

**REPORT OF THE COORDINATOR OF THE SVD COMMUNICATION MINISTRY GHANA PROVINCE
TO AFRAM AREA COORDINATOR OF COMMUNICATION FOR ZONAL MEETING IN LOME ON 7TH
TO 13TH February 2010**

VISION- MISSION STATEMENT OF SVD COMMUNICATION MINISTRY GHANA PROVINCE

Embracing the transforming power of the Gospel, we communicate the Word of God to all people especially in Ghana through various means of communication: traditional – oral and written; and modern – electronic , computer and multi – media: radio and TV in the spirit of the Society of the Divine Word.

OUR INVOLVEMENTS:

With the guiding vision- mission, we engage ourselves in the following communication ministries:

a. Oral :

Though this is very traditional, we still involve ourselves in using this means. Our new missionaries are undergoing oral communication through language and culture learning. Though this involved writing as we plan our strategy of learning it is practically oral to learn the language in the context of the culture of the people. This is to prepare us to work in the area of “primary evangelization”. For us, even still in this level of involvement we consider this as ministry already. So we adopted the name “*Language and culture learning is ministry*”. This means that as we are learning orally the language within the context of the culture of the people, we receive, we share, we dialogue, we inculturate, we gain friends and build good relationship. This is ministry in the sense that we are proclaiming the Christian value of good relationship. As a matter of fact, Christianity is basically relationship – good relationship.

In addition our confreres who are working in the Parishes and in school apostolate use heavily oral means of communication in their evangelization endeavours.

b. Written:

In this field, our involvement varies:

- 1) translations: we help in the translation of Sunday Lectionary (year A, B, and C) from English to Krobo c/o Fr. Matthias Helms, SVD; the Bible in Dagbani at Gnani, Yendi c/o Fr. Joseph Mazur, SVD
 - 2) Newsletters: a) *D'metz voice* c/o Seminarians of St. Joseph Freinademetz Formation House, Tamale; b) CFC focus c/o theologians from common formation Center; c) The voice of the Brothers c/o Bro. McDaniel, SVD at St. Arnold House, Tesano; d) *SVD Newsletter Ghana Province* c/o Province Communication Office; e) *Mission Link* c/o Bro. Rudy Chamenyi, SVD; e) Parish Bulletins, like the *Weekly Bulletin* of Frs.: John Straathof, SVD and Andrew Quaye – Foli, SVD of Sts Peter and Paul, New Aplaku, Accra and St. Clementina, Ashaiman, Tema.
 - 3) Publishing books and calendars c/o SVD Catholic Book Center (CBC) : 1) *Yearly Calendar* with religious theme c/o calendar committee & CBC 2) *Catholic Hymnal & St. Peter's Hymnal* c/o CBC; 3) *God's Word for the day* c/o Fr. Emmanuel Fianu, SVD and CBC, 4) *Book of Prayer* by Charles Schneider, SVD & Fr. Hans Van Kempen, SVD; 5) *Advent Companion* by Fr. Vincent Owusu, SVD; 6) *The Holy Spirit and the Eucharist* by Fr. Andrews Obeng, SVD
- c. Audio – Visuals: Music for tape – cassettes and CD players:
- 1) Gospel music by Catholic Joyful Singers c/o Bro. Stephen Domelevo, SVD
 - 2) Christian Doctrines (Sacraments, Corpus Christi, Mariology, Pope, etc.) in VCD and DVD c/o Bros.: Pius Agyeman, SVD and Stephen Domelevo, SVD
 - 3) Documentary of different events (Ordination, Vows, Blessings, Harvest, Bishop Conference, and other National events) on CDs and DVDs c/o Bro. Stephen Domelevo, SVD and Fr. Dionisio Nellas, SVD
- d. Collaborate with the Archdiocese of Accra in Radio – TV Broadcasting programmes:
- 1) Catholic Hour at Choice FM c/o Fr. Rex Vegbey, SVD (before)
 - 2) Katolik Gyidimu Nsem at Adom FM c/o Fr. Rex Vegbey (before) but now under Diocese of Accra c/o Bro. Stephen Domelevo, SVD and Bro. Pius Agyeman, SVD
 - 3) Catholic Digest under GCBC produced by Bro. Stephen Domelevo, SVD
 - 4) Sunday Homily in English and Dagbani at Savannah FM, Tamle c/o Fr. Gregory Kubowicz, SVD.
- e. Video Productions:

The office also produces Video CD and DVD productions of our SVD events: First Vows, Final Vows, Ordinations: Diaconate & Priestly and other documentaries on religious, moral, Justice and peace issues.

CHALLENGES AND DIFFICULTIES

a. The coordinator identified 3 challenges:

- 1) **Personnel.** At the moment Fr. Grzegorz Kubowicz, SVD left for good to Poland. Our experts (laymen helpers) in video editing and cameramen transferred to another firm when Fr. Rex Vegbey left for his further studies in England.
- 2) **Financial.** There's a need for financial support to sustain our SVD communication committee (all district communication coordinators with Prov. Coord) meetings (4x a year), servicing of our office & studio equipments (2 VHS – CD/DVD converter, 3 computers (1 Apple & 2 Dell), 1 professional DV- Camera, 2 small DV cameras, 1 mixer, set of public address system, 2 TV monitors, cassette player and amplifier), and appropriate token to helpers (crew: lights and sounds, video camera men and computer personnel)
- 3) **Our Communication Board (advisory body) is dormant.** Presently the board is not functioning.

ACTION PLANS (Triennial)

1. **Continue support and encourage our confreres working in school and parishes to employ all possible means of communication to effectively proclaim the Divine Word to the people entrusted to their care.**
2. **Continue collaborate with the communication programmes in the Radio and TV of the Diocese and Archdiocese where we are working.**
3. **Continue Documenting SVD events in the province.**
4. **Continue publishing: Newsletters, yearly calendar with religious theme, hymn books, etc.**
5. **Continue the regular meeting with the district communication coordinators.**
6. **Propose a coordinator to replace Fr. Grzegorz Kubowicz, SVD so that his radio programme for Yendi, Damongo and Tamale Dioceses through Savannah FM will continue.**

7. Revive the SVD Communication Board.
8. Promote the teaching of social communication of the Church to the SVD formation houses.
9. Help in the homiletic programmes of the seminarians.
10. Create an Income Generating Program (IGP) for communication.
11. Apply for financial support to sustain our communication ministry.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

On behalf the SVD Communication Ministry Committee, I would like to first and foremost thank the Lord who is the great communicator of the Word for his inspiration, blessings and guidance. Then to the SVD Provincial and councilors for their support given me since the time I started my office in this ministry and until now. I am also very grateful to Archbishops, Bishops and Directors/Coordinators of the Department of Social Communications (DEPSOCOMs) of the Archdioceses of: Accra and Tamale; Dioceses of: Koforidua, Sunyani, Techiman, and Yendi for giving the SVDs space to communicate and collaborate. I would like in special way to thank Bro. Stephen Domelevo, SVD, the producer of the Catholic Digest and the director of DEPSOCOM Accra for including my name on the list of those qualified to participate in the DEPSOCOM meetings. May the Good News be proclaimed through all good means of communications so that the Divine Word who became flesh be known, love and adored in all peoples' heart.

Reported by:

Fr. Dionisio Nellas, SVD

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