

Volume 4 1989

American economic sanctions have decimated the missionary effectiveness of South African Christians.

Africa is more than three times the size of the United States of America. The 600-million Africans are 10% of the world's population in 20% of the world's land surface. Yet for the more than 2000 ethno-linguistic groups in Africa, there is only one missionary-sending people. Out of the 55 countries of Africa, only South Africa is a missionary-sending nation.

The Gospel is broadcast by radio from South Africa throughout the sub-continent. South Africa prints millions of Bibles and hundreds of millions of Gospel publications in hundreds of languages every year. Several thousand missionaries have been sent out and are supported from South Africa to countries as far apart as Kenya and Korea, the Philippines and Panama, Holland and Hong Kong, Botswana and Belgium, Zimbabwe and Zaire, Lesotho and Lebanon, Swaziland and Singapore, Taiwan and Thailand.

Now, the opportunism of unscrupulous politicians in Washington D.C. has cut in half the effectiveness of missionaries from churches in South Africa. The economic sanctions and disinvestment have not only placed tens of thousands of church members out of work, but have also caused the South African rand exchange rate to plummet to where our money will only buy half as much externally as it used to. So, now, due to the meddling of professional trouble makers and unprincipled cowards in another country, on another continent, in another hemisphere, South African missionaries must either double their support or cut their evangelistic activities in half.

I know personally at least two missionary couples who have been forced to return to South Africa because their churches could not afford to double their support. Others have had similar crushing experiences.

So while the self-righteous are patting themselves on the back for stabbing us in the back, many thousands of lost and starving people will go to hell because Ted Kennedy, Jesse Jackson, Tutu, and other opportunists wanted fame and fortune at South Africa's expense.