

Margie D.

W.M.U. PROGRAMMES

JULY, AUGUST, SEPTEMBER

1975

UNITS: COMMUNITY MISSIONS PROJECTS  
THE STORY OF BAPTISTS

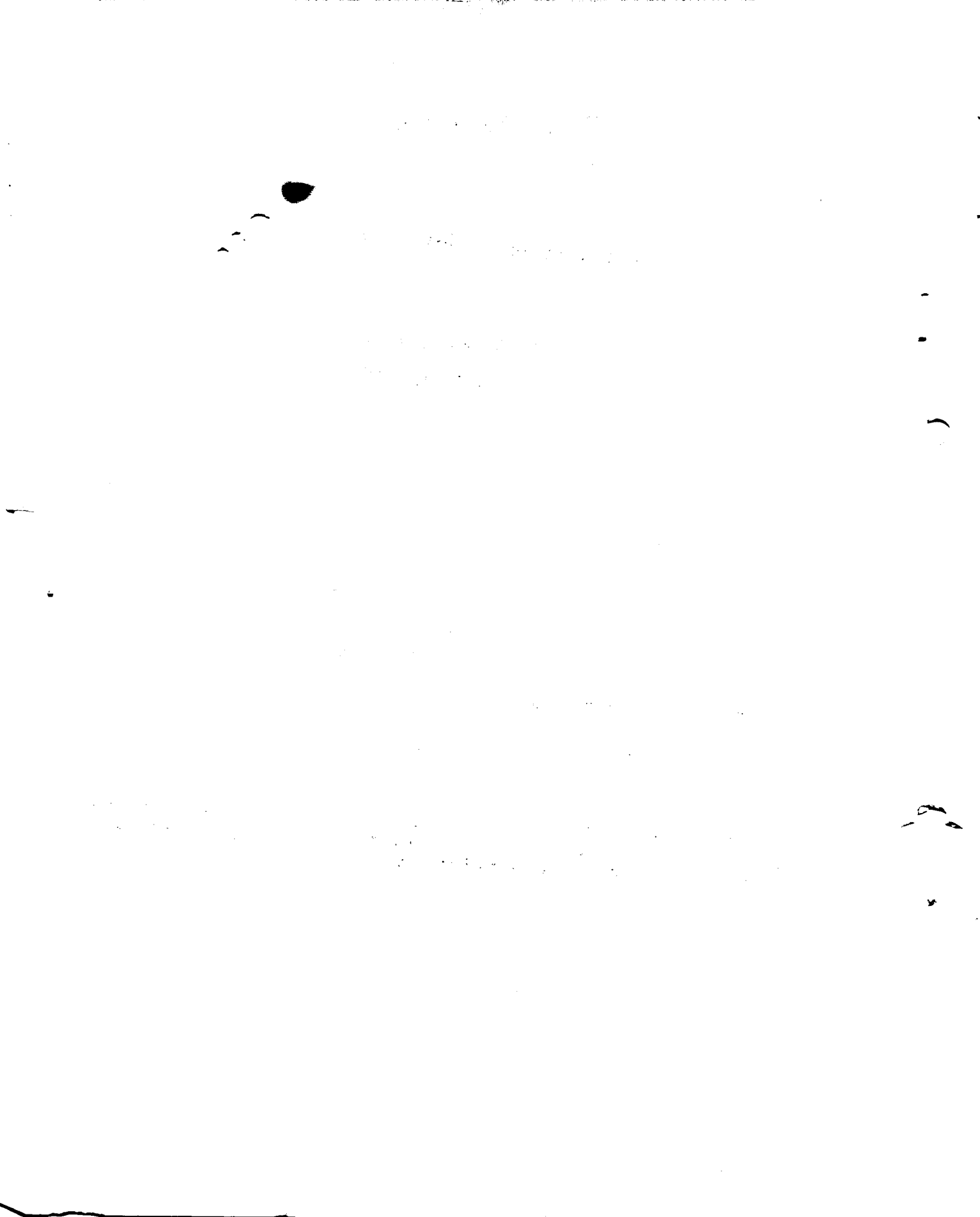
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(Note: Because of the nature of the material some of the figures and facts in the programs on Baptist history may need updating before printing.)



W.M.U. PROGRAMMES

July, August, September

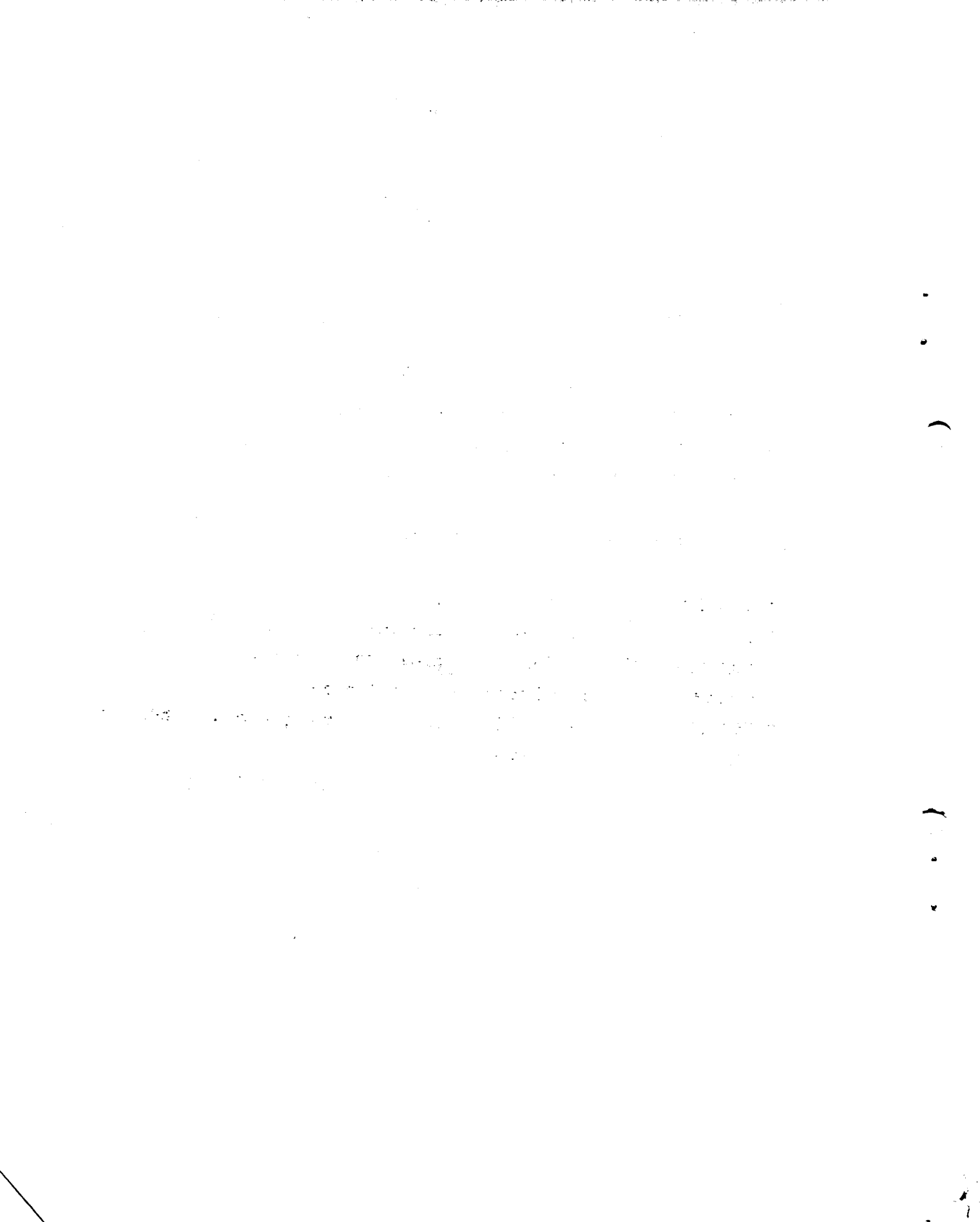
1975

THEME FOR FIRST UNIT: Community Missions Projects

- PROGRAMME 1: Helpers at Church
- PROGRAMME 2: Witnessing to the Lost
- PROGRAMME 3: Showing God's Love to Others
- PROGRAMME 4: Leaders for Tomorrow

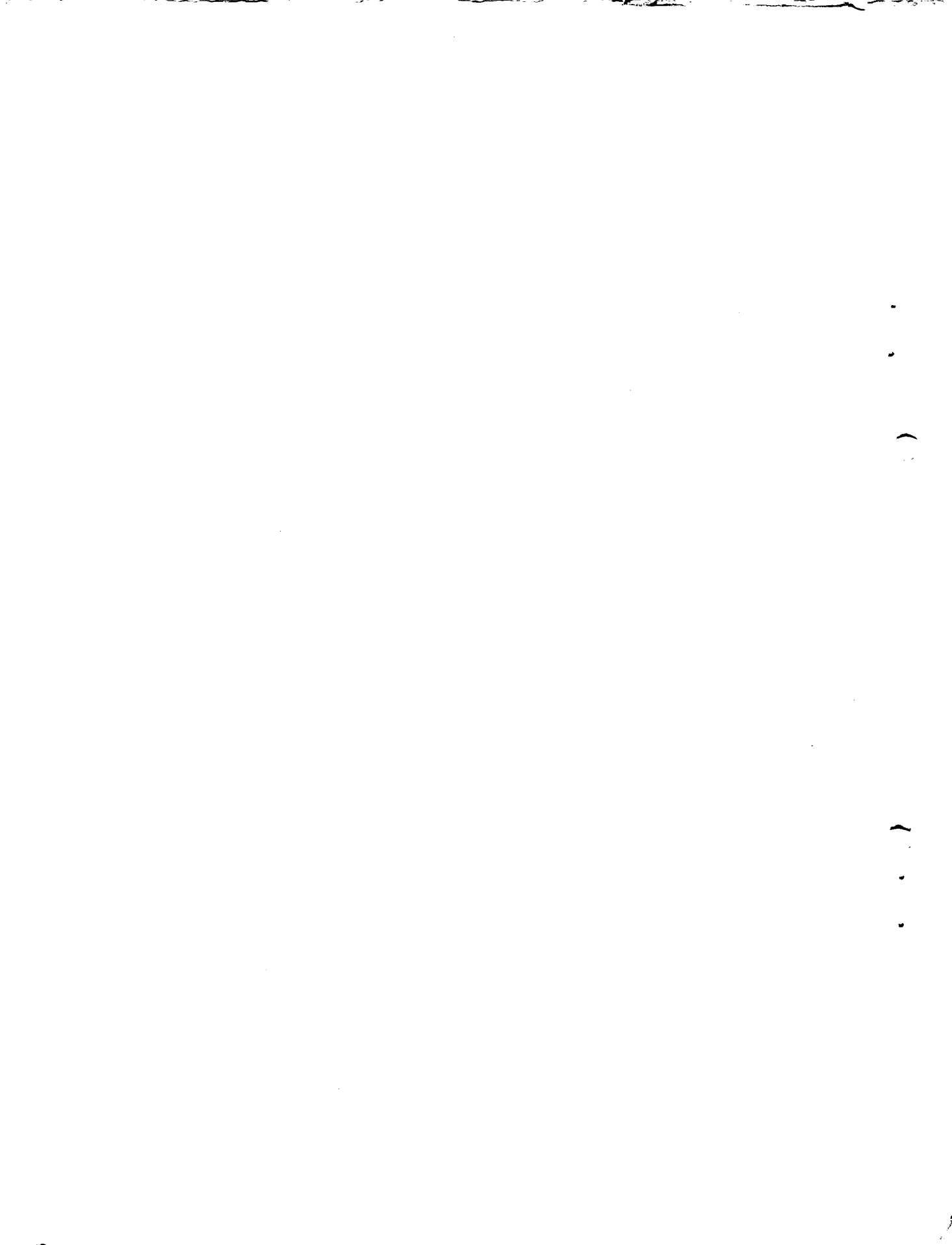
THEME FOR SECOND UNIT: The Story of Baptists

- PROGRAMME 5: Baptist Beginnings ✓
- PROGRAMME 6: Baptists in Liberia and Nigeria ✓
- PROGRAMME 7: Rhodesia, Malawi, and Zambia ✓
- PROGRAMME 8: Baptists in East Africa ✓
- PROGRAMME 9: South Africa, Southwest Africa, Botswana ✓
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- PROGRAMME 11: Ethiopia, Zaire, Rwanda, Burundi ✓





# AFRIKA



## PROGRAM ONE

THEME FOR THE UNIT: COMMUNITY MISSIONS PROJECTS

Theme for Today: HELPERS AT CHURCH

Devotional: Read Matthew 9:35-38

This is a story about Jesus. He looked at people around Him, and knew that they had many troubles. Jesus healed the sick. He healed sick spirits. He did all of this because He loved people.

Jesus called his disciples to be workers. He wanted the disciples to tell the people that God loved them and wanted to help make their lives better. Jesus always said that the people were like a great harvest. The disciples must gather the harvest. But there were only a few of them. Jesus told them to pray and ask God to call more workers.

Those disciples became the first church. Their work as church members was still to harvest people. Today we are the church. And Jesus has given us the same work. Let us join hands and work together as Christian sisters. Let us harvest the many lost people who live around us. And let us pray the God of the harvest to send more workers.

### INTRODUCTION:

One of our purposes in Woman's Missionary Union is to help in our churches. There are many ways we can plan projects to help the work of the church today. Let us look at some of these.

### PART ONE: To Preach the Word of God in our Town

God's Word can only be preached and bring a harvest if we pray for God's power to be present in our lives. Before we preach, we must pray!

1. Each time you meet in your W.M.S., you should pray for your church.
2. Agree for all of your women to pray at home every day at a given time.

3. Form a special prayer group that will pray for a specific thing. When God answers that prayer, choose something else for which to pray.
4. Plan for your W.M.S. to give a worship service in a market, prison, or a similar place.
5. Visit a lost woman and witness to her.

#### **PART TWO: To Care For The House of God**

People like to be in places that are cared for properly. This is also true of the church where they go. We can do many things to help make our church attractive. This will help to draw people.

1. Make a plan to clean your church every week, inside and outside.
2. Plant flowers outside the church.
3. Put flowers in the church on Sunday. Use a bottle or pot filled with small rocks to make the flowers stand. Fill the pot with water to keep the flowers fresh.
4. Watch for broken things and ask the men to get them fixed.
5. Teach the children to respect God's house by being quiet during worship, and by helping to keep the church clean.

#### **PART THREE: To Teach the Bible to Church Members**

Teaching church members about the Bible gives them spiritual food. This is not only the work of the pastor and deacons, but of us also.

1. Help to find a teacher for a class that does not have one.
2. Bring new Christians to Bible study classes at your church.
3. Bring a new Sunday School class for children if your church does not have one. Or ask your pastor to help begin a week-day Bible study.
4. Make a personal study of a book of the Bible.

#### PART FOUR: Caring for the People of God's church

God is our Father. We are his children. This means that we are a family. We must care for one another and help one another just as if we were an earthly family. When we fail to do this, it is a bad witness to our community, for we show that we do not have the love of God in us.

1. Ask one of your women to be the "eyes and ears" of your W.M.S. She should bring news of the church members to the group.
2. If you have money in your purse, use some of it to express feelings of sadness or happiness to the members who have had sadness or joy.
3. Plan to have a Christian "family feast" for all of your local church family to share together at Christmas or Easter. Use some of your money to help buy the food, or have each woman bring a little from home.

#### PART FIVE: Help new churches to be born

We can not bear to think of a family which has no children. Indeed, it would not be a family for long! Your church should be like a mother which bears many children. Women can help.

1. Look around you for a place that has no church where the Gospel is preached. Make plans to go there and begin a worship service.
2. Give a Bible to a new group of Christians who do not have one.
3. Make plans to help a new church to build a building. Help carry the sand and water, make tea for the workers, or help in some other way.
4. Help begin a new W.M.S. Go to visit the group every week for two months. Teach them how to conduct a meeting, visit the lost, and elect officers.

**PART SIX: Help your church care for Guests**

1. Cook the food for a meeting at your church for the guests.
2. Invite a small church to visit yours at Christmas. Prepare for their food and a place to sleep.

**PRAYER:**

Pray that God will help us to be faithful workers in our church.

## PROGRAMME TWO

THEME FOR THE UNIT: COMMUNITY MISSIONS PROJECTS

Theme for Today: WITNESSING TO THE LOST

Devotional: Read Mark 1:16-20

This story tells us how Jesus called Andrew and Simon. Perhaps we have heard it often and do not realize its full meaning. Simon and Andrew were fishermen. When they sold the fish they caught each day, they had money to buy food for their families, buy clothes, and to pay their taxes to the Roman Government.

What did Jesus ask them to do? He asked these two men who had families to leave the fishing business and follow him over the dusty roads. They were not promised any wages. They would be preaching and teaching God's Word. How could Jesus ask such a thing!

But Jesus did ask. And these two men answered yes. We never hear of them as having needs that were not provided. They believed Jesus. Their faith was enough. Their reward was the love and concern of their Father in Heaven. This is available to us also. But we too must answer God's call in faith.

### INTRODUCTION:

Jesus called Simon and Andrew to be fishermen of people. We too have been called, first to receive salvation, and then to bring others to Jesus. Where are we supposed to witness? To every person we know. But how? Let us see.

### PART ONE: In our Town

We can witness in our town. Some members of W.M.S. visit each month a chosen place. It may be a market. It may be a prison for women. It may be a hospital. It can be any place where there are people to listen. If your group would like to do this, here are some suggestions.

1. Meet at the church for prayer that God's power will be in you all.
2. Decide who will lead the short worship time, who will lead the songs, prepare tracts to give to the people, and make sure all is ready.
3. A simple worship is enough. Here is a plan that some people use. Song, Prayer, Bible reading and testimony, Song, Prayer, Give tracts.

There are other projects that you might like to do.

1. Get Bibles and tracts and plan to sell them in the market once a month.
2. On a public holiday, set up a booth to sell Bibles at the fairgrounds.
3. Learn some new songs well enough to sing them for worship time.

#### PART TWO: In a home

Not all of our witnessing will be done in a large crowd. Some of it must be done in the homes of those women we want to witness to about Jesus. A small group of women, or even one woman can go to the home of a lost woman to witness. However, this will be forgotten in your W.M.S. if you do not plan well. Choose one week of every month to visit in homes. Always remember to pray for God's guidance before you go.

1. After meeting at the church and praying, divide the women two by two to visit lost women. Tell about your visits the next week.
2. Order tracts about how to be saved so that you can leave one at the home.
3. Prepare ahead of time what you will say. Greet the person in a friendly way. Explain why you have come. Show that you really believe what you are saying. Some people like to mark verses to read in order in their Bible. Here is a list which you might use.

Romans 3:23

Romans 6:23

John 3:16

Luke 13:3

Acts 16:31

I John 1:9

Romans 10:13

II Corinthians 6:2

Have prayer that the lost person will understand the scripture. Then ask her if she has any questions. Do not be led away from your main purpose by a question that is not important. You may want to give your own testimony. Ask the lost one to lead in prayer that God will forgive his sins and come to live in his heart. If the person refuses, it is better to leave and ask if you may leave a tract and if you may come again, or send your pastor.

**PART THREE:** In your own home

Women spend many hours every day in their own homes. There is much work to be done. The house must be cleaned and the food prepared. The way in which we do these jobs can have a good testimony to our neighbors. But we must make our home a place where we want to honor God. We must make people feel that we love them. Then they will be better able to understand the love of God. When guests who are lost come to our home, we should be ready to witness.

1. Share with a lost guest something God has done for you.
2. Tell a guest or even your family about the sermon of last Sunday or about a good Sunday School lesson that was a blessing to your life.
3. Begin a family worship in your home. Sing and pray. Tell a Bible story.

4. Begin a habit of thanking God for your food before you eat.
5. Invite neighbors to your home to hear a gospel radio program.
6. Make family times such as weddings, births, or funerals, a time to witness.

**CONCLUSION:**

You may have read these projects and felt that you cannot do even one in your W.M.S. When God called Simon and Andrew, He never said that they would have an easy work. Nor will we. And it is very true that we will always be spiritual babies unless we try to learn new ways to serve God. When someone comes who is lost, and we are afraid to say anything, let us remember how Jesus died for us. We will not be worthy of Him, unless we tell of his great love with joy, and gladness. If we serve Him, ours will be the blessing.

### PROGRAMME THREE

THEME FOR THE MONTH: COMMUNITY MISSIONS PROJECTS

Theme for Today: SHOWING GOD'S LOVE TO OTHERS

Scripture: Read Matthew 23:1-12

Jesus said these words. It is a terrible thing to think that we as Christian women might be guilty of these sins. Do we tell others that their acts are bad, and then we do these very same things ourselves? Do we think people should give us the seat of honor at feasts?

Jesus tells us plainly that Honor is to be given only to God. He is our Father and leader. Then Jesus says a surprising thing! "The greatest among you must be your servant." The next words gave a warning. "And whoever makes himself great will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be made great."

There was once a W.M.S. which worked hard to raise money. But they did not do their work to honor God or to do His work. They did it to hear the praise of men. They wanted to announce how much money they had when the Associational W.M.S. met again. If we want the praise of men, that is easy to get. If we want the praise of God, we must work for Him with hearts filled with love for him and his people.

What is the purpose of your W.M.S.?

#### INTRODUCTION:

The main message of the Bible is that God is love. He sent Jesus to a sinful earth to save mankind. Jesus had compassion on the people He saw. He healed the lame and made the blind to see. He wanted to bring peace to the hearts of men. We Christians are followers of Jesus. We want to do as He did. This means that we must show God's love to those around us. Those who need to see God is in us and loving them through us, may be a lost person or he

may be a fellow Christian. There are many kinds of needs that we can help to fill with our love.

#### **PART ONE: Christians who Backslide**

A big problem that exists in the life of Christians is that we begin to follow Jesus from afar. Satan is always looking for ways to make us fall away. He does not want us to serve God. Sometimes he uses a quarrel with another Christian. Sometimes he uses the death of a loved one or the loss of work. When this happens; we need our fellow Christians to come and take our hand and pull us back to a close walk with God. Your W.M.S. can help show God's love to one who has this problem.

1. Look at your old roll books. Make a list of women who no longer attend meetings. Pray for each one. Maybe she has moved to another town. If she still lives near, go and visit and encourage her to come back. Talk with her about any problems she has not been able to solve in her Christian life.
2. If you find that one of your members has moved to a nearby place, check to see if there is a church there. If not, ask the woman if her home could be used to start a worship group. Plan regular visits.
3. If a woman stays away from her church because she must care for a sick person, arrange for the women of your W.M.S. to take turns sitting with the sick one. Then the woman can have the blessing of worship again.
4. If she is hindered by a non-Christian husband, have the pastor visit him.  
Try to win him to the Lord so that the home can be united in Christ.

## PART TWO: When Sickness Comes

People who are very ill in their bodies are often sick in their spirits also. They need to feel God's love in a special way. Those who are lost can be shown God's love in the actions of Christians who care for them. Those who are Christians can feel that they are truly a part of God's family when their fellow church members come to visit.

If the person is sick at home, we should go to see if help is needed.

1. Look for ways to help in the home. There is water to be carried, food prepared, the house to be cleaned, wood to be gathered, and many other things. Make a plan so that you can share with this work.
2. Take pencil and paper and write a letter for the sick one if he needs one written. See that the letter is put in the post.
3. If the person is old and has no one to care for him, plan to go as often as needed to care for him. Take food and clothes if needed.
4. Visit a mother and her new baby. Pray for the home. Take a small gift.
5. Arrange transport for a very sick person who has no money to be taken to the hospital, or to see a doctor.

When the person is sick and in the hospital we can also do things to help.

1. Take a small group to visit, pray, and read a scripture. Do not forget to go again if the person must stay for a long time.
2. Take a small gift of food or a Soda if hospital rules allow.
3. Plan to help in the home of a person who has left home with no one to do her work there. Take turns cooking for the family.

### **PART THREE: Try to prevent sickness**

Your W.M.S. can be of service to your whole village if your help provide ways for people to learn to prevent illness.

1. Arrange for a class in nutrition to be taught by a competent person.
2. Study a book together about ways to make your homes healthier places.
3. Our governments are interested in helping us to make our homes better. Visit your local health office or development office. Ask what help is available to your village. Arrange for someone to come and meet with the people. Make the guest teacher welcome. Encourage the people to come.
4. Use some of your money to give a gift of powdered milk or a few cups to your local kindergarten or school. Healthy children can learn better.
5. Dig a fish pound and buy fish to put in it. This will help your women to have more meat to feed their families.

### **PART FOUR: A Special Friend**

Church members have a special friend. It is their pastor. When we have bad news or illness, or death, we expect the pastor to come and help us to find peace in our hearts. He often helps to arrange for help that is needed. Many times we repay his kindness with neglect! If you live in the city and your pastor cannot have a farm, he may have real problems. We have not yet learned to follow God's plan of bringing the tithe. So there is never enough money to take care of all the needs of the church. There are some things you as members of the W.M.S. can do.

1. Plan to bring small gifts of food for your pastor the third week of each month. Even a small bit can help when there are many to share.
2. Remember to say a word of thanks when the pastor gives help.
3. If your pastor likes to study and prepare good spiritual food, ask if there is a book he would like to have. Buy it and give it as a gift. All of you will receive a blessing

through his sermons!

4. Plan a work day to make some improvement on the pastor's house.

**CONCLUSION:**

There is no end to the number of things that Christian women can do if they look at the world with love in their hearts. A man once wrote a book which became famous. When the people in the book had a decision to make, they asked themselves, "What would Jesus do?" We should do this too.

## PROGRAMME FOUR

THEME FOR THE UNIT: COMMUNITY MISSIONS PROJECTS

Theme for Today: LEADERS FOR TOMORROW

Scripture: Read Luke 13:6-9

This short story tells us about a fruit tree. The owner of the garden had expected a harvest for a period of three years. But the tree had no fruit at all. The owner told the gardener to cut down the useless tree. The two finally agreed that the gardener should care for the tree for one more year. Then if it still had no fruit, they would cut it down.

Let us look at the meaning of this story. Surely it does not tell us only of a tree. Let us say that the owner of the garden is God himself. The gardener is the Holy Spirit, for it is his work to help us Christians to grow, and bear fruit. We ourselves are the tree. Are we barren like the tree in the story?

What fruit does God expect from us? He wants us to love Him. He wants us to help our brothers who have needs. He wants us to bring others to believe in Him too. These are the fruits we should give to Him. We must listen to the Holy Spirit when He tries to guide us to grow as Christians. If we do not, a blessing will never be ours. We will be forgotten in God's garden. He will look to others to give Him fruit.

### INTRODUCTION:

Who will be the next pastor of your church? Perhaps it will be the little six year old boy with no teeth in front who cannot sit still on the front row. Who will be the president of your W.M.S. after ten years? Will it be your own daughter? Or maybe God wants to call a child whose parents are not Christians and do not bring him to hear the word of God. What can we do to help him?

Throughout the whole world, young people today are asking questions about the ways of their fathers. Satan is calling them to follow the ways of the world. Jesus is calling them to follow Him

and walk in the ways of love. What will they choose? If we do not show them that we really care about them and their problems, they will choose the ways of Satan.

#### PART ONE: Show Love at Home

God has planned for each of His creatures to be cared for and have their needs provided. God planned for parents to care for their children. They are to provide food, clothes, protection from harm, and a feeling of security because they are loved and wanted. If we love our children then they can understand when we teach them of God's love. Our homes are very important in teaching our children to follow Jesus.

1. Begin a family worship in your home. Read or tell a Bible story, sing, and pray for each member of the family. Many people prefer to worship when it is time for their morning or evening food. That is when they are all together.
2. Give your child his own Bible or help him find ways to earn money so that he can buy his own. Remind him to read it every day.
3. Go with your children to church. Prepare their food and clothes early so they will not be late. Teach them to respect God's house by sitting still during the worship time.
4. Plan your time so that you have time to talk alone with each of your children. Make each one know that you care especially for him.
5. Help your child welcome his friends and give them a Christian testimony by way of the actions they see in your home.
6. If you cannot send your child to school, make some other opportunity for him to learn to read so he can read the Bible for himself.

## PART TWO: Teach children at Church

Your church is supposed to tell all people about Jesus, even little ones. Children should feel that church is a good place to go. They must feel that adults want them to be there. They should be made to feel that God himself wants them to be there. If we do this, the children will grow up feeling that the church is theirs also. They will be willing to help lead in days to come.

1. Begin a Sunday School class for children if your church does not have one. Order books for the teacher and picture stories for the children. Crayons with which to color their pictures are good to have, but are not necessary.
2. Begin a G.A. or R.A. in your church. Here boys and girls will learn how to lead their own meetings. It is very good training.
3. Choose a day and help the boys or your church to visit a carpenter's shop. Arrange the visit ahead of time with the carpenter. Find one who will be willing to explain about his work to the boys. They might like to climb a mountain or visit some other place of interest in your area.
4. Arrange for your girls to plan a teaparty and to prepare the food. They might also visit some other place of interest in your area. Ask them what they would like to learn about and help them plan the outing.
5. Ask your missionary or national leader to help you learn about how to plan a camp for your boys and then later for your girls. It may last for one day, or even for a week. This would be a special time for Christian fellowship and Bible study. Many boys and girls have come to trust Jesus during a camp like this.

## PART THREE: In the city

Parents of the city spend many hours at their work each day. There is no one to help them care for their children. These children grow up and never know what it means to have an adult who is there

at all times to help them. City adults often have too many problems themselves to spend time with their children. A Christian group who can help these children will have a good opportunity to show God's love.

1. Ask your government health officer what would be required to use the rooms of your church that are not used during the week to begin a nursery. Mothers who work and do not have family near often need a safe, clean place to leave a small child. If you have women who might be interested in this work, make a plan, and make it a group project.
2. Find a field near where you live. Clean away the trash and broken bottles. Have the grass cut, and fix a place where children can play away from busy streets. If you have money, buy a ball and let the children take turns caring for it.
3. Begin a choir at your church for older children.
4. Some children learn more slowly than others. If you have women who read well, arrange for them to give extra help to a child who needs help. Ask your school teacher about this project. The teacher might be able to suggest other ways to help the school.
5. During school holidays, plan for a class on Christian marriage for older boys and girls. Ask your pastor to help with this.
6. Your W.M.S. could plan a teaparty and ask the girls of the church to be your guests. Have a short worship time and then serve tea. This would be good especially when the girls have a program about their Forward Steps.
7. Encourage your W.M.S. members to look for ways they can be a friend to children who need someone to talk to about the problems of their lives.

**CONCLUSION:**

Jesus said, "Suffer the little Children to come unto me, and forbid them not, for of such is the kingdom of heaven." He blessed the children. Let us follow Him. Ask God to lead your W.M.S. to choose a project that will be a blessing to your children.

## PROGRAMME FIVE

THEME FOR THE UNIT: THE STORY OF BAPTISTS

THEME FOR THE WEEK: Baptist Beginnings

Scripture:

For by grace you have been saved through faith; and this is not your own doing, it is the gift of God--not because of works, lest any man should boast.

Ephesians 2:8,9

INTRODUCTION:

Has anyone ever asked you who began the Baptist church? Did you know how to answer? Maybe your friends have told you that the Baptist faith is new. Is this true? We need to know the story of Baptists; we need to know the history of Baptists so that we can give a good answer. For seven weeks we will be studying about Baptists and their beginnings.

When did the story of your church begin? The story of your church begins before the day Baptists in your village started a church. It begins in New Testament days. But what happened between the New Testament story and your church today? Two thousand years have passed filled with people and events; some good, some bad, some brave, some cowardly. Let us go back to about thirty years after Jesus went back to heaven.

PART ONE: The Early Churches (A.D. 100-600)

(Note: In this lesson you will see the years written with A.D. before the number of the year. In the Latin language A.D. means "Anno Domino" or "In the year of our Lord." It is used to show that the year is in the time since Jesus came to earth.) In Rome, the enemies of Christians turned the Roman emperor against Christian people. In A.D. 64, a terrible fire swept the poorer parts of the city of Rome. The Christians were blamed for setting these fires. Years and years of persecution followed.

During that time many were killed, others were crucified. Romans covered Christians with oil and burned them at the stake or threw them to wild beasts, such as lions. For two hundred and fifty years after Paul's death, Christians had to meet secretly. They faced a threat of death all the time.

In 323 A.D. Constantine became Roman emperor, and he decreed that everyone could worship as he pleased. For the first time, it was not against the law to be a Christian. Constantine attempted to make the Christian religion the official religion. He even thought he could make all of his army Christians if he just baptized all of them.

#### PART TWO: Churches After Rome was Defeated (A.D. 600-1517)

For six hundred years the Roman Empire grew strong and spread over what we now call Europe. Everywhere the Romans went, they took the Christian religion and protected the churches. Then the Roman Empire fell. For five hundred years after Rome fell there was a period called the "Dark Ages". During this time there was a Pope for the first time. There were many small kingdoms and the Pope's armies won many battles over the armies of the kings and princes. The church under the Pope became very rich and powerful and ruled many countries. The few Christians and churches who did not agree had to hide to escape persecution or death.

Many people went far away from what the Bible taught. They did not go to the Bible for their beliefs. For example, they decided a person had to be baptized to be a Christian. Since most people could not read for themselves, they knew to do only what they were told to do. They went to church, they were baptized, they did other things which the priest told them to do. But, they did not change the ways they lived. Everything in their worship services was in Latin, but the people did not speak and hear Latin; therefore, they did not understand what was said. But even during this time, many real Christians truly followed the way of Christ.

### PART THREE: The Reformation (1517-1600)

As men began to think for themselves, and to even dare to question the Church, there came a period of time we call the "Reformation". A priest called Martin Luther caused a great tumult in 1517 when he made a list of ninety-five things about the church that he thought needed to be debated. He nailed this list on the door to a university during a festival. It caused a great outcry. He did not intend to leave the Roman Church; he only wanted to straighten out things that were wrong, but the Pope would not agree to change. So Luther began the Lutheran Church.

Other religious leaders also protested certain beliefs and practices of the church. They were forced to leave the church. They began other churches which we know today as the Anglican and Prespyterian churches. Each of these churches was supported by the government of the country where it was.

Around 1500 a machine had been invented to print books. Before this time all books had been copied by hand. After people learned to print books, Bibles and other books could be printed in great numbers. People began to learn how to read. They translated the Bible into other languages besides Latin. People read the Bible and they learned that the teachings of the Roman church were not the same as the Bible.

Many small groups began meeting to try to worship as it was explained in the Bible. Some of these groups were called Lollards, Anabaptists, and Mennonites. All of these groups were similar to Baptists. People of these groups were persecuted and many were killed because they did not follow the religion of the government.

### PART FOUR: The First Baptists (1600-1650)

Around 1600 two groups of people in England who were trying to worship God as it was explained in the Bible fled

to Holland to escape imprisonment in England. They rejected baptism of babies so when they reached Holland, they baptized by immersion all adults who believed in Jesus. One leader was John Smith. Another was Thomas Helwys. They met in homes in Holland to worship. In 1612 Thomas Helwys led one group back to England. Even though they knew they would be persecuted, they started a Baptist church, the first in England. Thomas Helwys began to print tracts explaining their beliefs. He even sent one to the king. Because of this he was put in prison where he later died. But many people had read his tracts and believed. Other groups began meeting. Other Baptist churches were started. Although they were the same as Baptist churches today, they were not called Baptists until about 1650.

#### PART FIVE: Baptists in America

Among the first people who left England to go to America for freedom of worship were Baptists. Many of those who went to America looking for freedom to worship God as they pleased were not willing to give the same right to other people. So Baptists, as well as others, were persecuted again. One of those who was persecuted for religion was Roger Williams. He had been forced to leave London earlier for his beliefs. He came to America, but when he again refused to leave his Baptist beliefs, he was forced to leave the town of Plymouth. Most of America was wilderness at that time. Roger Williams knew the Indians, the inhabitants of the land, and he knew their language because he had gone to preach to them earlier. They were his friends so he stayed with them in the wilderness until the time when he began another colony where people could worship God as they pleased. This colony was called Rhode Island. The first Baptist Church was started there in 1639.

When the United States became independent, the constitution said there should be freedom of religion.

## PART SIX: Baptists and Missions

For many years Baptists in America and England preached the gospel to people in their own countries. But they did not begin sending missionaries until 1797.

A man named William Carey lived in England. He was a Baptist. His work was making shoes, but he liked to study the Bible and a map of the world. He was concerned about the people of the world who did not know Jesus Christ. He felt God wanted him to go to India to preach, but he had no money to pay his fare. He preached to a group of Baptist preachers about the need to spread the gospel to lost people. One old man said, "Young man, sit down. When God pleases to convert the heathen, he will do it without your help or mine." But everyone did not agree with him. They decided to form a society to send William Carey as a missionary. This was in 1792. Other mission societies were started soon. More missionaries were sent to India, as well as Burma and China. Carey lived in India for many years translating the Bible, preaching and baptizing converts. He never returned to England, but died in India after many years.

Baptists in America began to send missionaries in 1814 when they organized the Triennial Convention. In the year 1845, there was much disagreement among Baptists in the United States about how mission work should be done and about slavery. Because of this, Baptists divided and formed the Southern Baptist Convention and the Northern Baptist Convention. (Northern Baptists are now called American Baptists). Baptists have continued to grow in America. There are now 29,379,598 Baptists and seven Baptist Conventions.

### CONCLUSION:

Baptists have been known as "people of the Book", people who believe the Bible and who want their churches to be like those in the New Testament. Many have been persecuted

for their beliefs. Let us be sure we know the teachings of the Bible and stand firm in our beliefs. Baptists have also been known as people who believe in freedom of worship. Let us be patient and loving to people who do not believe as we do.

## PROGRAMME SIX

THEME FOR THE UNIT: THE STORY OF BAPTISTS

THEME FOR THE WEEK: Baptists in Liberia and Nigeria

Scripture:

But how are men to call upon him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without a preacher? And how can men preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach good news!"

Romans 10:14,15

### INTRODUCTION

Last week we learned something about the history of Baptists and their beginnings in England and America. We learned that mission societies were started for the purpose of sending preachers to other countries. Today we will learn about the first Baptists in Africa. These were in the countries of Liberia and Nigeria.

### PART ONE: Freedom in Liberia

Many African people were taken to America as slaves in the 1700s. Later some owners of slave began to see that slavery was evil so they freed their slaves. In 1820 a group of these slaves sailed back to Africa to form a colony of their own. It was not an easy thing to do because these freed slaves had been born in America. They did not know their tribes nor the places where their people had lived in Africa. They did not know any African languages, only English.

Among those who decided to go back to Africa were two Baptist preachers: Colin Teague and Lott Carey. They both knew how to read. Carey was better educated than most of those who returned. He owned a farm in America. The Baptist Triennial Convention helped pay their fares to Africa so that they could preach the gospel. Before they left America

seven of the Baptists in the group met together and organized a church. So the first Baptist church of Liberia was organized in 1820 before they had even arrived in Liberia.

The group settled in the country which is now known as Liberia. Most of them only wanted to build homes and live peaceably. But they had to fight for their lives. On one side the tribes who were already living there waged war on them to try to drive out these strangers. On the other hand slave traders came in ships and tried to make slaves of them again. In 1847 after years of struggle the country of Liberia was born.

#### PART TWO: Lott Carey and other Baptists

Lott Carey always felt his first responsibility was to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ. The church which was begun before they left America became Providence Baptist Church of Monrovia which is still there today. Carey became a leader in the Liberian government. He was governor of the colony for a while. He was preacher, teacher, and protector of the colony. He died in 1828 when he was helping to defend the colony against a ship which had come to take slaves.

Other missionaries were sent by the Triennial Convention and then by the Southern Baptist Convention until 1875. Most of these missionaries were black, but some were white. Many of the missionaries died after a few years. One of the well-known missionaries was John Day, who worked for many years starting churches and schools. In 1840 there were twenty-four churches and over 1200 members.

Churches also had problems. All the twenty members of one Baptist church were killed by Bassa people in the early days.

In 1880 the organized groups of Negro Baptists in America took the responsibility of the Liberian Baptist Mission. Most of their work was with the descendants of the American slaves who lived along the coast. In 1960 Southern Baptists were asked by Liberians to come and help improve their schools and preach to the tribes in the interior who are not Christians.

In 1969 the Liberian Baptist Convention reported 21,500 Baptists in Liberia. The President of Liberia, Tolbert, was chairman of the

Baptist World Alliance from 1965 to 1970.

### PART THREE: Beginnings of Baptists in Nigeria

Thomas J. Bowen was the first Baptist missionary to Nigeria. He was sent by Southern Baptists in 1849 while Livingstone was in Eastern and Southern Africa. The first person who believed when Bowen preached was a woman named Oyindou. She brought her idols and begged to be baptized. He opened two mission stations among the Yoruba tribe before he returned to America because of poor health.

There were many hindrances to the work in Nigeria for the first fifty years. Most of the missionaries stayed only three or four years. The time of some was cut short by death; others were forced to leave because of poor health, and others left because of discouragement. Because of war in America very few were sent for a number of years.

Tribal war in Nigeria also hindered the work. The missionaries had to flee at one time and all their property was destroyed.

After serving for several years there was a misunderstanding between the missionaries and some of the Nigerian Baptist leaders and they began a separate work.

In 1900 after fifty years there were only six Baptist churches and 385 members, but a beginning had been made.

### PART FOUR: Growth in Nigeria

In the next few years more missionaries came. Churches increased. Schools were begun and medical work was strengthened. Woman's Missionary Union was organized. Work was begun with lepers. Conferences were held of missionaries and African workers. In 1914 the Yoruba Baptist Association was begun. Mojola Agbebi who had led the group opposed to the missionaries was elected chairman. Now there was again unity among the Baptists. This association later became the Nigerian Baptist Convention.

The work continued to grow and spread to the north and to other tribes. Radio and Publications had a part in the growth. Africans begun to take much responsibility for the work.

The churches and conventions now operate most of the schools and the publications. In 1960 they sent Nigerian missionaries to Sierra Leone.

In 1968 there were 455 churches, 76,000 members, 934 preaching points and 5,652 baptisms. In 1974 there were 134,550 members.

#### PART FIVE: The Spread of the Gospel in West Africa

We do not have time and space to tell the story of Baptists in every country in W. Africa, but let us name briefly the places where Baptists have work.

Missionaries from many countries have worked in Camerouns, first English Baptists in 1876 and later German and American Baptists.

Churches were begun in Sierra Leone by the missionaries to Liberia. Yoruba Baptists from Nigeria are traders. They have travelled to nearby countries for trade and usually have started churches wherever they go. The first Baptist churches in Ghana, Togo, and Ivory Coast were begun by Nigerians. Missionaries from America have now gone to start work with other tribes.

The Southern Baptist Convention of America has also started work in recent years in Senegal and Dahomey, where French is spoken and in Upper Volta.

#### CONCLUSION

The work of the gospel has been hindered by war, death, and sickness. It has been hindered by lack of love and human weakness, but still God's word has spread. Let us thank him for his marvellous work.

## PROGRAMME SEVEN

THEME FOR THE UNIT: THE STORY OF BAPTISTS

THEME FOR THE WEEK: Rhodesia, Malawi, and Zambia

Scripture:

That thy way may be known upon earth, thy saving power  
among all nations. Psalm 67:2

### INTRODUCTION:

In Psalm 67 the psalmist begins by saying, "May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face shine upon us that thy way may be known upon earth, thy saving power among all nations (Psalm 67:1,2). God has been gracious to the people of Rhodesia, Zambia, and Malawi. There have been many problems in these countries, but God has still blessed and given an increase in his harvest of souls. These countries are blessed with beautiful scenery and wild animals, good farm lands and rich minerals. But what about the people? Have they come to know his saving power? When did they first hear? What part have Baptists had in bringing God's blessings to them. Today we will think about the work of Baptists in these countries and learn what they have done to make his way known. We will think of the countries one by one even though their stories are closely related.

### PART ONE: The first Missionaries in Rhodesia

One of the first missionaries to have contact with Rhodesia was Robert Moffat. He went first to South Africa and then started a mission station just south of Rhodesia. He made friends with the king of the Matabele, Mzilikazi. Later (1859) he let Moffat's son open a mission station in Rhodesia, Mzilikazi was kind to the missionaries, but he never believed in Jesus Christ. Because of his agreement with Moffat the Matabele people protected the white man for many years. David Livingstone, who had married Moffat's daughter,

spent many years exploring in Rhodesia. Wherever he went, he shared his faith in Jesus Christ. Livingstone explored many parts of southern, central, and eastern Africa. He knew if he could write about the geography of this part of the world, it would help other missionaries who would come later. He was the first white man to discover Victoria Falls. When he went back to England and reported on his work, stories of the wonders of Africa were printed all over the world for the first time. His message also told of the needs of the people for the gospel. Other missionaries came, but for many years there were few people who believed.

Many other settlers came to Rhodesia during this time. One was a man named Cecil Rhodes for whom the country is named. These were difficult years in some ways. There was war between the settlers and the tribes who lived there. There was also war between the various tribes.

#### PART TWO: Baptists in Rhodesia

A few Baptists from England went to Rhodesia as early as 1820, but the first Baptist work there was started by a German pastor, named Niebuhr, who went to preach to German Baptists living in Rhodesia. The first Baptist churches were begun in 1929 among white settlers who lived in Bulawayo and Salisbury.

There was little Baptist work among the African people of Rhodesia until Clyde and Hattie Dotson, Baptists from America, began working in Rhodesia in 1930. They had wanted the Southern Baptist Convention to send them, but there was no money. So the Dotsons witnessed there for twenty years, supported by some white Baptists in Rhodesia and some American churches. In 1950 the Southern Baptist Convention began sending missionaries to Rhodesia. Mr. Dotson and his wife were the first missionaries appointed by Southern Baptists. Ralph and Betty Bowlin were also appointed and went to Gatooma. A church was organized there in 1950.

Baptists were given land in Rhodesia bordering on the Sanyati Reserve. At that time there were no schools in the villages in the reserve so Baptists opened schools. Mary Brunner started these village schools. There was no medical help for people in the reserve. So Baptists opened a hospital there in 1953. Dr. Giles Fort and his wife, Wana Ann, who is also a doctor, worked with nurse, Monda Marler, in temporary building until the hospital was built.

Baptists opened a seminary in Gwelo in 1955 and an encampment in 1957. In 1961 the Baptist Publishing House was started at Bulawayo with missionaries Logan and Virginia Atnip being responsible for this phase of the work. A Bookstore was started in 1963 and an audiovisual studio in 1968.

In 1963 the Baptist Convention of Central Africa was formed. Rhodesia, Zambia, and Malawi were at one time united as the Federation of Central Africa. Baptists planned to extend their witness to all parts of the Federation. In 1963 the Federation was dissolved and Baptist work in the three countries was separated.

At the close of 1972 there were 62 churches in Rhodesia with 7,678 members.

### PART THREE: Baptists in Malawi

Baptist beginnings in Malawi (which was called Nyasaland at that time) were in 1892 when Baptists from Australia began an agricultural and industrial mission near Blantyre. One of their converts, John Chilembwe, went to America to study and returned with financial help from friends in America. He was killed in an attempt to overthrow the government of the British, but his work went on. Another African, Dr. Daniel Malekebu, educated in America where he became a doctor returned and started the Providence Industrial Mission. The National Baptist Convention (black Americans) helped with his work and they soon had a hospital,

school, and churches in Nyasaland, Northern Rhodesia, and Southern Rhodesia.

The Southern Baptist Convention of America began sending missionaries to Malawi in 1959 when William and Blanche Wester transferred from Rhodesia to Blantyre with Roy and Jean Albright. They opened work in Lilongwe. The Kingsleys joined the Malawi missionaries in 1960. The people of Malawi are very responsive to the gospel and churches have been started rapidly. Baptist work has extended to Salima, Zomba, Nkhota Kota, Mzuza and Balaka. At the close of 1972 there were 215 churches and 10,728 members.

In 1964 Malawi became an independent country under the leadership of Dr. Hastings Banda. A Bible School for training pastors and a publishing house were started in Lilongwe in 1965 after the work was separated from Rhodesia. In 1971 the Baptist Convention of Malawi was organized.

#### PART FOUR: Baptists in Zambia

Several different groups of Baptists have worked in Zambia. European Baptists started churches among white settlers. Missionaries were sent by Baptists in South Africa and in Scandinavia. The Southern Baptist Convention of America first sent missionaries to Zambia (then Northern Rhodesia) in 1959 when Tom and Mary Small and Zeb and Evelyn Moss transferred from Southern Rhodesia and went to Kitwe. Ted and Verna Savage joined them in 1960 and opened work in Mufulira in the Copper Belt.

A Publishing House was begun in Broken Hill in 1961. It was later moved to Lusaka. Thousands of people have become Christians through the work of the Bible Way Correspondence School. Radio also brought the gospel to many people in Zambia. The Zambia Broadcasting Company has given much time to Baptist programs. A Seminary was opened in Zambia in 1967. These institutions are all located in Lusaka. Baptists have also opened work in Chingola and Luanshya.

In 1964 Zambia became an independent country under the leadership of Kenneth Kaunda. Baptist work had separated from the work

in Rhodesia in 1963.

At the close of 1972 there were 41 churches in Zambia with 2,181 members.

A Convention was organized in 1974.

### CONCLUSION

Baptists still have much work to do to take the name of Jesus Christ to all the countries in Africa. One hundred years ago there were not many Christians in Africa. Many of your ancestors died without hearing the name of Jesus Christ. Things are changing, but there are still many who do not know him. Are there people in your country who have not yet heard? Are there people who need someone to tell them of Jesus? Will you tell them? We cannot change the past, but with God's power, we can change things now. We can "make his way known".

## PROGRAM EIGHT

THEME FOR THE UNIT: THE STORY OF BAPTISTS

THEME FOR THE WEEK: Baptists in East Africa

Scripture:

I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus ...preach the word, be urgent in season and out of season, convince, rebuke, and exhort, be unfailing in patience and in teaching.

2 Timothy 4:1a, 2

### INTRODUCTION:

"Harambee" is a word that is often heard in Kenya. It means working hard together. President Kenyatta used the word in urging Kenyans to work for independence. Since independence he has used it in urging citizens to work to build the nation. The story of Baptists in East Africa has been a story of "Harambee", a story of working together. Leaders of the Southern Baptist Convention in America looked at the map of Africa and saw that they had sent missionaries to very few countries, but there were many people who needed to know Jesus. They decided to send a committee to look at the countries of E. Africa and see if missionaries were needed and if the governments would agree for them to come. They were received well and it was decided to send some of the missionaries already in Nigeria to Kenya and Tanzania. Baptists in America and Nigeria were working with the spirit of "Harambee" to take the gospel to E. Africa.

### PART ONE: The First Baptists In East Africa

In 1957 after the Baptist Mission in Nigeria set them apart for the new work in East Africa, three missionaries and their wives came. After studying Swahili in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, Dr. and Mrs. Jack Walker went to Mbeya, Tanzania, to begin a tuberculosis hospital. Davis and Mary Saunders went to Nairobi, Kenya, to open a community centre and to do evangelistic work. W.O. Harper and Juanita, his wife, stayed in Dar es Salaam to open a community centre and to operate the language school for new missionaries who were coming. Other missionaries soon joined them.

Other Christians had been working in Kenya and Tanzania for many years. Krapf and Rebman, German missionaries, came to Kenya in 1839. The Methodists, Presbyterians, and Friends followed. Anglicans and Africa Inland Mission worked in both Kenya and Tanzania. Many of the missionaries with A.I.M. were Baptists. Lutherans began work in Tanzania. David Livingstone spent time in Tanzania. For many years some of his family and friends had news from Livingstone. They thought he had died. Henry Stanley, an American newspaper reporter, went to search for him. He found him sick at Ujiji on the shores of Lake Tanganyika. Stanley sent news to the world of Dr. Livingstone and the need for missionaries. Baptists waited many years before answering the call of East Africa.

When Baptist missionaries came to Kenya and Tanzania, they found the people ready for the gospel. In a few years evangelistic work was extended to Tukuyu, Tanga, and Kigoma in Tanzania and to Nyeri, Kisumu, Kitale, and Mombasa in Kenya.

Response was slower in the Muslim areas on the coast and on Lake Tanganyika, but still churches were formed. Baptists entered Kenya just after the difficult times of the emergency (Mau Mau) when feelings were tense in some areas between white men and Africans. Even so the love of Christ overcame old hatreds and fear, and these same areas now have many strong churches.

A Seminary for training pastors was opened in 1962 in Arusha, Tanzania. Baptist Publications began its work of printing literature for the churches and for evangelism in the early days of Baptist work. In 1963 Baptists were able to buy the old Brackenhurst Hotel at Limuru to use for their meetings. This hotel had been used largely by white settlers who moved away from Kenya at the time of independence in 1963. An agricultural work was begun there as well as in Tukuyu, Tanzania.

Two Secondary Schools were started in Kenya in Mombasa and Nyeri. Bible Schools for training pastors have been started in several places and also medical clinics. Radio work and a Bible Correspondence course have helped take the message to many places. Student work has been started in recent years in Nairobi.

#### PART TWO: Baptists in Uganda

When Baptist work opened in Kenya and Tanzania, plans were made to begin work later in Uganda. Christianity was not new to Uganda. After finding Dr. Livingstone in Tanzania in 1875, Henry Stanley visited King Mtesa in Uganda. The king asked for missionaries to come. Before Stanley's visit, the king himself had been pagan; he had even sacrificed two thousand captives to his father's spirit. Stanley wrote a letter in 1875 asking for missionaries. This letter was published in an English newspaper. Soon people began to answer the call. Eight missionaries from the Church Missionary Society of London came with a missionary named Mackey in 1877. Two years later only Mackey was alive. He died without seeing the fruit of his labor. Bishop Hannington was killed by King Mwanga in 1885 although he sent word as he was dying, "Go tell Mwanga that I die for Baganda and that I have purchased the road to Uganda with my life." In a few years results began to show. Thousands believed in Jesus Christ.

Baptists were slow to go to Uganda. A few Conservative Baptist missionaries were there before Southern Baptists sent Dr. Hal Boone and his wife in 1962. Dr. Boone opened medical clinics, travelling from place to place to heal the sick and to preach the gospel. He was joined soon by Webster and Betty Carroll. Churches were soon organized in Jinja and later in Mbale where a Bible School was opened for training pastors. When more missionaries came, work was begun in Masindi, Soroti, Kampala, Fort Portal and Karamajong. Some of the churches were begun by Baptists who had moved from Kenya and by African pastors. Uganda Baptist work was separated from that in East Africa in 1967. The churches formed a convention soon afterwards.

After Amin gained control of the country in 1972, some denominations were prohibited, but Baptists have been permitted to continue working there. Because of tensions in the country and because of the difficulties of getting permits to enter Uganda, some missionaries have moved to Kenya or Tanzania, but the African pastors and a few missionaries are still working there.

In 1972 there were 114 Baptist Churches with 8,337 members in Uganda.

### PART THREE: Conventions in Kenya and Tanzania

In 1971 Baptists in Kenya organized a convention. They elected Morris Wanje as the first chairman and opened a new work in Bungoma. The churches of Kenya have supported an African missionary in Bungoma with their Christmas offering since that time. A second missionary is being sent to Kitui in 1975. The convention sponsored an evangelistic Crusade in 1975.

Tanzania Baptists also organized a convention in 1971, choosing Ishmael Sibale as their first chairman. The convention opened Baptist work in Dodoma, Tanzania's new capital, that year and have supported an African missionary there. They have joined with the missionaries in new Baptist work in the Bukoba area and have chosen one missionary to help the churches in stewardship.

Baptist work has extended to many other towns and villages to Kajiado, Malindi, Machakos, Nakuru, Embu, Thika, and Kericho in Kenya; to Lindi, Masasi, Moshi, Njombe, Mwanza, and Musoma in Tanzania. At the close of 1974 Baptists in Tanzania had 254 churches with 10,885 members. There are thousands of believers still waiting baptism in Bukoba, Tanzania. Kenya Baptists reported 247 churches and 12,233 members at the close of 1973.

## CONCLUSION

The task of winning the world to Jesus Christ is a big one. Each Baptist church, each missionary, each pastor, each member must do his part, working in a spirit of "Harambee" to bring lost people to the Saviour. The way is not always easy, but Jesus Christ left us his promise that He will be with us.

## PROGRAMME NINE

THEME FOR THE UNIT: THE STORY OF BAPTISTS

THEME FOR THE WEEK: South Africa, South West Africa, Botswana

Scripture:

The Spirit and the Bride say, "Come." And let him who hears say, "Come." And let him who is thirsty come, let him who desires take the water of life without price.

Revelation 22:17

### INTRODUCTION:

Water is something that is very valuable in many parts of Africa. It is necessary for life. Botswana and Southwest Africa are two countries that are very dry. Parts of South Africa are dry, too, although other parts have plenty of water. We know that water is important for people, plants, and animals. We also know that people need the Water of Life which Jesus promised so that they will have eternal life. If you look on your map, you will see the countries which we will learn about today: South Africa, Botswana, and Southwest Africa. We will learn the story of how Baptists began taking the Water of Life to people in these countries.

### PART ONE: Union of South Africa

South Africa is one of the richest countries in Africa. It has gold and diamonds. It has cattle and grain. It has many industries.

The people who live there are from many nations. Settlers began going to South Africa in great numbers in the 1700's and 1800's from Portugal, Holland, England, and Germany. Many churches or denominations sent preachers to work with these settlers, but for many years there was very little witness among the African tribes. In 1737 a German man named Schmidt went to preach to the Hottentot tribe. Although the Dutch settlers who lived in South Africa opposed

him, a group of people were converted. He was forced by the Dutch rulers to leave, however because of disagreement over baptizing them. It was many years before missionaries followed.

Robert Moffat came in 1817 sent by the Church Missionary Society of England. People were amazed when Africaner, a cruel African chief, became a Christian. His life was changed completely. Other missionaries were sent by other denominations and Basuto, Barotsis, Zulus, and others began to respond to the gospel.

Baptists who had come from other countries to live in South Africa organized the South African Missionary Society in 1892 in order to take the gospel to the many tribes of people living there. In 1905 the Baptist Union of South Africa was formed. In later years the Bantu Baptist Union was formed. At the end of 1972 South Africa reported that there were 51,043 members in their Baptist churches.

#### PART TWO: Botswana

For many years Botswana was known as Bechuanaland. It became independent in 1966 and changed its name to Botswana. The great leader of the independence movement was Seretse Khama. He became the first president after independence. His grandfather, King Khama, is known as a wise Christian leader. He was converted when Robert Moffat was a missionary there from 1820-1870. David Livingstone joined Moffatt in 1840 and worked with him for seven years among the Bechuana people. Moffat translated the Bible into the Bechuana language. This was a good beginning for Christianity. As years went by, churches were established in the towns, but Christianity did not reach out to large groups of people. Preaching the gospel to the thousands in the villages was neglected.

Baptist missionaries from Rhodesia visited Botswana in 1965 and saw the thirst of the people for the gospel. In 1968 the first Baptist missionaries, the Reynolds, went to Botswana and opened work in Francistown. By the end of 1972 a Baptist church had been organized with thirty-four members.

Dr. and Mrs. Charles Bellenger joined the Reynolds in 1970. Dr. Bellenger is a dentist, the only one in the country of Botswana. Transportation is a problem in Botswana because there are no paved roads. A mining company helps the dentist by taking him by plane to a village three hundred miles away. The dentist visits other villages which are not too far, travelling by road. He has a clinic in the daytime and preaches at night.

Orapa, a mining town of 3,000 people, has no churches of any kind. Baptists are beginning work there now. Pikwe-Selibe, another town of 8,000 people, is another place where Baptists are now working in Botswana.

The missionary dentist says the people of Botswana like to laugh, but if a tooth is missing, they are ashamed to laugh. After he replaces a tooth, many say, "Now I can laugh again." The joy which they find in Jesus Christ will bring them even greater happiness.

### PART THREE: Southwest Africa

Baptists are also new in Southwest Africa. Southwest Africa is on the west coast of Africa. It is a large country, but because it is so dry, there are not as many people there as in some other countries in Africa. People raise cattle or goats. On the coast there is good fishing. Diamonds are found in Southwest Africa and also various minerals. Southwest Africa is ruled by South Africa.

A man and his wife named Paton moved from South Africa to Walvis Bay in Southwest Africa in 1959. Mrs. Paton was a Baptist and had worked with several churches in South Africa. She wrote to her pastor in South Africa and asked him to tell her where to find the Baptist church nearest to her new home. She was surprised to find there were no Baptist churches in the country and that it was 750 miles to the nearest church in South Africa. Her pastor suggested

that she try to start Baptist work. She did. She started a Sunday School for boys and girls. A pastor from South Africa came and held meetings in homes for two weeks. This encouraged the small group in Walvis Bay.

In 1961 a deacon from South Africa, Mr. G.G. Pienaar, went to Windhoek, the capital city of Southwest Africa, and began Baptist work. From time to time he visited in Walvis Bay and helped the work there.

Baptists in South Africa wanted to send a preacher to help with the work in Southwest Africa, but they were not able to at that time. They suggested that Baptists in Southwest Africa request help from Baptists in America. In 1968 Charles Whitson and his family went sent by the Southern Baptist Convention in America to help. Three years after he arrived membership in the church at Windhoek had grown from twenty-eight to seventy-eight.

This is only a beginning. There is much to be done to bring the water of life to Bantu people in the villages as well as to the people who live in the cities.

#### CONCLUSION:

The water of life is free to all who will come, but there are still many people who have not heard the invitation to come. The Samaritan woman was overjoyed when Jesus told her he could give her water and she would never thirst again. She thought she would never have to draw water again. Jesus pointed out her sins to her. Finally she understood that he was the Messiah and if she believed in him, he would satisfy her spiritual needs. Let us pray that the people of Botswana and South Africa, and Southwest Africa will have this water. Let us pray for faithful Christians there as they witness.

**PROGRAMME TEN:**

**THEME FOR THE UNIT: THE STORY OF BAPTISTS**

**THEME FOR THE WEEK: Mozambique and Angola**

**Scripture:**

And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Acts 2:4

**INTRODUCTION:**

On the day of Pentecost a miracle occurred. The followers of Jesus were able to speak in many languages so that they might preach to the people who were gathered in Jerusalem.

Many languages are spoken on the continent of Africa today. The gospel of Jesus Christ is being preached in many languages. Miracles still occur! It is a miracle every time a person believes in Jesus Christ and is born again.

Today and next week we will learn about Baptists preaching the gospel in lands where Portuguese, French, and Amharic are spoken.

**PART ONE: Baptists in Angola**

Angola is on the west coast of Africa. It has been ruled by the Portuguese for many years. The Baptist World Alliance reports 3000 Baptists in Angola.

The first Baptists known to have gone to Angola went in 1878. They were from the London Missionary Society and had come to explore the Congo River basin which forms the border to the north of Angola. Churches were started and missionaries continued to be sent until the terrorist attacks in 1961. At that time many of the African people who were Baptists were scattered because people left their homes.

In 1903 an independent Baptist preacher named Stober began working in Angola, too. When he died, Baptists of Canada took responsibility for the work he had started.

The Canadian missionaries also left during the terrorism of 1964.

In 1934 the Portuguese Baptist Convention began supporting the work of an independent Baptist named Pedras who started eight small churches. When Pedras retired, the Portuguese Baptist Convention sent Antonio Pereira in 1963.

A Baptist from Denmark who was living in Luanda felt there was a real need for a Baptist church in the capital city. He began a Bible study group in his home. The number of people who attended increased until there was not enough space in their home for all the people so they rented a house to use as a place to worship God. The First Baptist Church of Luanda was organized there in 1967.

In 1968 some missionaries from the Southern Baptist Convention in America went to Angola. They are Harrison Pike and his wife. They had been missionaries in Brazil for many years and had learned Portuguese there so they could already speak the language of Angola.

#### PART TWO: Other Developments in Angola

God is blessing in the work in Angola now. A church building was built in Luanda in 1972. Two churches use the same building. One group uses the English language and the other uses Portuguese. There is no discrimination by color of skin. Both Africans and Europeans worship together using the language they know. First Baptist church has two preaching points.

In 1973 the Angola Baptist Bible Institute was begun with ten students. One of the first students was a seventy-five year-old pastor. Radio work was begun in 1970.

There are at least ten more places in Angola where people would attend worship services if there were someone to lead them.

#### PART THREE: Beginnings in Mozambique

Mozambique has been called the "Land of the Good People." It has just become an independent country in Africa after being ruled for many years by the Portuguese. Religions found in Mozambique are Islam, Catholicism, and evangelical Christianity,

but more than half the people still follow the old religions of their fathers.

In 1948 a Portuguese Baptist pastor named Almeida went with his bride to Mozambique as the first Baptist missionaries. The Portuguese Baptist Convention wanted them to go to Angola where Baptists had already begun working, but Almeida felt certain God was calling him to Mozambique.

In Lorenzo Marques, the capital city, they found one Baptist woman. They began Bible study classes in her home. A few believers were baptized and the first Baptist church of Lorenzo Marques was organized in 1950.

They needed a building, but it was hard to get enough money because the members were so few. Some of the members even sold blood to a blood bank to help to raise money. In 1952 their building was dedicated.

The church began reaching out to other areas. In 1963 a second Baptist church was begun in Beira, the second largest city.

The beginning of Baptist work in Mozambique was among the Portuguese, but a big effort is being made to reach Africans. Both Africans and Europeans attend all the churches, but because some Africans do not know Portuguese, some churches have only African members and use tribal language understood by the people. When more African pastors are trained, work can be extended to reach more people. There are plans for opening Baptist work in nineteen more towns.

#### PART FOUR: Progress of the Mozambique Baptists

When several Baptist families of Mozambique moved to South Africa they began a Portuguese-speaking Baptist church there. Several other groups have begun since that time. Many Portuguese people live in South Africa, but because they do not know English, they cannot be reached by Baptist

churches there.

In 1970 Ernest Harvey and his wife were sent by the Southern Baptist Convention to Mozambique. They had been missionaries to Brazil and know Portuguese.

A Bible Institute was started by the First Baptist Church of Lorenzo Marques, but it is now operated by the convention. The Harveys will teach in the Bible Institute.

Brazilian Baptists have also sent help to Mozambique. A pastor and his wife, Senhor and Senhora Pinheiro and a single woman, Senhora Coelho, have been working in Mozambique. Senhora Coelho works with women and young people.

#### CONCLUSION

People of many nations and languages have worked together in bringing the gospel of Jesus Christ to Angola and Mozambique. The gospel still needs to be preached in many more languages so that people may hear in their own languages and believe in their hearts.

Let us pray for Baptists in Angola and Mozambique to continue the work they are doing. Let us pray that there will be workers to enter more villages and towns to preach.