

THE DEVELOPMENT AND IMPACT OF MISSIONS IN SOUTHERN RHODESIA

This ten frame exhibit tells the social history of the establishment and development of mission stations in Southern Rhodesia (present-day Zimbabwe) and the vital role they played; from initial founding, evangelism, the development and expansion of mission schools and hospitals, training of African pastors, the rise of local churches to eventual transfer to local control.

Covers and cards shown are to/from Rhodesian missionaries, many from mission post offices. Enclosed letters, picture postcards, and other ephemera bring to life the missions, missionaries, and their impact - accomplished through "preaching, teaching, and healing."

BACKGROUND

Although a few missions were established earlier, none flourished until after colonial rule was firmly established following the end of the Matabele/Shona uprising in 1897. Nearly all missionaries were withdrawn by 1977 during the "War of Liberation" ("Bush War"). As of Zimbabwe's Independence in 1980, missions were under control of local African churches. Before independence, Africans were educated exclusively in mission schools and primarily served by mission hospitals and clinics, which continue to play an essential role.

EXHIBIT PLAN:

- Background
- Rhodesia (1897-1923)
- Pre-war So. Rhodesia (1923-1939)
- WWII/post-war So. Rhodesia (1939-1953)
- Federation to Independence (1953-1980)
- Post-Independence
- Epilogue

Social history/biographies in blue font

Mission facts – framed in gray

Items of importance/rarity - framed in red

Personal study/Research



Scan QR code for
exhibitor's publications
on Rhodesian
missions.

