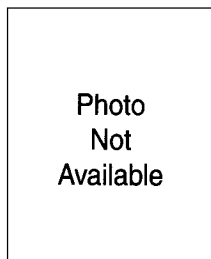


Southern Africa Union

Growth and Con- solidation



V. S. Wakaba

The Southern Africa Union Conference has existed since the merger of two unions at the end of 1991. We have seen tremendous changes politically in this area during the past five years as the local church has also been going through changes. Normally, when people are busy with administrative and structural changes, the growth of the organization is stifled.

However, despite all the attention given to administrative and structural changes, some growth has occurred in our educational work. In 1990, the two unions, which had 34 schools, merged. Six more schools have been established since then, including

one in 1995. There has also been an 11 percent increase in enrollment and a 21 percent increase in the number of teachers. The greatest increase occurred in the area of secondary schools, where enrollment has increased by 20 percent. Primary schools have grown by 15 percent and college enrollment by 4.5 percent.

The Southern Africa Union Conference territory is going through many changes. It seems that time is ripe for us as a church to make use of this period of flux to expand and to make our influence felt in the area. Our education program can make a significant impact in this regard.—V. S. Wakaba, *Director of Education, Southern Africa Union.*

South African Government Donates a School to Seventh-day Adventists

West Rand Primary School, a small elementary school in Bosmont, a suburb of Johannesburg, South Africa, has an enrollment of about 120 pupils.

The classrooms are small and cramped. There is no playground or sporting facilities. For many years, the

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A group of students from Riverside Primary School in Cape Town, South Africa.

church had been looking for a place to build a new school, but it seemed their dreams would never be realized.

One day, word came that the government would give them a school in a neighboring suburb. This large school will accommodate hundreds of pupils. It has spacious offices, a staff room, and excellent playgrounds and sporting facilities.

Other schools had also been closed by the government, but they were used for some other function. As far as we know, no other school had been given to a private institution. The school was donated to the church because the government recognizes the quality of education that it offers and the church's role in educating the youth of the country.

West Rand Primary School now has the best facilities of any Seventh-day Adventist primary school in the Southern Africa Union. We know that this was not just luck; God had a hand in it.—V. S. Wakaba, *Director of Education, Southern Africa Union.*

The Little Praying School

Ginsberg SDA School is located in a suburb of Kingwilliamstown, South Africa. When the school opened in 1955, it had five children. Today, there are 147 pupils and four teachers. Every year, the school is forced to turn away many applicants because of lack of classroom space.

This school has become very popular in its community because it is known as "the little praying school." Although more than 60 percent of the pupils come from non-Adventist homes, they all attend church on Sabbath.

One non-Adventist family's child was suffering from epilepsy, which seemed incurable. Friends in the community advised them to send the

child to the little praying school, and they did. The teacher and pupils prayed for the child, and the Lord answered. The parents were so impressed that they sent their other child to an Adventist secondary school.

Another miracle involved a pupil who had had jaundice and could hardly speak. The teachers believed that the sickness had caused mental retardation. Every day they met to pray for this child. One day, they were all shocked when the child began to speak normally. When the mother asked what had happened, the little girl told her that the whole school had been praying for her, and that she had also been taught to bring all her problems to the Lord.—V. S. Wakaba, *Director of Education, Southern Africa Union.*

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