

Report for the Area Coordinator of Mission Animation AFRAM Zonal Assembly 2010

The Mission Secretaries met for the second time in the history of the Zone last 8 -13 March, 2009. Unlike the first Workshop all the six provinces: ANG, BOT, CNG, GHA, KEN and TOG, the MAD region and the MOZ mission were represented. The Generalate Mission Secretary and the Zonal Coordinator were also present and helped in the animation of the Workshop. The hosting provincial, his council and the confreres gave us a warm welcome and provided the best conditions conducive to work. Four plans of action were formulated namely:

1. That SVD Mission Secretaries in AFRAM take a PROACTIVE role in spiritual ongoing formation of confreres.
2. That SVD Mission Secretaries in AFRAM encourage and support every confrere in his role as PRIMARY Mission Animator.
3. That SVD Mission Secretaries in AFRAM promote SVD-Lay Associations for mission partnership.
4. That SVD Mission Secretaries in AFRAM explore new and creative ways of fundraising as ministry.

They also agreed to pursue the 3 action plans of the first Workshop in Togo

1. **Parish.** Since most of our confreres are engaged in parish work, we have agreed to stress on using the various parishes that we are working in to promote mission animation work in the Zone.
2. **Youth.** Since Africa is a young continent, we therefore agreed to strive together in our ministry to promote mission animation work among the youth and gradually help them to re-discover their leadership role in the future.
3. **Hospitality.** In the AFRAM Zone, primary evangelisation forms the basis of our religious missionary work. For us to be a sign of hope to the people entrusted to our care and to be able to help commit ourselves to Christ by living and working together in a loving religious missionary community that we may find ourselves, we therefore consider it our especial task to be more hospitable to people we meet in our lives and also to encourage others to do so.

Here are brief summaries of the reports of the Mission Secretaries after the Workshop

ANG. The Mission Secretary visited the different SVD Communities of the Province and shared with them the outcome of the Workshop. He helped in the Vocation promotion and the orientation of new missionaries. Ongoing formation was also taken care of through reflective materials. For the first time they have started to collect the funds locally. Envelops were distributed in the parishes and missions houses to raise the fund for the Congregation. The response was positive. For this a Bank Account was opened. Plans: (1) Continue the project of distributing the envelops for Fund Raising, (2) Special campaign in the month of October for the Missions, (3) Begin to collect "Mass Intention" locally for our missions, (4) Collaborate in the preparation of Youth Diary and Calendar of our Province (5) In the month of September "Month of Bible" and October "Month of Mission" collaborate with parishes and Missions to coordinate Mission activities and Bible (6) Help the Missions in preparing the projects of Mission distribution.

BOT. Priority is given to Ongoing formation. Already twice workshops were conducted for the young missionaries called "Under six". The response and participation of confreres were almost 100%. Ongoing formations are already set for the middle aged and plans are made for the senior confreres. The underlying theme is the year of the priest. This year the Mission Secretary will form Lay Association groups starting in South Africa. He is working on a simple booklet that would highlight the origin of our Society and Founder and some of our Society prayers etc. This will be given to the members who join the SVD Lay Association.

CNG. The Luanda Workshop has made an impact on the hearts of Mission Secretaries. However it was not easy to apply everything concretely. Nevertheless efforts have been made with positive results. About a year his predecessor initiated the « SVD Friends ». Lay people in all categories: parishioners, collaborators, workers and friends formed into groups. They accepted with joy to live our SVD Spirituality and to collaborate with us in our missionary works to in our parishes in Kinshasa and in the interior. The Statuts for the SVD friends has been drafted. It is submitted to the groups for analysis and finalize the text. In view of involving the Christians in the self-reliance program a circular letter has been distributed asking our confreres to sensitize

our lay collaborators on their responsibility to support the missionaries. To our surprise the results were very encouraging particularly where the confreres did their best in making the Christians aware of their missionary role. The collection amounted to around 2000 USD. Last January 31 a big concert was organized by the SVD Friends with songs on Arnold Janssen.

GHA. During the Provincial chapter the Mission Secretary has informed the confreres about the Workshop held in Luanda, the reports shared by other provinces and the one of Ghana which concerns SVD - Laity Mission Partnership. There was an action plan to print out Manuals and Registration Forms that were to be sent out to those who want to join as Friends of the SVD's. Manuals and the Registration Forms were printed and shared to our District Members for their use at the various SVD Districts in the Province. As of now, some of our members initiated the formation of the SVD Friends in their Parishes and Communities. The Provincial Chapter in October 2009 made recommendation on it by saying that: "We should strive to promote the Friends of the SVD in all our SVD administered Parishes, Institutions and Communities."

KEN. Six activities were enumerated: (1) On mission Sundays confreres in collaboration with our philosophy and theology students reached out to parishioners to share with them our identity and charisma. Brochures and pamphlets on vocation were distributed. (2) Fundraising – envelopes were distributed to parishioners, collaborators and partners to solicit help for the missions. (3) Opening of a bank account for the Mission Office. (4) Calendars depicting the SVD were sold. Together with the envelopes, 1676 USD were earned. (5) In view of the ongoing formation the Mission office paid for the retreat of confreres amounting to 2606 USD. (6) The mission office takes care of Kenyan Missionaries working abroad. It pays for the medical checkup (100 USD) and gives a traveling allowance of 100 USD.

MAD. Sept points: (1) An ongoing formation has been started for the veteran confreres. (2) The new missionaries arriving in Madagascar receives a good preparation and formation in different domains: enculturation, language, etc. taking care of visa and other formalities, encounters with them regularly as they adapt to the new situation. (3) Help in the sending of the first Madagascan Missionary. (4) Working with the Communications coordinator in mission animation, in preparing a calendar SVD and making a Newsletter. (5) Animating and conscientizing the catechists and leaders of our missions on the SVD charisma. (6) Preparing a book of prayer of the SVD in Madagascan for the confreres and the lay associates. (7) Plan the foundation of an association of lay people who would participate in our mission in the spirit of Arnold Janssen.

TCD. About the mission animation in Chad, we have no coordinator since we are very few in number. However, we tried our best to animate the mission through the activities in the parish through formation of the lay leaders and catechists, animation during the especial feasts of the church especially during the month of October, formation of the youths and the children in different associations and organizations. We make use of the media like the television, video films, dances, chants, plays and games as a good instrument of mission animation. The people love the animations since they are the only manner to assemble them to be together. They enjoy them. The people respond well to our invitations. However, we need more patience, perseverance and lots of creativity to make the mission animation a successful one. We can notice that our parishioners are slowly developing and growing in their faith and love for God and their neighbors. They start to show their support and engagement in the parish.

TOG. The celebrations of the centenary of the deaths of our Founder and Joseph Freinademetz were occasions to make known the SVD. T-shirts were printed, posters were made with the pictures of our Saints. The reflections made by AJSC were translated into French for the confreres and the sisters. The SVD friends participated actively in the celebrations. For mission animation and vocations promotion key holders were made with the image of the centennial with our logo and our address. In collaboration with the Superior Delegate a reunion with the parents of missionaries working abroad was organized. The Mission Secretary helped in the diffusion of biblical agendas and SVD calendars containing the intentions of the Pope. He maintains the accompaniment of the lay groups "SVD Friends" and the "Way of the Heart" (Voie du Coeur). He plans to establish a network of local benefactors for the SVD. *Note: these are only summaries of the texts you can find in www.svdafram.org Come, Visit us!*