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### A Mission Study Class

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## A Mission Study Class

REV. WILLIAM C. BELL

Lockport, New York, formerly Missionary in Angola, Africa

None can question the importance of informing our young people on the making of Christian history amongst the heathen peoples. Fortunately it is possible to easily interest them in this fascinating subject.

Each member of the class should have text-book, note-book and paste-board "Africa." This latter is a small drawing of Africa, not larger than four inches long, on cardboard or heavy paper, and cut out by student at first meeting of class. The class should meet once a week in some regular place, preferably at a home.

In our Study Class on Africa the first few lessons were devoted to the continent, as to its size, its rivers and lakes, mountain systems, its natural resources, climate, peoples, religions, etc., using two or more pages of our note-books for each topic. Upon one page, with our "Africa," we quickly sketched an outline map and in it located the facts touching that topic, using the pages immediately following for additional notes, and so with all the topics, using a new map for each. The teacher made the first copy on a blackboard.

Some chapters were broken up into two lessons and others combined into one. Each member read the assigned lesson, and the teacher by questioning and constantly reviewing kept the whole subject before the class. The teacher must read extensively in order to explain and amplify certain portions.

Frequently topics were assigned members of the class for preparation during the week, books being loaned to them and in fact to all others who could possibly be persuaded to do extra reading.

One helpful feature was the taking up week by week in our private devotions a definite problem of the mission work in Africa, as for example,—the influence and example of the foreign officials residing in the country; receptive hearts among the natives for the truths of the gospel, for the missionaries in their work.

The study of present mission *methods* was also of great value,—how the work is really done on the field, how new stations are started, how the natives are trained in both school and shop, how they are then sent out among the villages.