

Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division

First Quarter 2019

Supplemental information to share during mission story time in Sabbath School. Compiled by Wendy Trim.

Angola

1. Angola is made up of the North-Eastern Angola Mission and the South-Western Angola Mission. Together they have 3,536 churches and companies and a membership of 448,554.
2. Angola has a population of about 26 million, which means there is one Adventist for every 58 people.
3. Angola has three medical facilities: a dental clinic in northeast Angola, and the Bongo Mission Hospital and Quicuco Dispensary in southwest Angola.
4. Church members run an Adventist Book Center, a Bible correspondence school, and a publishing house in Angola.
5. Dr. Roy B. Parsons arrived at the Bongo Dispensary and Hospital on Dec. 1, 1931, after spending 18 months in Portugal learning the language and getting his Portuguese degree to practice medicine. He remained in Angola for more than 35 years, bringing many people to Christ through his medical work, until his retirement in 1968. Then his son, Dr. David Parsons, who also held a Portuguese degree, became medical director.

Fast Facts

1. Angola gained independence from Portugal on Nov. 11, 1975. It was the last country in Africa to gain its independence from Portugal.
2. After Angola gained independence in 1975 there was a civil war which lasted until 2002. Around half a million people died in Angola during the civil war.

Botswana

1. In 1921, W. H. Anderson, in an interview with the queen mother, Gagoangwe, regent for the then-16-year-old chief, Bathoen II, received permission to open a hospital in Kanye village, Botswana, on the understanding that no preaching be done. The work of Dr. A.H. Kretschmar in the new hospital broke down prejudice and, in 1922, J.R. Campbell was allowed to enter Kanye and hold meetings. In 1927, H. Walker was permitted to conduct regular mission work there and also at Mauyana, a village 30 miles (50 kilometers) away, where David Livingstone once worked.
2. In 1962, the first Adventist school in Botswana opened in the small village of Ramokgoname, 40 miles (65 kilometers) from Palapye.
3. Kanye Adventist Hospital has 168 beds and provides medical care to 40,000 inpatients and 108,000 outpatients annually. Around 1,200 babies are born in the hospital each year.
4. Botswana has 228 churches and companies, and 44,554 members. With a population of 2,226,000, there is one Adventist for every 50 people in Botswana.
5. In 1984, Botswana Union Conference divided into two conferences: the North Botswana Conference and the South Botswana Conference.

Fast Facts

1. Botswana mostly has a flat landscape and is about 80 percent covered by the Kalahari Desert.
2. Botswana has the world's highest concentration of African elephants, many of which can be found in Chobe National Park.
3. The Makgadigadi pan is one of the largest salt pan areas in the world, covering an area of 7,500 square miles (12,000 square kilometers). The climate is very hot and with little rain. When it does rain, the pan can turn into a blue lake which attracts many of the area's animals, including flamingos.
4. English is the official language of Botswana and is widely used around the country. However, Setswana is the national language and the most commonly spoken.
5. The currency in Botswana is called the Pula (which means rain in Setswana) and is divided into Thebe (shield).
6. At 492 feet (150 meters), the border between Botswana and Zambia is the shortest in the world.
7. Mopane worms, the large caterpillar of the emperor moth, is a favorite snack in Botswana. It's called a mopane worm because it feeds on the leaves of mopane trees after it hatches in summer. They can be eaten dry, like potato chips, or cooked and covered in sauce.

Mozambique

1. The Adventist message entered Mozambique in 1931 when two students from the Malamulo Mission School in Malawi returned to their homes in Portuguese East Africa. Both carried out evangelism and soon were teaching 555 people in Bible classes. O. U. Giddings and Max Webster made a visit to Mozambique to investigate the interest, and, in 1933, Webster was sent to the Zambesi district in Mozambique to establish a mission. In 1935, with permission from the governor-general, he established a mission, naming it Munguluni, meaning "light."
2. In 1937, 1,500 people attended the first camp meeting. They were timid and suspicious but listened. However, when Webster tried to take photographs, they fled into the bush. In 1939, the first converts were baptized.
3. Mozambique Adventist Seminary (Seminario Adventista do Setimo Dia de Mocambique) is a co-educational boarding and day school operated by the Mozambique Union Mission. In the beginning, the school was located in the Zambesi district of Mozambique, about halfway between the Malawi border and the port of Quelimane. In 1957, a preparatory course for teachers was organized and in 1963 the school was officially recognized by law as the Adventist College of Munguluni. In September 1973, the school was transferred from Munguluni to a newly acquired property at Manga, a few miles from the city of Beira, and was developed as a seminary for African workers in Mozambique.
4. A church publishing house, Casa Publicadora do Indico, operates in Mozambique's capital, Maputo.

Fast Facts

1. Mozambique has some of the world's richest coral reefs. More than 1,200 species of fish have been identified in the coastal waters of Mozambique.

2. There are 147 airports in Mozambique, although only 22 have paved runways.
3. Maputo in Mozambique is known as the City of Acacias because of the acacia trees commonly found along its avenues.
4. Some of the scenes from the movie “Blood Diamond,” starring Leonardo Di Caprio, were shot in Maputo.
5. Literacy in Mozambique is very low. The latest statistics indicate that total adult literacy rate is 54 percent.
6. The diet of people in the countryside is based on the cassava root (called mandioca in Portuguese), which means “the all-sufficient.” Cassava can be baked, dried in the sun, or mashed with water to form a porridge. Usually it is ground with corn into a coarse flour, mixed with cassava leaves and water, and then served in calabashes (bottle gourds).
7. The marimba, a kind of wooden xylophone that has been adopted in Western music, originated in Mozambique. The musical style is similar to West Indian calypso and reggae.
8. Mozambique is home to a wide range of wildlife, including elephants, manatees, lions, aardvarks, rhinoceros, hippopotamuses, giraffes, snakes, buffalos, crocodiles, leopards, bushbabies, monkeys, cheetahs, panthers and hyenas.

São Tomé and Príncipe

1. Adventists began work on São Tomé Island with the arrival of José Freire, a Portuguese colporteur, in 1936. In 1938, he settled as a missionary, and in February 1939 the first baptisms were conducted.
2. An elementary school was opened in 1946 (with Capitolina Grave as its first teacher). It had an average attendance of 250 students. It was closed by the Communist government in 1975.
3. Originally São Tomé and Príncipe Mission was under the Angola Union Mission, but it is now attached directly to the Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division.
4. São Tomé and Príncipe has 13 churches and 56 companies, and 7,867 members. With a population of 198,000, that’s one Adventist for every 101 people.

Fast Facts

1. São Tomé and Príncipe are two volcanic islands off the coast of West Africa in the Gulf of Guinea and is one of Africa’s smallest countries. São Tomé is six times larger than Príncipe.
2. The island of Sao Tome was named after Saint Thomas by the Portuguese explorers who arrived at the island on the saint’s feast day.
3. Cacao is the main crop of the island nation and it represents 95 percent of the country’s export. Other export crops include copra, palm kernels and coffee.
4. São Tomé and Príncipe has the second-smallest population of any African country after Seychelles.
5. The cuisine of São Tomé and Príncipe is based on tropical root crops, plantains, bananas, and fish. The vegetables mainly consist of indigenous greens that are cooked in red palm oil.
6. Malaria is the most common and the most dangerous disease prevalent on the islands.
7. The country is home to the world’s smallest ibis (the São Tomé ibis) and the world's largest sunbird (the giant sunbird), as well as several species of giant Begonias.

Zambia

1. The Rusango Mission, in Zambia, was first established in 1905 by William Harrison Anderson, who had travelled to Zambia from Solusi Mission in Zimbabwe. He and his wife set up an elementary school, which later expanded to a high school, then a ministerial school and finally, in the 1990s, a seminary. Although the school shut down for a few years while it was reorganized, it re-opened in the late 1990s as Zambia Adventist College, and is now Rusango University.
2. William Harrison Anderson walked 900 miles (1,450 kilometers) for two months to establish the new mission in Zambia. He wrote, "In locating the new mission there was a combination of four things that I especially desired. First, of course, was proximity to the native. A person can accomplish very little in laboring for the people unless he is near them. Secondly, we wanted a good supply of water. ... We wanted water for irrigation, that we might raise fruit and garden produce. Thirdly we desired proximity to the railway line ... so I followed the watershed, in the hope that we might be near the railway line when it was built through the country. ... The fourth point we desired was to establish an industrial mission, where the natives might be taught to work, which is one of the principles of the gospel. We therefore wanted good soil."
3. Rusango University offers undergraduate programs in business, education, health sciences, humanities and social sciences, science and technology, and theology, as well as post-graduate degrees in education and software engineering.
4. Rusango University is about 125 miles (200 kilometers) south of Zambia's capital, Lusaka, and about 185 miles (300 kilometers) north of the world-famous Victoria Falls.

Fast Facts

1. The official language of Zambia is English, while the most common local languages are Nyanja and Bemba.
2. Zambia has the largest waterfall in the world. Measuring 5,600 feet (1,720 meters) wide, Victoria Falls is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of the Seven Natural Wonders of the World.
3. The terrain in Zambia is mostly a plateau, rising to 8,000 feet (2,430 meters) in the east.
4. Zambia is known for its copper-mining region, called the Copperbelt. Its capital is called Ndola and is also the commercial capital of the country. Ndola is one of only three cities in Zambia that has an international airport.
5. If you look at the Victoria Falls' mist from the right angle, you will see a completely circular rainbow.
6. The national symbol is the African fish eagle, which looks much like the American bald eagle.
7. One of the world's largest mushrooms, which grows to almost a yard (meter) wide, is native to Zambia.
8. Before Zambia gained independence in 1964, it was known as Northern Rhodesia. The name Zambia comes from the Zambezi River, which flows along the border between Zambia and Zimbabwe. The Zambezi is the fourth-largest river in the world.

9. Zambia is one of 15 landlocked countries across Africa. The closest ocean is more than 600 miles (1,000 kilometers) away. However, Lake Tanganyika is the second-largest and deepest freshwater lake in the world, and Lake Kariba is so large that in certain parts, unknowing visitors mistake it for the ocean.
10. Lake Kariba was Africa's largest man-made lake until Egypt's Aswan Dam was constructed in 1971.

Useful Zambian Words

English	Bemba	Nyanja
Hello	Shani	Bwanji
Goodbye	Shalapo Pitani	Bwino
How are you?	Uli Shani?	Muli Bwanji?
I am fine	Ndi Bwino	Ndili Bwino
Thank you	Natotela	Dzikomo
very much	sana	kwambili

Zimbabwe

1. Solusi University, near Bulawayo, Zimbabwe, was founded in 1894 as a mission station. It was named after Chief Soluswe, near whose home the mission was founded.
2. Originally training local church workers, the school expanded to include teacher training in 1929, and by 1958, Solusi was offering post-secondary courses leading to bachelor's degrees. After some time affiliated with Andrews University, in 1995, Solusi became an independent and chartered university.
3. The land that Solusi University occupies was granted to Adventist missionaries in the late 1890s by Cecil John Rhodes, a British businessman and politician who founded the southern African territory of Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe and Zambia), and became prime minister of the Cape Colony in 1890.
4. Solusi University has 1,471 undergraduates (42 percent men, 58 percent women), and 150 graduate students (41 percent men, 59 percent women). As well as Zimbabwe, students come from Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Egypt, Kenya, Rwanda, and Tanzania.

Fast Facts

1. According to figures from the World Health Organization, the life expectancy for men is 37 years and for women only 34.

2. Zimbabwe is believed to be the location of Ophir, the ancient country from which King Solomon got ivory, gold, and other precious items.
3. The major grains used for food in Zimbabwe are corn, or maize, millet, and sorghum. The flour from these grains is cooked into a thick porridge, which is eaten with green vegetables or meat. The vegetables are often prepared with onion and tomato and sometimes with peanut sauce. Other common foods include milk, boiled or roasted peanuts, boiled or roasted maize, fruits, termites, and caterpillars.
4. The national dress of the country is a wraparound cloth, head wrap, and earrings and necklaces. Traditional Zimbabwean clothing is worn on some special occasions like Independence Day or Hero's Day.
5. Animal skin traditionally played an important role in men's dress because each tribal group is associated with a different animal.
6. Victoria Falls, the world's largest sheet of falling water, on the Zambezi River at the border of Zambia and Zimbabwe, was named by the explorer, David Livingston, in honor of Queen Victoria. The local name for the falls is Mosi-oa-Tunya, meaning "The Smoke that Thunders."
7. Zimbabwe has an adult literacy rate of 90 percent—one of the highest rates in Africa.
8. Football, cricket, and rugby are the most popular sports in the country.
9. To Zimbabweans, a big stomach among men is a sign of wealth. It implies that they can afford meat daily.