



DIOCESE OF SALISBURY

Charity No 249696

CELEBRATE MOTHERS' UNION'S LITERACY PROGRAMME

Resources : YouTube clip and downloads: script, PowerPoint presentation with photographs, testimonies, prayer and poster
Bicycle (with basket if possible) and some examples of reading material, e.g. cereal Box, comic, instructions for Lego, magazine. A few examples of children's writing.

1. Introduction

In celebrating Literacy, we are going to hear about a charity teaching people to read and write in three African countries. **(PowerPoint presentation)** The charity is called 'Mothers' Union' and the three African countries are Sudan, Burundi and Malawi.

2. Turn to bicycle and poster. Ask the children to think of the answer to "What's the link?" as they follow the presentation.

3. Ask children to think about the Literacy lessons in their own schools. Listen to a few children read out examples of their own work. (Praise!)

Learning to read and write are very important for us. Question "Why do you think they are important?" (Hear a few responses).

4. Follow presentation

In Burundi, Sudan and Malawi, there are few schools, and, if you're lucky enough to be near one, your family would have to pay for you to go.

Many people have not been to school, and so, cannot read or write.

As you show pictures of an African village, its people, its well, crops and animals, give a short commentary.

Like all of us, the people here need to feed themselves and look after their families. They look for ways to find the right foods and medical care. They want to improve the ways they grow crops such as maize (sweetcorn) and bananas. They want to look after their animals well.

Invite three children (who can read!) to hold up three pictures of Africans and read out what each says.

“How can I care better for my goats?”

“What is the best food for my children?”

“How can I grow a better field of maize?”

Ask children with their neighbour to discuss “How would we, here in Britain, find the answers to these questions?” (Be sure to tell them of a signal you will give after a few minutes!)

Ask for a few suggestions – hold up these those things you have brought and put them in the basket or attach to bicycle.

5. Mothers’ Union Literacy Programme

Mothers’ Union has lots of volunteers all over the world. (“What is a volunteer?”) In Sudan, Malawi and Burundi, volunteers are trained by Mothers’ Union to teach reading and writing and some maths. They then visit villages and run Literacy Circles – see pictures.

This has been going on for ten years now and 73,721 people have made very good progress. They find they can improve many things in their own families’ lives and also in their village communities.

Ask two children to read two testimonies:

Evariste says, “I have done so well in maths that I am now employed to collect the market traders’ tax.”

Deo says, “My wife and I have begun a small business. We are no longer cheated in the market.”

6. Return to bicycle and poster

“What have we learnt? What is the link?”

(Need to provide transport for volunteers).

Speak of fund raising activity in aid of “Wheels Appeal”.

7. Prayers

8. Song