

BICAM BIBLICAL APOSTOLATE PROGRAMMES

PRO 1: KNOW YOUR JOB

PRO 2: KNOW-HOW IN BIBLICAL APOSTOLATE

PRO 3: CATECHIST AND BIBLICAL APOSTOLATE PROMOTER

PRO 4: BIBLICAL APOSTOLATE FOR THE CLERGY

PRO 5: BIBLE LECTURER AND PROMOTER

PRO 6: THE WORD OF GOD IN PRIESTLY FORMATION

PRO 7: THE WORD OF GOD IN CONSECRATED LIFE

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BIBLICAL APOSTOLATE COORDINATORS' TRAINING PROGRAMME

“Fully equipped and ready for any good work” (2Tm 3:17)

These words are from the Bible. According to the context, the Word of God is to equip and prepare for any good work. For Bible Apostolate promoters and coordinators, it is their first instrument.

Their second equipment is in fact a series of administrative, technical and practical training, material means, aimed at helping the promoters and coordinators of the Word to discharge their mission properly.

This course is designed for that purpose. Below is the technical description:

- **Target groups:** Regional/National/Provincial Coordinators
- **Levels of the Church in Africa:** Regional and national
- **Management:** Regional Coordinator
- **Aim:** Informing the Regional and National Coordinators about their mission and forming them to deliver effectively and efficiently
- **Objectives:** A coordinator who attends this course will be able to organize Biblical Apostolate activities in his/her region/country, focusing the coordinating activities. He/she will be equally capable of administrative and networking relationship with the coordinators at the levels of the Church in Africa.

The prayers and hope of the designers of this programme is that the above objectives will be really achieved, with the participation of the animators and coordinators themselves.



I. COMMON TALKS (5)

1. WHAT IS BIBLICAL APOSTOLATE (1): DEFINITION AND CONCERNS

“For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ” (1Co 12,12).

ORIENTATIONS:

- Bible Apostolate is a specific Apostolate with its characteristics and activities
- Bible Apostolate has Biblical Animation of Pastoral as part of its activities and objectives
- There are other ministries of the Word in the Church: Canonical Ministry (ordained ministers and catechists) – Pastoral Use of the Bible in Ministering – Scientific Ministry (Bible Scholars)
- 1Co 12,12 and Biblical Apostolate. “so it is with Christ” = “so it is with the Ministry of the Word”: One Service, many ministries – No opposition between BA and the other ministries of the Word, but they complete and interweave with one another.

SAMPLE OF TALK

Available on BICAM website: www.bicam-cebam.org

2. WHAT IS BIBLICAL APOSTOLATE (2): SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES

ORIENTATIONS

- Typology of Biblical Apostolate Activities and Programmes, based on the mission of the Coordinators:
 - Activities of Bible and Biblical Apostolate **promotion**
 - Activities of Biblical Apostolate **coordination**
 - Activities of Biblical Apostolate **organization**
- Invite the participants to visit BICAM website for more information: www.bicam-cebam.org
- The speaker is highly invited to visit the page of BICAM website on “Biblical Apostolate (BA) in Africa”.

SAMPLES OF TALKS

Contact the Director of BICAM

3. LECTIO DIVINA (1) : HISTORY AND THEORY

“This book of the law shall not depart out of your mouth; you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to act in accordance with all that is written in it” (Jos 1,8)

ORIENTATIONS:

- Biblical roots
- Monasteries’ practice
- Lectio Divina since Vatican II to the synod on the Word (2008)
- Lectio Divina and biblical apostolate
- **In situ daily practice during the programme, with a simple method**

SAMPLE/SOURCES:

- BIANCHI, Enzo, *Prier la Parole. Une introduction à la “Lectio Divina”* (Vie Monastique 15: Bellefontaine 1983)
- HAYDEN, Christopher, *Praying the Scriptures. A Practical Introduction to Lectio Divina* (London 2001)
- VERLINDE, Joseph, *Initiation à la Lectio Divina* (Paris 2002)

- « Lectio Divina », *Bulletin Dei Verbum* n° 84/85 (3-4/2007) 4-11
- *Manuel pour la pastorale de la Bible* (Kinshasa 2001) 15-36
- **Contact the Director of BICAM.**

4. LECTIO DIVINA (2): PRACTICE AND METHODS

“*And Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart*”. (Lk 2:19)

ORIENTATIONS

- Point out the common steps to any method;
- Traditional method and further contextualized elaborations
- Methods for personal Lectio Divina
- Methods for Community Lectio Divina or Bible Sharing
- Methods for Word-based response to Social Issues through Lectio Divina

SAMPLE OR SOURCES

- Reading and Sharing God’s Word in the Family or Community, Accra 2005 (BICAM Publications)
- Leaflet on Bible Sharing Methods (BICAM Publications)
- **Contact the Director of BICAM.**

5. BIBLICAL APOSTOLATE IN AFRICA: PRESENTATION OF BICAM

“*We have heard with our ears, O God, our ancestors have told us, what deeds you performed in their days, in the days of old*” (Ps 44,1)

ORIENTATIONS

- Historical presentation of The Catholic Biblical Centre for Africa and Madagascar (BICAM) based on BICAM leaflet (BICAM Publication)
- Visit the following pages of BICAM website: About us – Activities – Network
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- – BA in Africa

SOURCE

- Presentation of BICAM (Leaflet)
- BICAM website: www.bicam-cebam.org
- Bishop Rausengwo

II. THE CHURCH DOCUMENTS ON THE USE OF THE BIBLE IN THE CHURCH (4)

ORIENTATIONS

- Give the Handbook containing the Documents to the Participants and ask them to read them in advance
- One session to the participants to read the documents on their own, indicating relevant paragraphs.
- Two sessions for comments on specific paragraphs by the facilitator, and contributions from the participants.

6. PRIVATE READING OF THE DOCUMENTS

ORIENTATIONS

The participants are supposed to have read the documents before coming. This session is to give them a second chance to do so.

7. DEI VERBUM VI

ORIENTATIONS

Suggested paragraphs for in-depth reading and comments:

- Nr. 21: Importance of the Scriptures for the Church
- Nr. 22: Easy access of the faithful to the Bible
- Nr. 25: Daily reading of the Bible for all (clergy, religious men and women, laity)
- Nr. 26: Fruits expected from reading and studying the Bible

SAMPLE/SOURCES

Contact the Director of BICAM

8. THE INTERPRETATION OF THE BIBLE IN THE CHURCH (1)

Suggested paragraphs for in-deep reading and comments:

- I,F: Fundamentalist reading
- II,B: The Meaning of Inspired Scripture
- III,B,6: Roles of Various members of the Church in Interpretations

SAMPLE/SOURCES: Contact the Director of BICAM

9. THE INTERPRETATION OF THE BIBLE IN THE CHURCH (2)

ORIENTATIONS

Suggested paragraphs for in-deep reading and comments (continued):

- IV,A: Actualization
- IV,B: Inculturation
- IV,C: Use of the Bible

SAMPLE/SOURCES: Contact the Director of BICAM

III. COORDINATING AND ORGANIZING BIBLICAL APOSTOLATE IN AFRICA (2)

“For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another” (Rm 12:4-6)

10. SECAM AND BA IN AFRICA: BASIC OPTIONS AND ORIENTATIONS

ORIENTATIONS

Read the following documents:

- *SECAM Statutes*
- *SECAM Document of the Establishment of the Catholic Biblical Centre for Africa and Madagascar (BICAM-DE)*
- *The Biblical Committee and the Biblical Centre for Africa and Madagascar - Standing Orders and Regulations (BICAM-SOR)*

Find and lay out the fundamental options that continue to guide BA in Africa today:

- Scientific dimension and pastoral dimension of the Bible are linked
- Biblical Scientific Studies and Biblical Apostolate “with African Perspective”
- Consultancy work for Biblical, pastoral projects
- Mission and attributions of the Centre

Read the Final Statements of the continental workshops

Find out the constant and still relevant concerns of the coordinators, through Resolutions and Recommendations.

BICAM and the Catholic Biblical Federation:

- Aim and objectives of CBF
- Relationship between CBF and BICAM: Coordination – Contact Persons – Insertion in a worldwide network or family, with all the benefits and commitments.

SAMPLE/SOURCES

BICAM website: www.bicam-cebam.org

CBF website: www.c-b-f.org

BICAM Establishment Document

Current BICAM Statutes or by-law

CBF constitution

Contact the Director of BICAM.

11.

SECAM JOB DESCRIPTION FOR BA COORDINATORS

“If you are put in charge, you must be conscientious” (Rm 12:8)

ORIENTATIONS

The principles behind the Job Description:

- Church as Family of God and Inclusive Membership (cf. Rm 12,4-5): Coordinators at all levels (Continental, Regional, National, Diocesan, Parish, SCC, Families, Individual) but these levels are in a concentric way.
- Principle of Subsidiary or Division of Labour between the levels of the Church in Africa
- Promotion of “an organic pastoral solidarity” in the line of Ecclesia in Africa” (EIA 5, 16, 65, 72, 131-135)
- Synergetic principle: Neither dependence nor independence, but interdependence between the levels
- Team working and networking

Comments on the Job Description of the Regional and National Coordinators

- Comparative approach, if possible, with the Job Description of the Director of BICAM

SAMPLE/SOURCES: Contact the Director of BICAM

12.

ORGANIZING BA IN AFRICA TODAY

ORIENTATION

The Director of BICAM or the Regional Coordinator is given the floor to expound the current challenges and orientations on coordinating and organizing BA, in Africa/Region.

IV. PLANNING AND FUNDING BIBLICAL APOSTOLATE ACTIVITIES (3)

“Which of you wishing to construct a tower does not first sit down and calculate the cost to see if there is enough for its completion?” (Lc 14:28)

13.

BICAM PROJECTS DESIGNING AND APPLICATION

ORIENTATION

Applying GOPP (Goal Oriented Project Planning) to Biblical Apostolate Planning and Financial Application

- Brief introduction to GOPP
- BICAM projects applications and elements of GOPP

- Comparison between BICAM presentation and technical presentation (Logical Framework)

SAMPLE/SOURCES: Contact the Director of BICAM

14. SOURCING FOR AND MANAGING PROJECTS FUNDS

ORIENTATION

Funding conception

- Action oriented partnership (Final goal)
- Trust building relationship (Ethics dimension)
- A financial contract (Juridical dimension)

BICAM budgets conception and presentation

- Ethics in budgeting
- Ethics in budget running (cf. conditions by Funding Agencies)
- Ethics in financial reports (cf. conditions by Funding Agencies)

To whom you can send your application:

- Information about Funding Agencies interested in Biblical Apostolate
- Missio Aachen-Munich: geographical distribution of the applications
- Towards Integrated Budgets (and applications) in Africa

SAMPLE/SOURCES

- Missio Document for funding granted;
- "Guidelines for Reports (Final Reports and interim Reports), *Yours Sincerely* 81 (August 2009) 2-3.
- **Contact the Director of BICAM.**

15. LOCAL FUNDS RAISE FOR BIBLICAL APOSTOLATE

ORIENTATION

- Sharing of experience in solving the problem of BA funding
- Possible common actions at the national and regional levels

KNOW YOUR JOB _ PROPOSED TIMETABLE

DURATION OF THE COURSE: Three full days

NUMBER OF SESSIONS: Six sessions a day; that is 18 sessions in total

ONE INTRODUCTION SESSION

15 PRESENTATIONS SESSIONS

ONE BUSINESS SESSION ON BICAM AND/OR THE REGION: Time to discuss issues pertaining to the region or to the continent. The facilitator is the Regional Coordinator. The Director of BICAM or his representative may be the co-facilitator if he's attending.

ONE ASSESSMENT SESSION

DURATION OF THE SESSIONS: 1h (45 mn of presentation; 15mn of discussion).

DOCUMENTS FOR PARTICIPANTS

THE COURSE GOES WITH COLLECTIONS FOR PARTICIPANTS. PLEASE GET IN TOUCH WITH THE DIRECTOR OF BICAM.