

**AFRAM ZONAL ASSEMBLY IN KINSHASA 23<sup>RD</sup>-28<sup>TH</sup> APRIL, 2007**  
**AREA COORDINATOR OF COMMUNICATION - REPORT**

Although not all the Provinces or Regions have Communication Coordinators, a lot of activities of Communication are going on in the zone. This report highlights briefly some of them.

### ***Ghana***

Ghana Province has a full time Communication Coordinator who is charged with the responsibility to design effective programmes to communicate the word of God as captured in the Province's Mission statement: *"... immersed in the Word of God, we strive together to proclaim this word effectively by using traditional and modern means of communication..."*

In response to this statement, the Communication Department of the Province is involved in the following ministries:

- Radio Ministry
- Video Works
- Production of SVD Newsletter
- Production of "Catholic Calendar"
- Co-Producer of Catholic Directory.
- Workshops on issues of Communication

In addition to the above, a lot of confreres are involved in this ministry through the media, translation works as well as publications.

### ***Togo***

Togo-Benin Region has a full time coordinator. The apostolate is in the area of:

- + Audio-Visual Works
- + Publications
- + Workshops
- + Offer services for the the Archdiocese of Lome and the Episcopal Conference of Togo

### **Kenya-Tanzania Province**

The Province has a part time coordinator who takes care of the publication of

"Jambo" the Province Newsletter, the Provincial News Bulletin called the "Pamoja" and "From the Provincial's Desk"

A confrere is currently studying to take over the coordination full time:

### **CONGO**

The Province has a full time coordinator and another confrere in this area. They are mainly involved in the production of:

- radio programmes for broadcast,
- Video/TV programmes.
- Musical clips
- Courses on the media are organised especially for those in formation.

Botswana has prepared a confrere to take up this office in the province soon. No information from the other Provinces.

### **SUCSESSES, DIFFICULTIES AND DREAMS**

One of the successes was the Zonal meeting held in October 2006 in Ghana to share ideas and to draft recommendations.

It is noted that Provinces/Regions are giving priority to Communication by appointing confreres full time for this ministry and others have confreres studying to take up the job.

- As a zonal coordinator, one of the difficulties have been communication among Provincial/Regional Coordinators. The reason could be partly due to language barrier or the lack of internet facilities at where coordinators are. It has improved significantly after the last Zonal meeting held in Ghana.
- A meeting of every three years makes it difficult to give a good assessment of the work of Coordinators.
- Recommendations or proposals made have to wait till it is ratified by the zonal Assembly before they are implemented and this slows down the vigour to work.
- In most of the Provinces and Regions, there is only one person in the office taking care of many things thus making other areas of communication to suffer.
- How to balance Diocesan Communication work with that of the Society poses a challenge. Another difficulty is about reading habits. This has gone down generally in Africa. People prefer to watch TV and listen to radio than to read, this trend seems to be affecting some of our confreres.

***As a way forward the coordinators have proposed among other things:***

- to create communication awareness among confreres.
- to work with the lay people (collaboration with the laity.)
- to scout for possible successor(s).
- to champion ongoing formation programs.
- to encourage confreres to show the fruit of their work.
- to encourage Verbum Bible in Kinshasa to continue in what they are doing.
- that if any Bishop wants a confrere for any work in the line of Communication he must consult his Provincial. We should always make contracts with Bishops.
- Anything a confrere wants to publish he has to consult the Provincial and the Bishop of the area.
- that the role of the Communication Coordinator as spelt out in the Handbook for Superiors must be implemented.
- to promote ourselves as SVD in whatever production we make. This helps promote vocation and also for people to contribute to our work.
- to share materials like articles, video, photos etc. with other Provinces or Regions.
- to encourage confreres to go into specific areas of communication.

**EXPECTATIONS OF THE ZONE**

*NETWORKING AND SHARING*

- \* There should be communication among various provinces in the zone and other zones  
Zones/Provinces should venture into joint projects.
- \* There should be the possibility of formulating a common program on communication for the formation centres in the zone
- \* Provincials, Generalate should sell the idea of communication to young confreres due for first assignment in AFRAM
- \* Look out for confreres who show interest in communication and alert the Provincials and the Generalate.

**THE COORDINATOR**

He should be someone who is more vested with what is going in the zone  
 He should keep contact with all the other Coordinators of the zone  
 He should be the point of reference for organizing the networking  
 He should be a liaison between the provincials and the Generalate  
 He should organise communication coordinators meetings possibly every three years  
 These meetings should be venues of on-going formation for communication coordinators

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. We recommend to the Generalate to formulate a Communication Policy for the entire Society. This should later be adapted to the realities of each of our Provinces.
2. We recommend that Formation teams together with coordinators of the four characteristic dimensions promote training relating to these dimensions in both initial and ongoing formation.
3. We recommend that where feasible we share with other provinces our expertise and equipment.”
4. We recommend that Provincials/Regionals give a clear job description to all confreres appointed as coordinators at the various levels in the Province/Region. It should be stressed that the coordinator has an ad intra responsibility.
5. We commit ourselves to networking and sharing of materials.
6. We commit ourselves to search for or explore ways of collaboration with the coordinators of the various characteristic dimensions on the Provincial and Zonal level.
7. We commit ourselves to search for ways of collaboration with other institutions, e.g., dioceses, other congregations, etc.
8. We commit ourselves to making known our life and work through all the available means of communications.

*Report by Rex A. Vegbey, SVD, Area Coordinator of Communication 2004-2007*