCE THEN HE HAS PROVEN HIMSELF AS AN ENTHUSIASTIC WORKER FOR THE LORD'S CAUSE. TODAY I ORDAINED HIM AS DEACON AND COMMISSIONED HIM TO MOVE TO CAPE TOWN. THERE HE IS TO VENTURE ANOTHER BEGINNING AND EVANGELIZE. PLEASE CONTINUE TO REMEMBER US SO THAT GOD'S BLESSING MAY REST ON EVERYTHING.

CLOSELY CONNECTED I GREET YOU.

YOURS,
CARL KLIBBE



▲ From left: Apostles who worked in South Africa: Wilhelm Schlaphoff (* 14 February 1867, † 16 August 1928; Apostle since 21 September 1913); H. F. Schlaphoff; R. Kreunen; H. Fernandes, K. Gut

GROWTH OF THE NEW APOSTOLIC CHURCH (PART 2)

21

EXERCISE 3



Toward the end of the nineteenth century many families emigrated from Europe to South America. Among them there were also a number of New Apostolic families who primarily settled in Argentina. The following could be letters written by a New Apostolic woman to her friend in Europe.

Read them aloud!

CÓRDOBA, 20 MARCH 1899

DEAR KLARA:

WE'VE NOW BEEN IN ARGENTINA FOR OVER A YEAR ALREADY. THERE WAS SO MUCH TO DO THAT THE TIME JUST FLEW BY. WE'VE SETTLED IN CÓRDOBA AND ARE TRYING OUR LUCK WITH FARMING HERE. THAT'S VERY DIFFICULT. WE DON'T ONLY WORK NON-STOP, BUT ARE ALSO STILL CONSTANTLY LIVING IN FEAR OF CROP FAILURE. THAT WOULD RUIN US.

BUT THERE'S ALSO GOOD NEWS. WE MET ANOTHER NEW APOSTOLIC FAMILY HERE. UNFORTUNATELY, IT'S NOT POSSIBLE TO CONDUCT ANY DIVINE SERVICES HERE BECAUSE THERE ARE NO MINISTERS. SO WE ALL GOT TOGETHER AND WROTE CHIEF APOSTLE KREBS, ASKING HIM TO SEND US MINISTERS. PRAY FOR US TOO.

WITH THE VERY BEST OF WISHES,

YOURS,
ANNA

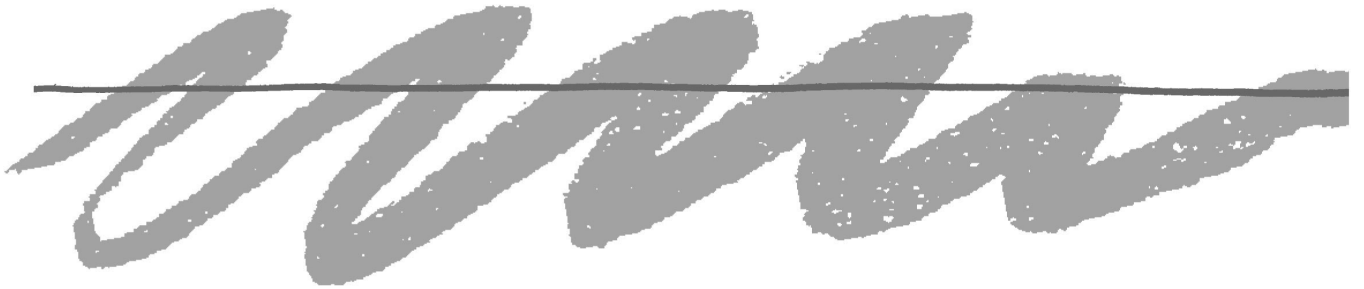
CÓRDOBA, 15 DECEMBER 1900

DEAR KLARA:

WHAT A JOY FOR US HERE IN ARGENTINA! AS YOU ALREADY KNOW, WE ASKED CHIEF APOSTLE KREBS FOR MINISTERS. THE CHIEF APOSTLE THEN INVITED SOME OF OUR BROTHERS TO AMSTERDAM. AMONG THEM WAS SIETSE FABER WHOM THE CHIEF APOSTLE ORDAINED APOSTLE FOR SOUTH AMERICA DURING A SERVICE ON 16 SEPTEMBER 1900. APOSTLE FABER AND HIS FAMILY ALSO LIVE IN CÓRDOBA PROVINCE, WHERE HE RUNS A FARMING BUSINESS. I DO HAVE TO MENTION THOUGH THAT CÓRDOBA IS GIGANTIC. BUT NEVERTHELESS, THERE'S AN APOSTLE IN OUR COUNTRY! THAT'S SO WONDERFUL!

WITH GREAT JOY I EMBRACE YOU.

YOURS,
ANNA



CÓRDOBA, 6 NOVEMBER 1909

DEAR KLARA:

VERY DIFFICULT YEARS ARE BEHIND US. DROUGHT AND CROP FAILURES BROUGHT MANY, MANY FARMERS INTO REALLY GREAT DIFFICULTIES; UNFORTUNATELY, ALSO OUR APOSTLE FABER. HE EVEN HAD TO SELL 30 COWS.

THE ACTIVITY IN GOD'S WORK CONTINUES, ALTHOUGH THERE ARE ALSO BIG DIFFICULTIES THERE. THE COUNTRY IS THINLY POPULATED, AND BIGGER CITIES ARE FAR AWAY FROM US. IN SPITE OF THIS, THE APOSTLE SUCCEEDED IN GATHERING A FEW CHILDREN OF GOD. THIS WINTER, THE APOSTLE EVEN MADE A 24-DAY JOURNEY TO CHILE WHERE HE ORDAINED A DEACON FOR THE TACUAREDI CONGREGATION THERE.

WITH MUCH LOVE,

YOURS,
ANNA

Left, from left: Apostle G. Ruff (* 20 September 1839, † 2 May 1906; Apostle since 3 June 1888), Chief Apostle F. Krebs (* 30 July 1832, † 20 January 1905; Apostle since 27 May 1881), in front of him Apostle Sietse Faber (* 1861, † 1929; Apostle since 16 September 1900), Apostle H. Niehaus (* 28 July 1848, † 23 August 1932; Apostle since 21 June 1896). The other pictures show the South American Apostles (f. l.): E. Gantner; G. Rufenacht; A. Martón; F. Lewitus

EXERCISE 4



A travel report

The following could be from a diary by Assistant Chief Apostle Schlaphoff on a journey to South America. The data is taken from a report by him.

Take turns reading what happened on each day and trace his route on the map on page 56.

12 August 1937	Going by train from São Paulo, Brazil, to the Paraná River.
13 August 1937	Arrival in the evening following a journey of 891 km. The only hotel in town is not particularly good, but inexpensive. The stay costs 1 dollar per day.
14 August 1937	Departure aboard the river boat <i>Don Pancho</i> . I am the only passenger.
15 August 1937	Arrival in Guayra, Brazil. En route the boat ran into a sandbank, but the boat could be refloated. In Guayra it is bitterly cold. The next train for Porto Mendez only leaves on 18 August, so I will just have to wait.
18 August 1937	The train left without me, the only passenger. After a refreshing argument at the railway office, a small motorized trolley is made available to me. My luggage is fastened with wires. At times it seems as if the trolley is not moving over the rails, but rather beside them. It does not matter. I will still reach the river steamer.
19 August 1937	Departure for Eldorado aboard the river steamer <i>España</i> . We should reach our destination around 8.30 tomorrow morning.
20 August 1937	Wrong! At 1 a.m. I am woken up amid plenty of noise. We are already in Eldorado. A severe storm is raging. However, the small rowboat brings me and my luggage safely to shore. Somewhat at a loss, I stand alone in the storm and rain, and do not know where I should turn. It is very uncomfortable. But suddenly a man emerges from the darkness, asks me what my name is, and tells me that Mr Gantner had already arranged everything for me. He brings me to a small hotel built of wood where I get a few hours of sleep still. At 10 a.m. District Elder Gantner and Priest Voegelis arrive. The joy of seeing each other again is great. We drive to Priest Voegelis's house

where there is to be a divine service in the evening. One hour before the start of the divine service, the storm starts again and rages terribly. The house, which was built on tree stumps, begins to shake under the power of the hurricane. The roof begins to weaken. Individual shingles have come off. We bow in prayer. Shortly thereafter the storm subsides. Now the members who live nearby are also able to come to the divine service. Afterwards the members lend me high boots so that I can walk to Brother Voelk's home where I will spend the night.



21-23 August 1937

I conduct four divine services before starting off for Paraguay aboard the river steamer *Guayra*.

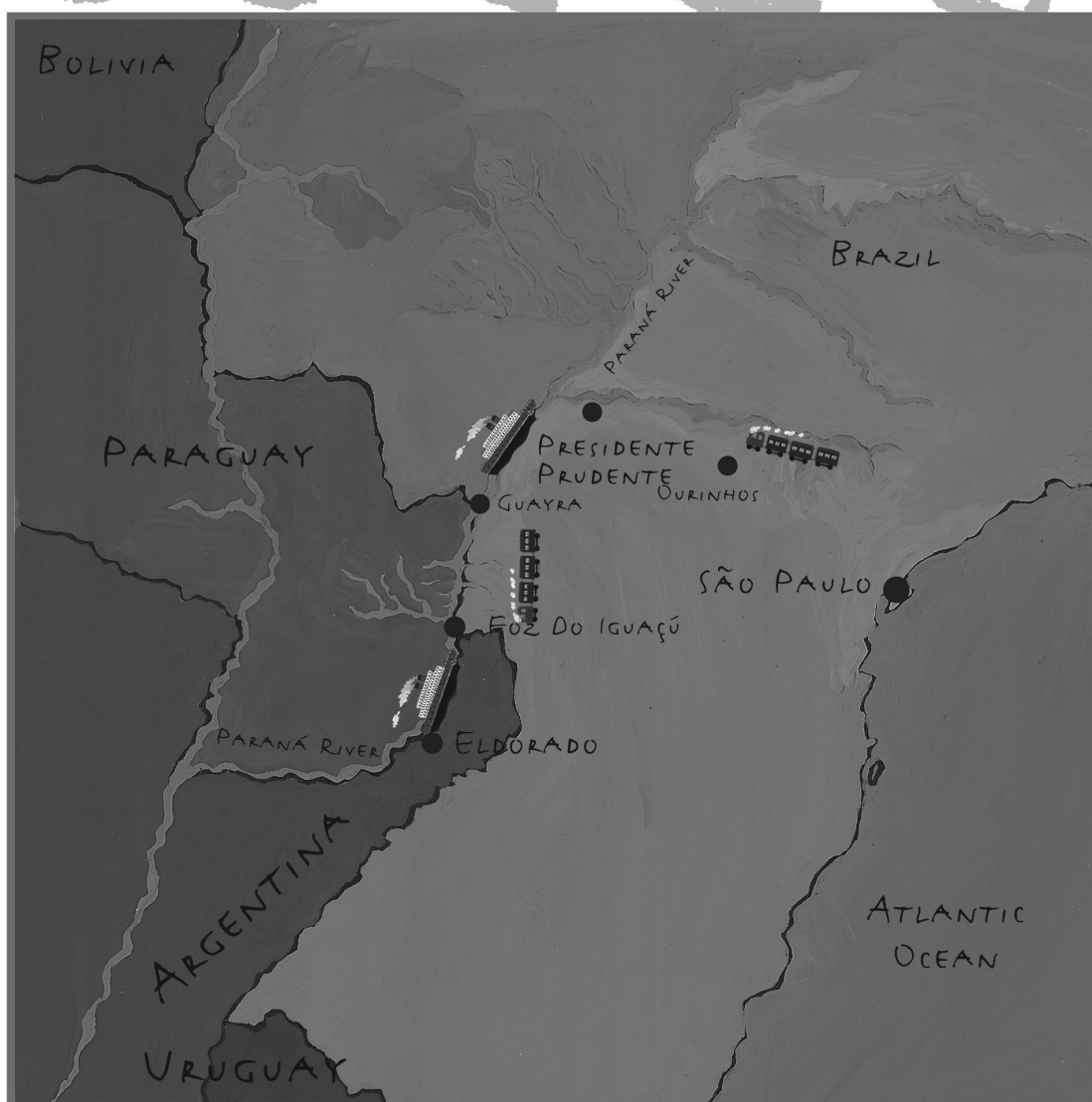


Photos: 1. The Assistant Chief Apostle in São Paulo; 2. Hotel Martine, where he spent the night of 13 August 1937; the trolley that the Assistant Chief Apostle had to resort to

EXERCISE 4



CONTINUED



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▲ The route of Assistant Chief Apostle Schlaphoff in 1937.