

Seychelles

Republic of Seychelles

James A. Crumpacker, Area Coordinator

Randall W. Richardson, Field Superintendent, UPC of Seychelles

Population: 100,000

Area: 174 sq. mi.

Capital: Victoria

Languages: English (5%) (official), Creole, other

Religions: Roman Catholic, 83%; Anglican, 7%; Seventh Day Adventist, 1%; other Christian; 3%, Hindu, 2%; Islam, 1%

Missionaries appointed to the Seychelles: Randy and Theresa Richardson (see Reunion)

The Republic of Seychelles, an archipelago of about 100 islands in the Indian Ocean northeast of Madagascar, is the smallest sovereign state of Africa in terms of population. Britain seized the islands from France in 1810, and they remained a British colony until June 29, 1976. Since independence, per capita output has expanded to roughly seven times the old near-subsistence level. Growth has been led by tourism, which employs about 30% of the labor force and provides more than 70% of hard currency earnings, and by tuna fishing. Now an independent republic within the Commonwealth of Nations, Seychelles exports cinnamon, fish, and copra.

A Malagasy brother, whose employer transferred him to Seychelles in 1988, and a Seychellois sister, who was converted in Jordan, helped to open the church in the Seychelles. Randall Richardson registered the church in 1995. In 2002, Joel and Lisa Richardson conducted a six-month Bible school in the islands under AIM. The UPC of Seychelles now has 35 constituents, one licensed national preacher, and one church.