

Time Travel, The coming of the catholic missionaries 1879

Goal

Facts

The first Roman Catholic missionaries came from France and arrived at Kigungu landing site on the 17th of February 1879. The two white fathers were:

- Father Simon Lourdel, nicknamed Mapeera by the Baganda after failing to pronounce the French word Monpere which means Father.
- Brother Amans Delmas, nicknamed Amansi.

On their arrival at Kigungu, they were received by the natives of the area. Later they made a stop at Bugonga village and planted a tree at the current Catholic church. The missionaries went to Lubaga on 21st February 1879 where the current Lubaga cathedral is located. And they visited Kabaka Mutesa I at his palace, in Banda-Kampala who gave them Lubyia hill to build churches, schools and hospitals.

10th October 1884 Kabaka Mutesa I died and was succeeded by his son Mwanga, as the next king. By the time of Mutesa's death, he had lost trust in the missionaries because they had not met his expectations of helping him fight the enemies of Buganda kingdom. Later many Christian converts were murdered, the Uganda Martyrs today. The chief executioners of the Uganda martyrs, were chief Mukajanga. 3rd June was set aside for remembrance of the Uganda Martyrs, who were massively killed on 3rd June 1886.

Scenario, The coming of catholic missionaries to Entebbe, Kiwafu village, February 1879

It's an ordinary day in Kiwafu village and people are carrying out their tasks, as every day. The women are preparing some food and taking care of the children. Some are making baskets, that is always needed. The men are sitting in the shade, playing some games and talking. The children are helping with the chores, but mostly want to play around.

But there is a rumour in the air, that everybody is talking about. Some say, that two white persons have just arrived at the landing site in Kigungu. They are dressed in long white robes. A messenger talks about Christian missionaries and call them White Fathers.

The villagers have heard about missionaries from Europe before, at the King's palace in Kampala. They preach a new religion, the gospel of the one God, they say. Are the new missionaries preaching the same religion, or are they different? People in Kiwafu do not know.

The villagers are confused. They have had their gods for many years. They pray, do their rituals and sacrifice, when needed. Some years ago, Arabs came with trade. They talked about Islam and the prophet of Mohammed. And now Christians are talking about one almighty God and his son that died on a cross. What does it mean? How will the new ideas affect my life? How will it affect the community and the clan?

While doing their tasks, the villagers discuss intensely. They are all eagerly waiting, will the White Fathers come to our village?

Roles

Everybody keep their age and sex.

The children play children, girls and boys, in Kiwafu village.

Adults play villagers, mothers, fathers and relatives to the children. Village elders/ chief

Father Simon Lourdel, Brother Amans Delmas

Interpreter

Kabaka Mutesa's representative

Key questions

- What might be the impact of Christianity? Impact of Islam? Why do they come here? What is the impact of the traditional religion? Is it possible to combine the religions?
- What is the benefit/ problems with several religions in our community? How to show respect?

Activities

- Weaving baskets and mats of palm leaves
- Make strings, balls and dolls of banana fibre
- Roasting fish and meat
- Playing games, "omweso"
- Wrestling
- Try hunting weapons
- Preparing dances and songs

Time plan

08.00 Prepare the site

09.00 Welcome, background, rules, dresses, name tags

09.30 Initiation. Messenger coming

09.40 Activities and discussions

10.30 The missionaries arrive together with the Kings representative, tell who they are.

Discussions, arguments. Interpretation

Songs/ dances

11.00 The missionaries and the Kings representative leave for Kampala

Time Travel ends

Some food, reflection

11.30 End

9 April 2018

Rosemary Lipa, Kiwafu Primary School

Ebbe Westergren/ Adam Norman, Kalmar county museum, Sweden