The first missionary to Africa – Philip and the Ethiopian (Acts 8: 26-39)

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| 1. An important Ethiopian official had been to Jerusalem to worship. He worked in the treasury for Candace, the Queen of the Ethiopians and now he was in his chariot, on the way back home to Ethiopia. | 1. As he travelled he was reading from the Book of Isaiah the prophet. Philip, one of Jesus’ followers, felt God tell him to run up to the chariot. | 1. Philip heard the Ethiopian official reading. The Ethiopian official invited Philip to join him in the chariot and asked Philip about the passage of Scripture he was reading |
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| 1. Philip explained the reading from Isaiah and told the Ethiopian official the good news about Jesus. | 1. As they continued their journey they came to some water and the Ethiopian official gave orders to stop the chariot. Philip and the Ethiopian official went into the water and Philip baptised him. | 1. The Ethiopian official was full of joy. Philip left him. The Ethiopian official got back in his chariot and carried on his journey back to Ethiopia, taking with him the good news about Jesus. |

The story of Samuel Crowther – The first African Anglican Bishop

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| 1. Ajayi came from the town of Osogun in Yorubaland, which is now Western Nigeria. | 1. One day he was captured by Portuguese slave traders to be shipped across the Atlantic. He was rescued by the British Navy and taken to Sierra Leone. | 1. In 1825 Ajayi was taken to Freetown where he became a Christian and was baptised. He was given the English name, Samuel Crowther. |
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| 1. He became a student at Fourah Bay College and went on to become a teacher. Although he was in Africa, he was still a thousand miles from his home. He wanted to share the Christian message with the people in Yorubaland. | 1. He led a mission to Yorubaland. It was a difficult journey. The mission had to be abandoned when forty-two members of his team died from illness. | 1. In 1857 he led another mission along the Niger River, where, after 25 years, he was reunited with his mother. Samuel was a successful missionary and church leader. In 1864 he was appointed the first black Anglican bishop. |

The Story of Samuel Azariah – The Indian Missionary Society

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| 1. Samuel Azariah was born in Tirunelveli in Southern India in 1874. He heard the Christian message at his local mission school and again while he was at college. At that time European missionaries controlled much of the church’s work in those countries. | 1. Samuel became a teacher. He went on a trip to Sri Lanka where he met with a group of Tamil Christians. Although they were poor they had sent a team of missionaries to Southern India. | 1. Samuel felt challenged by the Tamil Christians. In 1903 he, with some friends, set up the Indian Missionary Society, to spread the Christian message in India. His work was recognised by the Anglican church and he was made an Anglican vicar in 1909. |
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| 1. The following year he travelled to the World Missionary Conference in Edinburgh. He stood up to speak and challenged the European missionaries there. He said that local people make better missionaries than those from other cultures. Instead of European missionaries being sent to India, he asked instead for ‘friends’ from other nations to support them in their work. | 1. There was shock at Samuel’s message, it required a new way of thinking. In 1912 Samuel was made a Bishop. As the 20th century progressed mission work became more of a two-way process as missionary organisations began to see their work as partnerships. | 1. Today, the Indian Missionary Society has are over 600 Indian missionaries working in Indian villages. It has started to send missionaries to Britain to work in partnership with churches in parishes here too. |