

BIBLE PASTORAL MINISTRY REPORT, 2008

Diocese of Livingstone, Zambia

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1.

Introduction

Biblical Apostolate is concerned with making the Word of God known, understood and loved. The main task of this Ministry is to meet the hunger of people to read and study the Scriptures, making the Diocese vibrant with the Word of God. This Report covers the period from January to October 2008.

2. Objectives of Bible Pastoral Ministry:

- To provide access to the Sacred Scriptures.
- To train the faithful to read the Bible comprehensively, systematically and continuously according to the teaching of the Church.
- To place the Word of God at the center of evangelization and of the life of small Christian communities, Ministries, Organizations and other groups.
- To make greater efforts to make the Word of God known, loved, pondered and preserved in the hearts of the faithful;
- To help people find in the Bible strength and orientation toward building a society founded on Gospel values.

3. The Year of the Bible in Livingstone Diocese

The Year of the Bible was launched in two stages: at diocesan level on 25th January 2008 in the St. Theresa's Cathedral and at parish level on 27th January 2008. The Holy Mass was preceded by a ceremony of enthronement of the Bible.

4. Activities

Distribution of Biblical Materials to various Parishes, Religious Communities and SCC's as follows:

- ✓ Pastoral Vision for the Year of the Bible in Livingstone Diocese.
- ✓ Proposed program for the Year of the Bible.
- ✓ Lineamenta of the Synod of the Bishops on "*The Word of God in the Life and Mission of the Church*".
- ✓ Summary of Lineamenta in English and Silozi (To SCCs).
- ✓ Lectio Divina - guide to pray the Bible.
- ✓ Biblical Posters
- ✓ St Paul the Apostle - Background

Promotion of Sacred Scripture

- ✓ Providing Catholic versions of Bibles to the Parishes in English and vernacular Languages: Bemba, Tonga, Nyanja and Silozi (New Testament)
- ✓ Providing publication of Bible aids: books, booklets and posters.
- ✓ Giving the Bible an important place in Churches: Enthronement of the Bible.

Training of Biblical Facilitators and Animators

- Three persons from our Diocese took part in Three-Week Biblical Course in Plamtree, Zimbabwe from 26th February to 16th March 2008:

Michael Muna Kabelela, St. Francis Parish, Dambwa;
Joseph Malumok, St. Fidelis Parish, Sichili;
Lunda Nshilima, St. Joseph Parish, Mukuni.

- Two persons took part in the second session of the same course from 29th September to 18th October 2008.

Lunda Nshilima, St. Joseph's Parish, Mukuni;
John Mubu Bwendo, St. Fidelis Parish, Sichili.

- Two persons participated in a Seminar on Bible-Drama in Lusaka from 14 –16 July, 2008.

Morris Maliwa – Christ the King Parish;
Stephen Kachingwe – Our Lady's Parish.

- Sr. Ewa Piegdon, Bible Ministry Coordinator, took part in the 7th Catholic Biblical Federation Plenary Assembly in Tanzania, Dar es Salaam from 24th June to 3rd July. The Report and Final Statement will be distributed separately.

4.4 Basic Bible Seminar – Introduction to the Bible – Lectio Divina

We organized and conducted Biblical Seminars and Workshops in various parishes in the Diocese throughout the year:

1. L/stone on 26th January for Adults in Christ the King Parish.
2. L/stone on 2nd February for Youth in Christ the King Parish
3. L/stone on 23rd February for Youth in St. Francis Parish.
4. L/stone on 2nd March for Youth in Maria Regina Parish.
5. L/stone on 27th January for children in Christ the King Parish.
6. L/stone on 3rd February for children in Our Lady's Parish.
7. L/stone on 17th February for children in St. Francis Parish.
8. L/stone on 24th February for children in Maria Regina Parish.
9. L/stone on 9th March for children in St. Theresa Parish.
10. L/stone on 15th March for children in St. Peter Parish.
11. L/stone on 12th March for Nazareth Women in St. Francis Parish.
12. L/stone on 5th April for Adults in St. Theresa Parish.
13. L/stone on 6th April for Youth in St. Theresa Parish.
14. St. Joseph's Parish, Mukuni Parish from 12th to 13th April.
15. St. Arnold Parish, Mwandu from 29th April to 1st May for Children, Youth and Adults.
16. St. Kizito Parish, Sasheke from 2nd to 4th May for Children, Youth and Adults.
17. St. Peter Parish on 10th August for Adults.

18. St. Joseph's Parish, Mukuni from 18th to 20th August for Children (one day) and Youth (two days).
 19. St. Fedelis Parish, Sichili (four zones) from 8th to 20th September.
 20. Lusu Catholic Mission from 29th September to 1st October for youth and children.
 21. Holy Childhood Parish, Makunka from 11th to 12th October for the children.
- Other workshops are being planned.

4.5 Biblical Programme on Musi-o-Tunya Radio

Thirteen programmes on the Bible in English were broadcast on the Radio on Tuesdays 19 hours. Five programs were also broadcast in Silozi. We are in the process of preparing the remaining Silozi programmes.

4.6 Other Biblical Activities

- Bible Quizzes for children and youth
- Dramatization of Biblical Stories
- Movie-Show – Biblical Stories

4.7 Visits to the Small Christian Communities

The Biblical Ministry agents prepared a programme for SCCs. We visited them with the purpose of explaining the impact of good Bible Sharing and helping people to understand and pray the Bible so as to grow together as God's family. To date we have visited all SCCs in following Parishes: St Francis, Dambwa; Maria Regina, Linda; Our Lady's and St. Theresa's. Visits to the other parishes are being planned.

5. Difficulties

- One of the greatest obstacles in reaching out to the faithful in rural parishes is the distance between outstations. Most of them are located in remote areas and people have no means of reaching the location of the workshops.
- We lack financial resources to run the Ministry. Not infrequently we are expected to meet all expenses of workshops.
- Lack of understanding regarding the importance of the Bible by some of the faithful.

6. Future plans

- We plan to continue reaching out to the faithful and especially those in rural parishes and to the Youth.
- To continue using Radio Musi-o-Tunya for biblical programmes.
- To make Bibles in vernacular languages more accessible to the faithful.
- To train more biblical facilitators.

7. Conclusion

We sincerely thank all Priests, Religious and the Lay faithful who employed their energy, time and talents in making the Year of the Bible in our Diocese fruitful and meaningful. We believe that our common efforts have made a big impact on many faithful and we look forward to your continued support and co-operation in the coming year. We pray that our future activities will be a blessing for all.

