

The coming of the Missionaries in Zimbabwe between 1850 : 1900

The aims of the Missionaries

- To spread Christianity
- To civilize the local people
- To promote legitimate trade
- To end slavery
- To teach people to read and write
- To promote European
- To teach new farming methods

Activities of missionaries in Zimbabwe

The London missionary society came to Matabeleland 1859 and established Inyathi mission

The mission was led by J S Moffat

In 1870 the London missionary opened other mission that Hope Fountain led by Charles Helm.

At the mission the missionaries thought and preached the Gospel

Books in Ndebele were printed

They grew food crops.

Roman Catholic Church also opened missions at Empandeni near Bulawayo

African Evangelist of Catechists from Transvaal and Lesotho sent missionaries to Mashonaland e.g. the Dutch Reformed church. Berlin Missionary Society, Paris, Evangelical Mission

Some permanent mission stations were established e.g. at Chivi Mutibe and Mposi

At Chivi it was short lived.

The Anglican Church

It established the diocese of Mashonaland in 1882 led by knight Bruce.

Stations were established along the Eastern borders e.g. at Mount Chirinda, Mutambara Mission, Mary Mount, St Augustine's, Nyanga, Regina Coeli Mission.

Main activities of the missionaries included conversion to Christianity, education, translations, medicine, technical work.
Mediating between Africans and other Europeans.

Problems faced by missionaries

Opposition of African leaders diseases e.g. malaria
Poor transport and communication.
Opposition of Moslems or Swahilis
Language barrier.
Traditional religion
Food supplies were scarce

Success

Education developed in areas where the African Society was not tightly controlled
As technician e.g. did much even Matabeleland e.g. repairing of guns
Many hospitals were opened and served Africans who were then side lined by the government after 1890
Missionaries became many agents in the plot to colonize Zimbabwe. They promoted trade between Whites and Africans

Failure

They opened few schools
They converted very few Africans to Christianity
They taught few people to read and write