



Spirit

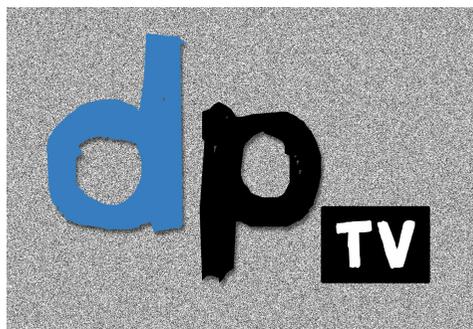
About the producers:



Development Perspectives' mission is to contribute to lessening poverty, inequality and climate change through transformative education and active global citizenship.

Find out more at <https://developmentperspectives.ie>

Development Perspectives is a company limited by guarantee with no share capital (Number 466659) and has charitable status.



DPTV (Development Perspectives Television) is a project of Development Perspectives established in 2013. DPTV documentaries explore issues affecting our communities from a local and global perspective. View more of our documentaries at <https://www.developmentperspectives.ie/dptv>

Why we made this documentary: <https://youtu.be/ng3lGHArFGw>

*This document is an accompaniment to **"Spirit"**: <https://youtu.be/jJsfXxDEagk>*

Talking points from the documentary.

- The documentary 'Spirit' explores the work of one missionary order (Medical Missionaries of Mary - MMMs)
What are your views on missionary work? What informed these views?
- At 2.09mins, Sr. Monica Prendergast recalls her experiences working during the AIDS crisis.
What do you know about the current prevalence of HIV/AIDS in Ireland and globally today?
- At 3.57mins, Justin Kilcullen discusses how the work of the Medical Missionaries of Mary was perceived as 'state of the art' by the World Health Organisation in the 1970s and 80s.
What do you think the World Health Organisation are basing this opinion on?
- At 4.43mins, Sr. Trinitas McMullan explains the reaction in communities she worked in to women who had developed fistulas.
"The fistula patients, they were driven from their homes - they were known as outcasts of the highest order."
What is a fistula? What causes them?
- At 8.27mins, Justin Kilcullen describes the work of the Medical Missionaries of Mary as a 'major breakthrough' for women's rights.
Why might this be the case?
- At 11.15mins, Gerry Kelly states that "the Medical Missionaries of Mary are a group of women that certain sections of society have possibly tried to airbrush out of history".
What groups do you think he might be referring to and why would they want to 'airbrush' the work of the Medical Missionaries of Mary out of history?
- At 11.28mins, Dr Conor Mulvagh talks about a shift in feelings towards the Church in Ireland from outright reverence towards revulsion.
What factors contributed to this change in attitude?

Further discussion points about missionary work:

- “The **Minister of Trade and Development, Joe Costello**, in his address to the Mísean Cara Annual General Meeting in 2012 said, “*Irish missionaries were the pioneers in the area of development cooperation, predating our own official aid programme. Indeed, you led the way for much of what the Government is now doing in the area of development assistance. The influence of the missionaries is reflected in Irish Aid’s focus on poverty reduction, on hunger, its commitment to avoiding any form of tied aid and its strong solidarity with those in greatest need.*”

Read the full text: <http://www.miseancara.ie/address-minister-state-trade-development-misean-cara-agm/>

How do you think the work of Irish missionaries impacts on the development sector today?

- “*The Christian missionaries were as much part of the colonising forces as were the explorers, traders and soldiers. There may be room for arguing whether in a given colony the missionaries brought the other colonialist forces or vice versa, but there is no doubting the fact that missionaries were agents of colonialism in the practical sense, whether or not they saw themselves in that light. The imperialist adventurer, Sir Henry Johnston disliked missionaries, but he conceded in praise of them that ‘each mission station is an exercise in colonisation’.*” - **Walter Rodney in his How Europe Underdeveloped Africa.**

Read the full text; https://archive.org/stream/HowEuropeUnderdevelopedAfricaByWalterRodney/3295358-walter-rodney_djvu.txt

What legacy do you believe missionary orders leave in the countries they work in? Is missionary work a form of colonialism?

- Excerpt from ***The Missionary Approach to Development Interventions (MADI) Conceptual Framework and Current Development Context, 2018*** - “*The renewed prominence being given to faith based approaches, is likely to ensure that there is greater recognition, space and support for the work of missionaries in future, and presents an opportunity for missionaries to have a greater influence on the broader development sector.*”

Read the full text: <http://www.miseancara.ie/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/Missionary-Approach-Conceptual-Framework-and-Current-Context-July2018.pdf>

What place, if any, do you feel faith based organisations have in development work?

- Debates focusing on missionary work can illicit strong reactions.

What factors helped shape your current view of missionary work?

Learn more about the The Medical Missionaries of Mary and Mother Mary Martin.

The Medical Missionaries of Mary



The Medical Missionaries of Mary are an international missionary Congregation of religious women founded in Nigeria in 1937. The **Medical Missionaries of Mary** are a religious institute of the Catholic Church dedicated to providing health care to the underdeveloped regions of the world. They follow a Benedictine spirituality, with its focus on life in community, shared prayer and hospitality. Founded in Ireland in 1937 by Mother Mary Martin, they were originally dedicated to serve the missions in Africa.

Medical Missionaries of Mary website: <http://mmmworldwide.org/>



Mother Mary Martin: Mother Mary's Story

Marie Martin: Foundress of the Medical Missionaries of Mary

Mother Mary Martin was born in Glenageary in South County Dublin in 1892. She was the second of twelve children. As a child she contracted rheumatic fever, the result of which weakened her heart for the rest of her life. Her life followed a pattern of embarking on various endeavours that had to be cut short due to ill health. She worked as a nurse, along with her sister Violet, during the first World War, based in Malta and France. After the war she went to work in a school in Nigeria. It was here, in 1937, that she professed religious vows and set up the Medical Missionaries of Mary,

Links to further information.

Mother Mary: A radio documentary from LMFM, researched, produced and presented by Gerry Kelly outlining the life of Mother Mary Martin - <https://www.lmfm.ie/on-air/shows/documentaries/documentaries/mother-mary/>

She Made a Reality of Miracles: This documentary from RTÉ Radio 1: Documentary on One looks back on the life of Mother Mary Martin, the foundress of the Medical Missionaries of Mary. It was first broadcast in 1975: <https://www.rte.ie/radio1/doconone/2014/0319/647633-radio-documentary-reality-miracles-mary-martin-missionaries-medical/>

Mother Mary Martin: Her life and times : This article from [independent.ie](https://www.independent.ie) is short bio chronicling the life of Mother Mary Martin: - <https://www.independent.ie/regionals/droghedaindependent/entertainment/mother-mary-martin-her-life-and-times-27109642.html>