

REPORT OF THE CHAD MISSION

AFRAM ASSEMBLY IN TOGO

(Feb. 7-13, 2010)

INTRODUCTION

Last year, we celebrated 5 years of our presence in Chad (2004-2009). We had a very humble beginning characterized by simplicity of our lives and complete trust in God. The first 3 pioneers composing of 3 different nationalities (Indian, Congolese, Filipino) were taken from 3 different missions of the SVD in Africa (Congo, Madagascar and Togo- Benin). It was a difficult but challenging start.

1. DESCRIPTION OF THE MISSION:

PRESENT SITUATION OF THE COUNTRY AND OF OUR REGION:

Chad is the 3rd largest country in Africa surrounded by Libya in the north, Sudan in the east, Central African Republic in the south, Cameroun , Nigeria and Niger in the West. The country is known for its wars and rebellions, thus creating poverty in the country. Almost one year passed, the capital was attacked by rebels who wanted to take away the power from President Idriss Deby. The country was in political chaos resulting to the sufferings of many people. In short, the political situation is always unstable. However, at present, the political and economic situation is quite improving.

Concerning the SVD Chad Mission, we started by learning the language, adapting to the local customs and mentality of the people. Presently, a lot of spiritual and material developments have been taking place in our parish. We extended our small parish church to accommodate the growing number of church-goers. We had started the Kindergarten school a year ago and the elementary school last year.

2. CONFRERES AND THEIR ACTIVITIES:

Presently, there are 5 SVD priests working in the parish of Laramanaye serving 50 villages.. The confreres are engaged in pastoral works (i.e. catechism, lay formation, media, etc.), biblical apostolate, inter-religious dialogue, justice and peace, missionary animation and protection of environment. Two more confreres (Vietnamese and Indonesian) who will be ordained priests this year will probably join us by 2011 after the language study.

SELF-RELIANCE PROGRAM

The fruit trees (mango, banana, guava, lemon, papaya, etc.) that we planted when we arrived in the parish are now bearing fruits. Every rainy season, we plant some corns, millet, cassava, peanuts and vegetables. We raise also some chickens, ducks, goats and few cows.

3. YEAR OF THE PRIEST:

We joined the Diocese of Gore in welcoming the Year of the Priest with lots of hope and enthusiasm. We had our Presbyterium last Jan. 25- 28 and reflected over the importance of living our priesthood

united as one family and also looking at the valuable virtues of St. Jean Marie Vianney- the Curé d'Ars. We are very thankful to the Lord that in spite of our weaknesses and unfaithfulness, he continues to love and use us as his instruments.

4. PLANS FOR THE FUTURE:

We are preparing to start the second parish in the Diocese of Gore in the middle of this year. In the future, we want to develop and work more fully on the characteristic dimensions of our society. We will try to collaborate in AFRAM activities and programs that will fit to our situation in Chad.

5. CONCLUSION:

In spite of our humble and difficult start of our mission in Chad, we could confidently say that our mission is full of hope and becoming fruitful. We decided to continue our mission with lots of enthusiasm and courage believing that God is always with us. May the Holy Triune God guide and enlighten us at the times of darkness and may the Virgin Mary protect us and give us strength and courage to continue the mission of her Son in Chad which is also our mission.