



3

Bible Women Commissioning Service

Questions

How can you tell this is a special occasion for these women?

How do you think they are feeling?

These women have been chosen for a special job, what do you think it might be?

When you have found out more about these women, think about what special skills they will need to carry out their job.

You will find that these women do their special work for free. Why do you think they do that?

Background

These are "Bible Women". They have just been commissioned by the Bishop at a special service to work in the villages. Each Bible Woman goes regularly to about ten or twelve villages to meet with the women's group in the church. She teaches about the Bible to help women understand the Christian faith and take a fuller role in the life of their church. She also teaches hygiene, nutrition and other skills which will help village women raise their family's standard of living and general health. Some of these women are retired teachers and headteachers who have taken on new roles in their community with their retirement. They have regular training and they work to a Diocesan syllabus of teaching. They do get paid a small amount of money to help them with their work, but most of their activities are self-supported. They often have to walk or cycle long distances to visit their villages.

This is just one of the ministries that women can undertake in the Church – the Women's Fellowship (rather like the Mothers' Union here) will raise money to support the Bible Women and build churches, they will also run health programmes and undertake prison visiting.

Women can also be pastors (priests) and you will see a woman pastor administering communion in photograph 18.



