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*"We can't row the canoe fast with one paddle"  
(African proverb)*

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## COORDS-LINK 0802, March 31, 2008

Dear fellow Coordinators,

Greetings to all of you! Many things have been happening in the Zone. The General Visitations have been done and we have received the Circular Letter entitled "A New Era in AFRAM – *What we have seen and heard*". Then we had the elections. As of March we got the results for Togo and Madagascar. To refresh our memory we have: for TOG, Joseph KALLANCHIRA (prov.), Mirosław WOŁODKO (vice-prov.), Marsel WANGU (adm.), Bro. Théodore KAKANOU and Peter ACCORLEY ; for MAD, Pius Dosi PANDAI (reg), Sebastian QUADROS (vice-reg.), Luiz SALAS (adm), Zdzisław GRAD and Chacko JNAARACHAL. Once again, our heartfelt congratulations. According to the Handbook for Superiors, except CNG, the new Councils will assume office in June 1 (p. 131). The new Provincials and Regionals are expected in Rome for the Workshop in Nemi this coming 9-16 July 2008. After the formation of the provincial and regional councils there will be appointment of Coordinators. For the outgoing Coordinators please take care that your successor be well briefed on the coming activities, on the documents and on the functions you exercise. I would appreciate it very much if you hand him printed copies of the UPDATES and the documents attached.

**Ghana visit.** As I promised you in the February update I will give you an account on my visit to Ghana after our Execom Meeting. Fr. Victor Leones, the Vice-Provincial, Bro. Emmanuel Affum, Council Member and myself went to Ghana on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of March crossing the Afflaw Border destined for Accra. Early morning on the following day we stopped over in Nsawam to meet Fr. Provincial Alphonse Amanor who reserved us a warm welcome. We gave him report of the salient points of Execom Meeting and what we have decided. He in turn shared with us the results of the meeting with the bishops in Tamale. His presence in that meeting was crucial particularly in defending the SVD interest in the seminary. The SVD Philosophy and Theology students study in Saint Victor's Seminary belonging to the Ecclesiastical province of Tamale composed of five dioceses. A good number of confreres are teaching there. Their remuneration needs to be evaluated. After our meeting we visited St. Martins Secondary School and our confreres. Immense! The GHA province is much involved in the education of the youth as well as formation of future SVDs.

**To Tamale.** Fr. Victor Leones kindly accompanied me until Tamale and we arrived in the evening. I was very happy to meet the Staff of CFC-Tamale. We had a frank and fruitful sharing. Now our students can obtain baccalaureate degree in theology and even a diploma of the University of Ghana, Legon, for those who work more! A new rector has been appointed: Fr. Jolly Madakkampurath. Fr. Maroney and staff of the Saint Joseph Freinademetz House of Philosophy invited me for supper and spent a good time for exchange of news and opinions. Before I left I gave a talk to the scholastics followed by questions and answers. I also met Fr.

Marek Kowalik, the new director of Tamale Institute of Cross-Cultural Studies. Let's wish TICCS a new impetus!

**Progress in West Africa.** More than a decade ago I had the privilege to visit Togo, Benin and Ghana. I saw a great difference between the past and the present. I was particularly impressed by the roads and the atmosphere hovering in the three countries. There is a new generation of state leaders and positive political changes. The Ghana new cedis is almost equivalent to the US dollars. The change took place when the country celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> year as a Republic. Hopefully with time, there will be more progress in the whole of Africa and Madagascar.

Fraternally yours in the Divine Word,

P. Xene A. Sanchez, SVD  
AZC