

KEN-TAN PROVINCE: A REPORT AND PRESENTATION TO THE AFRAM ASSEMBLY IN LOME, TOGO in February of 2010, by Fr. Eusebio Manangbao, SVD.

INTRODUCTION. The year 2009 marked 25 years of SVD presence in Kenya. It was a year dedicated to our pioneering SVD confreres who came to Kenya in 1984 through the invitation of the Bishop of Meru Diocese to work with the Borana tribe in Garba Tulla in the northern part of Kenya. From Meru Diocese, our missionary presence in Kenya spread far and wide to two Dioceses and two Archdioceses. These are Eldoret, Isiolo, Nairobi and Nyeri. In 2000, we started our SVD presence and missionary service in the Archdiocese of Arusha in Tanzania through the invitation of the present Archbishop Josaphat Louis Lebulu. Last year in November 29, we left the Archdiocese of Nyeri by officially handing back the parish of Dol Dol to the Archdiocese after working in that parish for 15 years.

OUR COMPOSITION

There are 36 of us Clerics and Brothers in the province coming from 18 countries of Asia, South and Central America, Europe and Africa. Majority of us are from the younger age bracket. Two SVD fraters from Vietnam and Chile respectively are in the province for their OTP experience.

Majority of us come from Asia: India, Indonesia and the Philippines. It is very encouraging to note that there are 5 Kenyans with us in the province. Three other Kenyan confreres are presently working outside Kenya. Two Kenyan confreres are preparing themselves for their foreign mission assignments.

OUR INVOLVEMENTS AND APOSTOLATES

Majority of us in the province are involved in parish work and administration in the urban and rural set up and situation. Other areas of involvement are in school chaplaincies, on retreats, on counseling and on prison apostolates.

Parishes (Urban & Rural)	17 Confreres
School Chaplaincies/Apostolates	2 Confreres
Retreat Ministry	1 Confrere
Counselling Ministry	1 Confrere
Prison Apostolate	3 Confreres
Formation Houses	6 Confreres
OTP Experience	2 Fraters
Language Students	3 Confreres
Assigned to the Province	3 Confreres

OUR PRESENT SITUATION

Considering the present number of confreres in the province compared to the different involvements and apostolates, many confreres are holding two and even three other added responsibilities.

In the area of JPIC, the confrere is at the same time, the director of the Pre-Philosophy house. In the area of Mission Animation, the confrere is at the same time the assistant parish priest and in-charge of the parish school. In the area of Biblical Apostolate, the confrere is at the same time the parish priest. In the area of Communication, the confrere is at the same time the prefect of seminarians and also the director of the Institute.

At the moment, the office of the superior delegatus is vacant although the work is still being done by the parish priest of one of our SVD parish.

OUR PLANS AND IMPLEMENTATIONS

On Self-Reliance. Putting up of a girls boarding hostel for university students in Eldoret near GABA Institute, now the AMECEA University. Annual contribution of our parishes to our Province Fund.

On Personnel Specialization and Training. Sending qualified and interested confreres for further studies according to the needs in the province and agreed upon through the signing of a contract.

INFORMATIONS AND UPDATES

One of the highlights of our Silver Jubilee celebration was our Province's Retreat ON SVD SPIRITUALITY facilitated by Fr. Mike Somers, SVD of the AJSC Team.

Two of our Kenyan Confreres, Brothers Lawrence and Mike are working in Formation and it is very encouraging to note that we have two candidates who are now studying and preparing themselves to become SVD Brothers.

CONCLUSION

Finding and having adequate and qualified personnel to staff and minister our missions, parishes and formation houses, ministries and offices is the most serious challenge we face in the province. Last month, ten SVDs representing the different ministries and offices engaged themselves in a two day strategic planning to come up with a Master Plan that involved Short Term and Long Term activities in relation to the priority needs of the province.

Formation will always remain a major concern of our Province. While number is important, we focus and stress even more on imparting holistic and quality formation to our formandi. Two CFC Formators – the Rector and the Treasurer will be finishing their term this year and so the need to fill the two would be vacant positions.

The following lines from the XVI General Chapter will conclude this report: *Three aspects of that image of our Society stood out as the sources of confident hope for the future – namely, our youth or relatively young age, our internationality, and our commitment to prophetic dialogue.*