



**Welcome
to the Mozambique
Branch Office of
Jehovah's Witnesses**

Introduction

IT IS a pleasure to welcome you to the Mozambique branch office of Jehovah's Witnesses. We hope your visit will be a pleasant one. Our branch is called Bethel, meaning "House of God." This Biblical name is fitting, for those serving here are ordained ministers who have dedicated themselves to Jehovah God and who devote themselves full-time to supporting the worldwide work of Kingdom preaching.

Bethel family members are furnished with room and board and a small monthly allowance to assist with their personal expenses. They can truly be called a family because of their unity in serving their heavenly Father, Jehovah God. As a family, they work together, enjoy meals together, and study the Bible together. In addition, Bethel family members personally share in the Kingdom-preaching and disciple-making work. They are assigned to various congregations in the Maputo area, where many of them serve as elders and ministerial servants.

In over 230 lands, some eight million Jehovah's Witnesses are carrying out the commission that Jesus gave his followers—to preach the good news of God's Kingdom. (Matthew 24:14; 28:19, 20) To organize this work, there are over 90 branch offices worldwide—all working under the direction of the Governing Body of Jehovah's Witnesses.

History

The work of Jehovah's Witnesses in Mozambique began in 1925. By 1975 there were thousands of Jehovah's Witnesses in the country. Many of them were in prison because of their religious beliefs. Between September 1975 and February 1976, the detained Witnesses were transferred to refugee camps in Carico, in the district of Milange, Zambézia.



At the beginning of 1983, armed members of the resistance movement began invading the Carico region. As a consequence, in September 1985 the Witnesses left that area en masse and headed for several refugee camps in Malawi and Zambia. In time, these refugees were helped to return to Mozambique.

On February 11, 1991, Jehovah's Witnesses were granted legal recognition in Mozambique, and one year later they set up a small office in the center of Maputo. This was the first Bethel home in Mozambique. In April 1993, a team of local and international volunteers began the construction of new branch facilities at Costa do Sol, Maputo. In December 1998, the warehouse, office, residence buildings, and Kingdom Hall were dedicated to Jehovah God.

BETHEL HOME

The residence includes 45 rooms, a laundry, and several family lounges. Some Bethel family members serve in the kitchen preparing nutritious meals for the entire family to enjoy in the dining room, which seats up to 140 persons. Other members do cleaning, housekeeping, or laundry. These assignments contribute to the family's high standard of cleanliness, which is a hallmark of Bethel homes throughout the world.

SPIRITUAL PROGRAMS

The finest assets to Bethel are spiritual men and women. With this in mind, each member of the Bethel family makes time for personal Bible study. The Bethel family has access to a library containing the publications of Jehovah's Witnesses and other reference works.



All who are invited to serve at Bethel are enrolled in Entrants' School. This school is designed to help individuals progress in their Bible knowledge and adjust to the Bethel environment. As part of the course, new members are assigned to read the entire Bible during their first year of Bethel service.

Each workday morning, members of the Bethel family come together to consider a Bible text from *Examining the Scriptures Daily*. After a prayer, the chairman presides over this 15-minute discussion and members of the family are assigned to comment on the text. Following the discussion, breakfast is served.

On Monday evenings, the entire Bethel family gathers in the 250-seat auditorium to study the Bible with the help of *The Watchtower*. At times, there are special programs after the *Watchtower* Study. The Bible discussions that are held each workday morning and on Monday evenings are an important part of Bethel life.

Offices

A three-story building accommodates various departments that support the Kingdom-preaching work in Mozambique.

Service Department

This department coordinates the preaching activity of Jehovah's Witnesses in Mozambique. It handles correspondence with traveling overseers, elders, pioneers, and publishers. The Service Department also schedules district conventions, circuit assemblies, and special assembly days. In addition, it keeps records of congregation territories and compiles reports of field service activity.

Hospital Information Desk

This desk provides Hospital Liaison Committees with the latest information on bloodless medical procedures. In turn, the congregation elders serving on these committees make this information available to doctors who are willing to treat their Witness patients without the use of blood.

Computer Department

The Computer Department installs and maintains computers and telephone equipment. It also provides technical support for software and Internet access, which facilitate communication with branches in other lands and with translation offices in Mozambique.



Local Design/Construction Department

This desk supervises the construction and remodeling of Kingdom Halls. It also helps congregations to meet local building codes and other government requirements. The Local Design/Construction Department ensures that safety standards are met and that construction is of high quality. It trains volunteers and organizes them into teams so that congregations can be given needed assistance.

Translation Department

This department cares for the translation of *The Watchtower* and other Bible-based publications into various languages spoken in Mozambique. To ensure a high quality of translation, this work is done in translation offices located where each language is spoken. Videos in Mozambican Sign Language are translated and recorded in order to care for the needs of the deaf.

Theocratic Schools

The Mozambique branch arranges various schools, such as the School for Kingdom Evangelizers and the School for Traveling Overseers and Their Wives.

Support Services

Maintenance Department

Much effort is involved in maintaining the property and equipment used by the branch. Various shops care for the mechanical, electrical, plumbing, painting, and other needs of the branch facilities.

Shipping

Literature Department

Literature requests are processed using a computer system that automatically produces invoices and shipping labels. The literature is then packaged for trucking or mailing.

Trucking

The branch's trucks deliver literature to 98 percent of the congregations throughout the country. The rest of the congregations receive their literature by postal service.





We sincerely hope that your visit to the Mozambique branch office has been a rewarding one. No doubt it has helped you to become better acquainted with the work that Jehovah's Witnesses are doing to assist people who are searching for a better future through God's Kingdom. May your visit be an encouragement to you in your efforts to learn more about our loving Creator and to live by his righteous standards.

VISITING HOURS:

Visitors are welcome to take a guided tour of our facilities. Tours are available Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

LOCATION:

Rua Micaia No. 160, Bairro Triunfo, Costa do Sol, Maputo, Mozambique. TEL. (258) 21-450-500

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