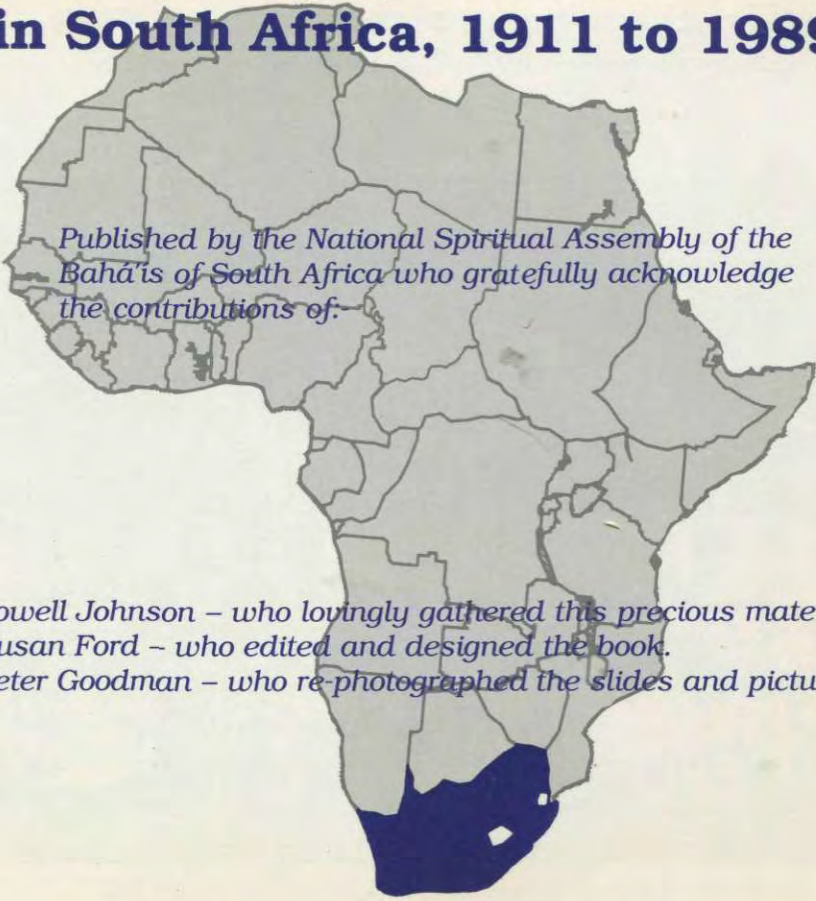


**A Pictorial History of the Bahá'í Faith
in South Africa
1911 to 1989**

A Pictorial History of the Bahá'í Faith in South Africa, 1911 to 1989.



*Published by the National Spiritual Assembly of the
Bahá'ís of South Africa who gratefully acknowledge
the contributions of:*

Lowell Johnson – who lovingly gathered this precious material.

Susan Ford – who edited and designed the book.

Peter Goodman – who re-photographed the slides and pictures.

UNITY IN DIVERSITY

The main focus of Baha'í activity throughout the world is the promotion of Unity with the ultimate goal being World Peace.



1989: Delegates and visitors to the Bahá'í National Convention held in Natal in April, 1989.



1988/89: The organisers of the 1989 Convention, the National Spiritual Assembly of South Africa, seen with top administrators of the Baha'í Faith from all parts of South Africa. (front l to r) Gabeba Davids (ABM), Iraj Abedian (NSA), Judith Ramoroesi (NSA), (2nd row) Gilbert Tombisa (ABM), Tabitha Tombisa (NSA) (3rd row) Mike Walker (NSA), Krishna Naidoo (NSA), Jerry Jacobs (NSA) (back row) Lowell Johnson (NSA), Daniel Ramoroesi (CLR), Bijan Iqani (ABM) and Kenny Oppel (NSA).

(Abbreviation key:

ABM = Auxiliary board member;

NSA = National Assembly member; CLR = Counsellor)



Children's class: Names are written on paper "leaves" to be placed on a tree as a lesson from Bahá'í text: "Ye are the leaves of one tree".

National Convention, 1989.



Prayers in different languages are read at Convention..



Enjoying the Natal sunshine and a cup of tea.



Delegates during a break.



A group of youth chat during a break at the April Convention.



Guests from Venda and Natal get together.



Catching up on news at breaks.

THE PROMISE OF WORLD PEACE

In October 1985, the world governing body of the Bahá'í Faith, the Universal House of Justice, gave a peace-promoting gift to the world: "The Promise of World Peace". Against a background of an international acceptance that world peace seems impossible, the encouraging message that "Peace is not only possible but inevitable" and the feasible and practical steps toward that goal are laid out in the document. The Bahá'í World Community was given the formidable task of distributing this document to all "The Peoples of the World" and the South African community is engaged in this continuing project. Among others it has been presented to....



... The President of Bophuthatswana,
Lucas M. Mangope



... The Mayor of Uitenhage



... The Mayor of Durban.



... the Mayor of Pietermaritzburg



... the Mayor of Roodepoort



... the Mayor of Johannesburg



Usually Baha'i delegations of about five in number are chosen to present the Peace Message. It was a rare community decision, therefore, when all the members of the Pretoria community presented the Peace Statement to a local Rabbi.

Quotations from The Promise of World Peace.

World peace is not only possible but inevitable. It is the next stage of the evolution of this planet - in the words of one great thinker, "the planetization of mankind".

Unbridled nationalism, as distinguished from a sane and legitimate patriotism, must give way to a wider loyalty, to the love of humanity as a whole.

A fundamental lack of communication between peoples seriously undermines efforts towards world peace. Adopting an international auxiliary language would go far to resolving this problem.

Disunity is a danger that the nations and peoples of the earth can no longer endure; the consequences are too terrible to contemplate, too obvious to require any demonstration.

WORLD RELIGION DAY 1989



Guests and participants photographed at the celebration of World Religion Day in Johannesburg, January 15, 1989, where readings from the Holy Books of all the world's religions were read to a multi-denominational audience. For the first time in South Africa, public television reported on a Bahá'í event and broadcast the coverage on prime time news.



The Local Spiritual Assembly of Johannesburg were the hosts of this World Religion Day celebration.



BAHA'I WORLD CENTRE

The pictorial essay which follows traces the development of the Bahá'í Faith in South Africa through the growth of its administration. Each year Bahá'ís elect nine people from their local community to form an "Assembly" which ministers to the needs of that community. Delegates from local communities vote annually for nine Bahá'ís who form a National Spiritual Assembly which is the

national governing body of the Bahá'í Faith. Every five years, members from the National Assemblies throughout the world vote for an international Body which directs the worldwide affairs of the Bahá'í Faith from Haifa, Israel. This international governing body is called The Universal House of Justice.



The seat of the Universal House of Justice is situated on the slopes of Mount Carmel, Haifa, Israel.



One of the most holy places to Bahá'ís is this golden domed Shrine situated on the slopes of Mount Carmel.

EARLY DAYS

1911: The earliest records available indicate that the first Bahá'í meetings in South Africa were held by Mrs. Agnes Cook, Protea Avenue, Sea Point in 1911. She held meetings on the 19th day of each calendar month but no further details of her are known at present apart from the fact that she was South Africa's first known Baha'i.

1912: Mr. & Mrs. William Fraetas of Cape Town visited North America in 1912 and learned of the Bahá'í Faith in New York from Abdu'l-Baha, the son of the Founder of the Bahá'í Faith who had travelled from the Holy Land to meet with American Bahá'ís. Mrs. Fanny Knobloch, the first American Bahá'í pioneer to visit South Africa in 1924 described Mr. Fraetas as a "brilliant soul" and said the couple was "a power for good in the Cape".



1925: First Local Spiritual Assembly in South Africa is formed in Pretoria.



1925: Agnes Carey was the first person from Pretoria to become a Bahá'í and served as a member of the Local Assembly from 1925 to 1929.



1920: Fanny Knobloch (left) was the first Bahá'í pioneer to South Africa, 1920-1929. She is seen here with travel teacher, Martha Root, who visited South Africa in 1924/25 for three months.



The Carey home in Arcadia, Pretoria, where South Africa's first Local Assembly was formed.

BIRTH OF THE ADMINISTRATION

Shoghi Effendi, the great-grandson of the Founder of the Bahá'í Faith, told the South African artist, Reginald Turvey, that the reason the early days of Bahá'í activity in South Africa had failed to prosper was that the Bahá'í World Administration had not been established at that time to

nurture growth and development. However, in 1953 a new wave of pioneers began to arrive in South Africa from North America and began to lay the foundations of Bahá'í Administration. In 1955 Johannesburg's first Local Assembly was elected.



1955: Seven of the nine members of the first Local Assembly of Johannesburg which was responsible for organizing South Africa's first National Convention. (l to r) William Sears, Reginald Turvey, Bahiyyih Ford, Helen Miller, Robert Miller, Marguerite Sears, Doris Ballard.



1956: South Africa's first Bahá'í National Convention was held at this Muldersdrift farm in April. The place became known as "The Farm".



1956: The Host and Hostess at "The Farm" at that historic first convention were American pioneers, William and Marguerite Sears who are seen here welcoming some of the delegates. At that time William Sears, known as "Bill", was a popular Springbok Radio personality.



Delegates from Southern Africa and Indian Ocean Islands who attended the first Bahá'í National Convention in Southern Africa.

1956: Members of the first National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of South and West Africa with Hands of the Cause Paul Haney (2nd left front row) and Musa Banani (centre front) as well as Ali Nakhjavani (2nd right front row) who was then an Auxiliary Board Member and is now a member of the Universal House of Justice. These three special visitors took part in the first convention held in 1956. This Assembly was responsible for the Bahá'í administration of: South Africa, South West Africa, Mauritius, St. Helena Island, Reunion, Madagascar, Angola, Mozambique, Swaziland, Basutoland, Bechuanaland, Northern and Southern Rhodesia and Nyasaland.



CONSOLIDATION BEGINS

After the first Convention, the teaching work entered a new phase following three major developments: The appointment of a National Teaching Committee; the move of the Administration from "The Farm" to a National Bahá'í Centre in



First National Teaching Committee (l to r): Bob Quigley, Valera Allen, Bothata Pokane, Dorothy Senne, Billy Sears, Bahiyyih Ford (who was later appointed as a Counsellor for southern Africa) and Fred Schechter (who was later appointed a Counsellor in the United States of America).

Johannesburg; as well as the appointment of two Hands of the Cause in southern Africa by Shoghi Effendi, the great grandson of the Founder of the Bahá'í Faith, who is known to Bahá'ís as "The Guardian".

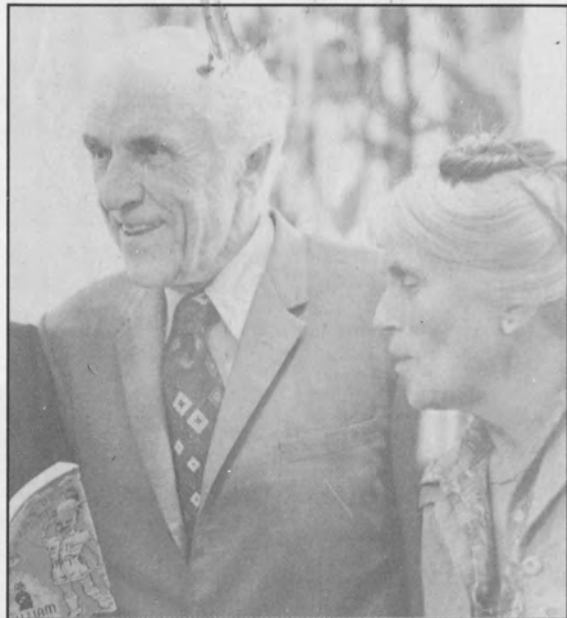


1955: Meeting of pioneers held in the new National Bahá'í Centre, 23 Rustenburg Road, Melville in Johannesburg.

1957: William Sears and John Roberts were appointed Hands of the Cause of God in October, 1957.



William and Marguerite Sears



John and Audrey Roberts

NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLIES

The following photographs of National Assemblies span a period of 32 years – from 1956 to 1988.



1956: The first National Spiritual Assembly: (back row l to r) William Sears, John Robarts, John Allen, Robert Miller. (front row l to r) Andrew Mofokeng, Festus Chembeni, William Masehla, Walter Dlamini, Max Seepe.



1967: The nine Bahá'ís voted onto the National Assembly: (back l to r) Ephens Senne, Lowell Johnson, Isaac Abrahams, Bishop Brown, Sam Kubone, (front l to r) Bahiyyih Ford, Ruth Kubone, Rosemary Sala, William Masehla.



1960: The Assembly serving 1960 to 1963 is seen here with Hand of the Cause John Robarts seated centre front: (Back l to r) John Allen, Max Seepe, Shidan Fat'he-Aazam, Lowell Johnson, Andrew Mofokeng, (front l to r) William Masehla, Valera Allen, Bahiyyih Ford and Rudolfo Duna.



1971: The Assembly members who served from 1971 to 1974 were: Ephens Senne, Robert Witham, Max Seepe, Abubaker Rossier, Mike Sears, (front l to r) Sam Kubone, Elise Liknaitzky, Bishop Brown, Elizabeth Witham.



1978: Voted to serve as Assembly members from 1978 to 1980 were: (l to r) Max Seepe, Stanlake Kukama, Cornelius Khunou, Mike Sears, Rose Gates, Mike Walker, Elise Liknaitzky, Lowell Johnson, Robert Mazibuko.



1981: Max Seepe, Lowell Johnson, Joyce Pheko Dwashu, Martin Konstant, Rose Gates, Robert Mazibuko, Mike Walker, Elise Liknaitzky, Mike Sears.



1985: Martin Konstant, Judith Ramoroesi, Elise Liknaitzky, Mike Walker, Iraj Abedian, Lowell Johnson, Robert Mazibuko, Mike Sears, Tabitha Tombisa.



1988: Iraj Abedian, Mike Walker, Judith Ramoroesi, Mike Sears, Krishna Naidoo, Tabitha Tombisa, Jerry Jacobs, Kenny Oppel, Lowell Johnson.

EARLY PIONEERS



1953: Bahiyyih and Harry Ford were the first pioneers to establish themselves permanently in Johannesburg. Harry died within the first year of their arrival and his story is told in vol. XIII of *The Bahá'í World*. Bahiyyih developed a career in African arts and crafts, becoming a sought after lecturer as an authority on the subject at lunches and functions held by church groups and other organizations such as Rotarians, Lions and Women's Institutes. Bahiyyih was named Margaret at birth and was given the name Bahiyyih by 'Abdu'l-Bahá during a visit to Haifa, Israel, at the age of twelve with her father, Harry Randall who was an Apostle of 'Abdu'l-Bahá.



1953: Bishop and Ruth Brown arrived in Durban on August 8, 1953. Having the unusual first name of "Bishop" led to many amusing moments as he was regularly mistaken as a member of the clergy. Once a traffic officer asked to see his driver's licence and upon seeing the name said: "Parden me, Your Grace. Please proceed." Ruth Brown's life story is told in *The Bahá'í World*, XV.



1953: Edith and Lowell Johnson arrived from the United States of America on November 27, 1953, and settled in Cape Town. In pursuing a career in radio, Lowell later moved to Johannesburg where he became a well known radio deejay. He is the author of several Bahá'í books and has been the secretary of the National Assembly for many years.



1953: The Miller family arrived on December 5, 1953, from Milwaukee in the United States of America. They pioneered in Johannesburg and Durban. They served as host and hostess at the National Centre when they first arrived in South Africa.



1954: Emeric and Rosemary Sala arrived from Canada on July 16, 1954, and pioneered in Zululand and Port Elizabeth. The couple were instrumental in establishing the Bahá'í Faith in Port Elizabeth and Rosemary established an international library at Cowan High School in New Brighton. Rosemary Sala's life story is told in *The Bahá'í World*, Vol.XVIII.



1954: The Allen family, from the United States of America, arrived in Swaziland on April 19, 1954. (l to r) John, Dale, Kenton and Valera with (front left) Margo Bosch and Maude Fisher. John, Valera and Dale served on the National Assembly (South and West Africa) for several years before Swaziland formed its own National Assembly. Mrs. Fisher's life story is told in *The Bahá'í World*, Vol.XIII and John Allen's in Vol.XVIII.



1954: Edythe MacArthur arriving from Canada on December 25, 1954. She pioneered in Zululand and Cape Town, working as a nurse. She was a Knight of Bahá'u'lláh.



1955: William and Betty Randall photographed at the Cape Town harbour upon their arrival on April 21, 1955. They pioneered in Durban, Pretoria and Johannesburg, serving on the first Spiritual Assembly in Durban and later as host and hostess at the National Centre in Johannesburg.



1954: Fred Schechter, a Knight of Bahá'u'lláh, arrived in South Africa from Ethiopia on August 11, 1954. He is seen here with John and Charlotte de Pinto who pioneered to Mozambique in September 1954.



1955: Youth pioneers get stuck into washing a load of dishes after a function at the National Centre. (l to r) Mike Sears, Margo Bosch, Dale Allen, Kenton Allen, Patrick Robarts and Billy Sears.



1956: Beth and Charles "Chuck" Ducker, arrived from the United States of America on November 7, 1956. They served as host and hostess at the National Centre and later moved to Swaziland.

THE FLOURISHING YEARS

The '60s saw the Bahá'í Faith burgeoning in every direction, so much so that many new National Spiritual Assemblies were born from the original Mother Assembly for southern Africa. These included: South Central Africa (1964), Indian Ocean (1964), Zambia (1967), Swaziland, Mozambique and Lesotho (1967), Botswana (1970), Malawi (1970), Rhodesia (Zimbabwe) (1970) ... as well as others in the '70s and 80's.



Auxiliary Board Members with Hand of the Cause John Roberts: John Allen, Andrew Mofokeng, Robert Quigley and "Sue" Benatar.



The Cape Town Community



Children's class in Cape Town



Children's class in Phokeng, Rustenburg area.



1961: National Convention delegates.

VILLAGE TEACHING



... in Mafikeng

... in Ciskei



MUSIC MAKERS



Don Fouché of Johannesburg with fellow Bahá'ís, Jim Seals and Dash Crofts of "Seals and Crofts", in Los Angeles.

Jazz deejay Lowell Johnson with fellow Bahá'í Dizzy Gillespie during Dizzy's jazz concerts in Maseru, Lesotho.



John Agulhas is the music maker of the Bahá'í community in the Cape and no function would be complete without his vibrant contributions. He obtained a diploma in music through correspondence with a leading music college in New York.



Sylvia Schulman (Benatar) is a well-known concert pianist, now living in Cape Town as a pioneer from the United Kingdom where she spent 15 years.

Norman Bailey CBE, internationally known opera singer from Salisbury, Rhodesia, became a Bahá'í in 1956 while he was a student at Rhodes University. He has lived in England since 1967 after several years in Austria and Germany. He received an honorary Doctor of Music from Rhodes University in 1986.



RELAXING



NSA members, Judith Ramoroesi and Iraj Abedian during a lunch break in Port Elizabeth.



Hand of the Cause John Robarts, having a little fun when asked to taste the mielie meal.



Relaxing and unwinding African style. Taking a dancing and singing break during a teaching institute in the Ciskei in 1984.



Sharing information.



Bahá'ís of Port Elizabeth area hosted the NSA members there in 1988.



Children from Port Elizabeth area.



Two young Bahá'ís helped to sell balloons at a Roodepoort Fair where the Bahá'ís of that community sponsored a balloon race.

More Bahá'is relaxing and having fun together . . .



BAHA'I WEDDINGS



Professor Bishop Brown officiates at the marriage of Susan Ford and Peter Goodman, seen here signing their Bahá'í marriage certificate in Durban. Susan and Peter are well known media professionals. Johannesburg-born Susan's career is in journalism and public relations while London-born Peter is a commercial and industrial photographer.



Jerry Jacobs and Vanessa Marais in Johannesburg at their wedding reception after exchanging their Bahá'í marriage vows. Jerry and Vanessa were both born in Johannesburg.



Teresa Skrenes of the United States of America marries Ludfi Noor of Durban. They settled in Empangeni.

RUHIYYIH KHANUM IN CAPE TOWN



1972: The wife of Shoghi Effendi, Amatu'l-Bahá Rúhíyyih Khánum (centre in white) with Bahá'ís from the Cape Town community during a visit in 1972.

1972: Laying the foundation stone for the Bahá'í Centre in Surrey Estate, near Cape Town, on July 13, 1972.

Rúhíyyih Khámun is seen with Amin Gallow who donated the property. The Bahá'ís in Cape Town initiated a plan in the mid-'60s to acquire this centre and the members of the community pledged themselves to a contribution of 25 cents per week for 24 weeks.



The Cape Town community using their centre.

LOCAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLIES



Johannesburg



Umlazi



Durban



Cape Town



Roodepoort

NATIONAL CONVENTION UMGABABA

During the '70s and early '80s many Bahá'í National Conventions were held at Umgababa on the Natal South Coast. Bahá'ís travelled to that venue from all provinces in South Africa as well as from neighbouring States.



A singing group from the Transkei lifts the spirits of the delegates during one of the three-day conventions held at Umgababa during the early '70s.



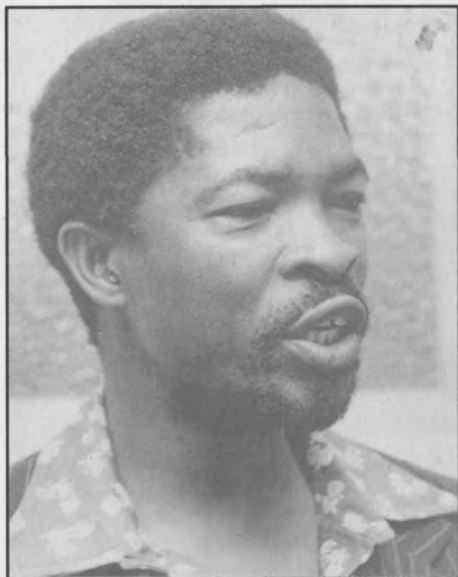
Florence Norman (right) is a nursing sister who settled in Durban from Australia in 1924 and is thought of as the Bahá'í "mother of Durban". She is seen here chatting to pioneer Pat Beer at one of the many Umgababa Conventions where delegates were cheered by her smiling face. Florence first heard of the Bahá'í Faith from Martha Root in Australia in 1924 and cared for Agnes Carey during her last years.



Four Bahá'í women from different parts of the country examine the handmade items which were part of a fund-raising project at one of the National Conventions. Donated by Bahá'ís from all areas of South Africa, the offerings came from small rural communities as well as large cities with everyone doing what they could afford to do.



Delegates and visitors at the National Convention, Umgababa, 1977.



Two dynamic speakers from Soweto, Daniel Ramoroesi (left) and William Masehla (right) were great favourites with Convention delegates. They never failed to motivate and inspire their listeners to greater heights. Both men were appointed to the Continental Board of Counsellors in Africa by the Universal House of Justice, making them direct representatives in Africa for the world governing body of the Bahá'í Faith. William Masehla's life story is in *The Bahá'í World*, Vol. XIX.



Counsellor Shidan Fat'he Azaam makes a point for the delegates at National Convention.

TRANSLATORS



AFRIKAANS: The late Godfried Winckler was a Doctor of Literature and translated major Bahá'í writings into Afrikaans. He was the founder of the Forestry Museum in Sabie and well known in the field of timber merchandising and promotion in South Africa.



TSWANA: Daphne Masehla has worked as a clerical assistant at the Bahá'í National Centre for many years. She is a widely travelled Bahá'í teacher and translator of Bahá'í writings into Tswana.



XHOSA: Robert Mazibuko of New Brighton, Port Elizabeth, translated the major Bahá'í scripture "The Book of Certitude", a prayer book and other writings into Xhosa.



ZULU: Bertha Mkhize was a prolific Zulu translator and powerful Zulu pioneer and teacher. Bertha was an "emancipated" woman by African custom at age 20. She was one of the first African women to own her own business. She served, at various times, as president of the African Women's Association, the African National Congress Women's League and the Durban and District Women's League. Upon becoming a Bahá'í in 1959, she totally withdrew from politics and devoted her efforts to teaching the Bahá'í Faith because she found that the Bahá'í teachings embraced all the principles she believed in and had been working for politically. The Bahá'í teachings, however, she said have a non-violent and spiritual foundation which is more powerful than political solutions. Her life story appears in *The Bahá'í World*, Vol.XVII.

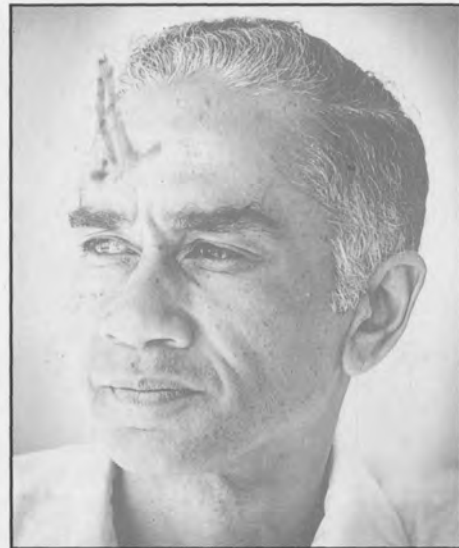
MAKING HISTORY



The first Asian Indians to become Bahá'ís in South Africa were Dr. Abdul-Hak and Mrs. Joan Bismilla of Potchefstroom.



Elise Liknaitzky was born in Johannesburg and served as a member of the National Spiritual Assembly of South and West Africa for 20 years from 1968 to 1988. She performed valuable service in obtaining the permits necessary when visiting black townships in the '60s and '70s.



Tommy Heuvel of Cape Town was the chairman of the Local Spiritual Assembly there for many years. He served as an Auxiliary Board Member and then pioneered with his family to Macassar in the Western Cape.



Angelica and Rudolfo Duna from Mozambique who introduced the Bahá'í Faith to Angola. Upon returning to their own country of Mozambique, Rudolfo was imprisoned for some time for teaching the Bahá'í Faith. He served on the National Assembly of South and West Africa and as an Auxiliary Board Member.



Ruth Sears of Johannesburg served as an Auxiliary Board Member for 10 years.



Dorothy Senne was the first African woman in South Africa to embrace the Bahá'í Faith. A member of the Tswana tribe, her favourite subject was "The Covenant" and she was an inspiring teacher on the subject.

Ruth Kubone, who made a great contribution in the development of the Umlazi Bahá'í Community, with Marvel Gray of the U.S.A. who pioneered in Cape Town, Windhoek and Angola. Marvel later went to serve at the Bahá'í World Centre, in Haifa.



Gilbert Tombisa of Eersterus, Pretoria, has served for many years as an Auxiliary Board Member in South Africa. He has excelled in his profession as a draughtsman and achieved many firsts in this arena. He is a member of the S.A. Institute of Technology (MSIAT) and a Council Member of the S.A. Institute of Draughtsmen (MSIAT).



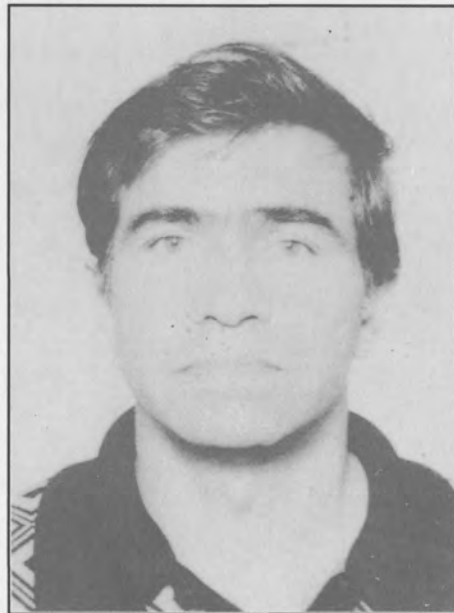
The radiant smiles of Max and May Seep always beamed on those around them. Max and May were the first people in the Coloured community in South Africa to embrace the Bahá'í Faith. Max was a school teacher and served on the National Assembly for all but two years of his Bahá'í life. The couple travelled extensively in Southern Africa teaching the Bahá'í Faith. Max's life story appears in *The Bahá'í World*, Vol.XVII.



Princess Gcnapi Dlamini, daughter of the late King Sobhuza of Swaziland, became a member of the Bahá'í Faith in 1955 - eleven years before Swaziland elected its own National Assembly. She is a medical doctor in Swaziland.



Henry and Yvonne "Bonnie" Fitzpatrick, were the first Black American pioneers to South Africa. They settled in the Transkei on December 23, 1978. Henry was a Professor of Education and Vice Dean of the Faculty of Education at the University of Transkei and later Professor of Education at the University of Venda. He died there in 1987. Bonnie now works in South Africa and has made a career for herself in marketing and sales training.



Rushdi Davids, businessman and Auxiliary Board Member from Cape Town. Upon Rushdi's passing, his wife Gabeba was appointed to replace him. His life story appears in *The Bahá'í World*, Vol. XIX.



Beatrice Nkosi is an energetic and enthusiastic travel teacher throughout Kwa Zulu and is an Assistant to the Auxiliary Board. She was part of the Delegation sent by the National Assembly of South Africa to consult with the Prime Minister of Kwa Zulu.



Martin and Gerda Aiffe settled in South West Africa from Germany and contributed greatly to the growth of the Bahá'í Community there through dedicated and consistent teaching efforts.



The members of 12 National Assemblies met in June 1989 at an historic conference called by the counsellors to achieve a united vision in southern Africa.

The Botshabelo Entry by Troops project.



The tent and chairs are transported from Johannesburg to Botshabelo.



Many willing hands are there to help unloading.



Erecting a huge tent is a tricky business and requires teamwork.



The first historic meeting draws a full house.



Bahá'ís who travelled to Botshabelo to help launch the project there.



Many thousands of copies of The Promise of World Peace have been distributed to Botshabelo's 800 000 inhabitants.

MOTHER OF SOUTH AFRICA



"SISTER AGNES" 1879-1958

Agnes Carey was named by Shoghi Effendi, as the spiritual "Mother of the Bahá'ís of South Africa". Agnes was the only surviving Bahá'í in South Africa from the early days when the pioneers of the '50s arrived in Durban. She was a great help to the Browns and to Florence Norman in their early efforts to establish a community in Durban. Although she was bed-ridden or in a rocking chair at the time, her enthusiasm and indomitable spirit shone through in spite of her poor health. Before moving to Durban, she was a nursing sister in Pretoria and a member of the Pretoria Prisons Board for rehabilitating women prisoners. Her life story appears in *The Bahá'í World*, Vol.XIII.

FATHER OF SOUTH AFRICA

"UNCLE REG" 1882-1968

Artist Reginald Turvey is known as the spiritual "Father of the Bahá'ís of South Africa". He received this appellation from Shoghi Effendi, while he was on pilgrimage in Haifa in 1956. He became a Bahá'í after meeting American artist Mark Toby at Dartington Hall. British potter Bernard Leach and Reginald Turvey were both introduced to the Bahá'í faith by Mark Toby. Toby returned to South Africa in 1940. His life story appears in *Bahá'í World*, Vol.XIV as well as in the book called "Reginald Turvey-Life and Art" (George Ronald, Oxford).



FUTURE HISTORY PLANNED

This story is incomplete. The next step is to compile a complete history of the entire area of southern Africa and the Islands of the Indian Ocean which were originally part of the region administered by this National Spiritual Assembly. As the Mother Assembly of Southern Africa, the National Spiritual Assembly of South Africa would welcome stories, facts, and photographs which will illustrate those early years of growth in this region. In the meantime, the Bahá'í Community continues to expand and consolidate, and work towards the eventual establishment of Unity in this beautiful country.

MESSAGE OF UNITY & PEACE

To: The Peoples of South Africa,

May the sweet scented breezes of Unity perfume the air as we all work towards resolving differences and eliminating prejudice of all kinds.

Whether those prejudices be national, religious, sexual or racial, they are all barriers to Peace.

The National Spiritual Assembly of
the Bahí'ás of South Africa
November 1989

