



BIBLICAL CENTRE FOR AFRICA AND MADAGASCAR (BICAM)
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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF BICAM - 2009

TO

**COORDINATORS AND PROMOTERS OF BIBLICAL APOSTOLATE
IN AFRICA**

O. INTRODUCTION

Dear Collaborators,

This is the third report of the Director of BICAM to you. It covers the period from January 1st to December 31st 2009. This report is aimed at briefly informing you about the major activities of the year.

1. PUBLICATIONS

Besides the quarterly publications (*BICAM Newsletter* and *Biblical Pastoral Bulletin*), we published the 3rd edition of the Directory of Biblical Apostolate in Africa, and reprinted the syllabus for *Biblical Apostolate in Priestly Formation*.

2. OFFICIAL VISITS

I wasn't able to visit any country in 2009. I was supposed to visit the southern part of Sudan but I couldn't make it.

3. WORKSHOPS AND COURSES

Due to the focus on the training of the Coordinators in 2009-2010, only two workshops were run directly by BICAM Office; the training course was done in three regions.

3.1. WORKSHOPS

3.1.1. Workshop in DRC II

The workshop is a restitution to those who could not attend the February 2008 workshop at the national level in reason of the earthquake and war in the eastern part of DRC.

Venue: Centre Spirituel Mbiti

Date: 17th - 20th October 2009

Theme: "Helping our faithful to read the Bible in family and in community"

Attendance: 17 participants from the 9 dioceses of Kinshasa Ecclesiastic Province.

Facilitators: Bishop Gaspard MUDISO, National Coordinator, Fr Matthew THEKKEYIL, Fr. Roger WAWA, Fr Jean Baptiste MALENGE and Fr. Jacques-Marie NZIR (Secretary to the National Coordinator).

3.1.2. Workshop for Catechists and BA Coordinators in AECAWA region

Venue: National Pastoral Centre, Kenema, Sierra Leone

Date : 1st – 8th September 2009.

Attendance: There were 57 delegates of Biblical Apostolate and Catechesis from 5 countries of Anglophone West Africa (Ghana, Liberia, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, and The Gambia).

Facilitators: The Regional Coordinator of BA in ACERAC region, Fr. Philippe GREBALET, representing the Director of BICAM, the Regional Coordinator of BA in AECAWA, Msgr Daniel KAMARA, and the Director of the National Pastoral Centre of Kenema, Fr. Augustine BEREWA.

3.1.3. Workshop in Tunisia

Venue: Sousse

Date: 5th – 12th July 2009

Attendance: The students were 134 with 13 nationalities (Benin, Burkina, Burundi, Cameroon, Congo Brazzaville, Côte d'Ivoire, Gabon, Ghana, Mali, Niger, Democratic Republic of Congo, and France). Twelve people were supervising the whole programme.

Facilitator: Fr. Yves-Lucien EVAGA, Provincial Coordinator, Yaoundé Province, Cameroon.

Method and strategy: The workshop was combined with yearly seminar of the Jeunesse Catholique Africaine de Tunisie (JCAT). The textbook was the *Initiation catéchétique à la Bible*, a product of BICAM, but in form of intensive course, since the textbook is meant for catechumens who have 1 academic year devoted to lessons on the Bible.

To test if the intensive form will work, I asked Fr. Paul NAZOTIN, Coordinator of Burkina, and one of the facilitators, to hold a test-workshop in his country, which he did (cf. 3.1.7.).

3.1.4. “Bible Apostolate and Clergy”

Venue: Headquarters of Episcopal Conference, Central African Republic

Date: 22-24 June, 2009

Attendance: All the 9 members of the ECCAR and the Secretary

Facilitators: The Director of BICAM and Fr. Philippe GREBALET, Coordinator of CAR and ACERAC.

3.1.5. “Lectio Divina and Biblical Apostolate”

Venue: Ggaba, Uganda

Date: 14-24 May, 2009

Attendance: 60 Formators from the whole country including the Bishop in charge of Priestly Formation

Facilitators: The Director of BICAM and Fr. Titus AMIGU, Coordinator of Tanzania

3.1.6. Workshop for Bible Lecturers in IMBISA Region

Venue: Fartbeespoort, SA

Date: 20th to 24th April 2009

Theme: “Biblical Apostolate in Priestly Formation”

Attendance: Five people only (The Regional Coordinator, the Zimbabwe Coordinator, and one Lecturer from Pretoria and the 2 facilitators). It was a complete failure for administrative reasons and lack of communication.

Facilitators: Fr. Vincent KATO, Bible Lecturer, from Uganda and myself.

3.1.7. Test workshop in Koupela, Burkina

Venue: Foyer Saint Joseph, Koupela

Date: 26th – 29th March 2009

Attendance: The participants were 25, including two ladies who are readers in liturgy. The majority of the participants are secondary school boys and girls.

Facilitator: Fr. Paul NAZOTIN, National Coordinator for Burkina.

3.2. BIBLICAL APOSTOLATE COORDINATORS TRAINING COURSE

This is actually one of the on-going designed “BICAM Biblical Apostolate Programmes”. It is known as “*Know your Job*”.

3.2.1. In Togo, for CERAO

Venue: “Centre de Spiritualité Léon XIII (Soeurs Canossiennes) in Lomé, Togo.

Date 30th November - 5th December 2009

Attendance: 31, despite the absence of Bénin and with the presence of Diocesan Coordinators from Burkina and Togo.

Facilitators: Fr. Paul NAZOTIN, the National Coordinator for Burkina, Fr. Etienne AMOUZOU, the National Coordinator for Togo, and myself.

3.2.2. In Cameroon, for ACERAC

Venue: Centre Albert KRUMMENACKER, Edéa, Cameroon

Date: 15th - 20th November 2009.

Attendance: Finally there were 17 participants from Gabon, Congo, CAR, Equatorial Guinea, Chad and Cameroon.

Facilitators: Fr. Jean Pierre BINAM, National Coordinator for Cameroon, Fr. Yves-Lucien EVAGA, Provincial Coordinator for Yaoundé Ecclesiastic Province, and myself.

3.2.3. In Uganda, for AMECEA

Venue: Ulrika Guest House, off Entebbe-Kampala Road,

Date: 5thrd - 10th July 2009

Attendance: 22 people attended from all the countries of Eastern Africa except Kenya and Malawi.

Facilitators: We were two in numbers: Fr. Titus AMIGU, National Coordinator of Tanzania and myself.

4. ADMINISTRATIVE MEETINGS

4.1. SECAM Standing Committee Meetings

I attended the only meeting of the year in Bujumbura, 28th February to 4th March 2009. Nothing was discussed concerning Bible Apostolate in Africa.

4.2. SECAM PLENARY ASSEMBLY

The Plenary Assembly supposed to hold in September/October 2009 was postponed to 26th July - 2nd August 2010. My triennial report was ready and needs now to be updated for the Plenary in July 2010.

5. INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS

5.1. The roundtable on the crisis on top of the Catholic Biblical Federation

“As you are aware, a Round Table was finally held on 1 and 2 December 2009 in response to the request of the Coordinators on behalf of the members of the Catholic Biblical Federation (CBF). The meeting was held at the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity and was convened by the President of the CBF, Bishop Vincenzo Paglia. His Eminence Cardinal Walter Kasper took part in the session held on the second day” (Letter to the CBF members, Rome, 7 December 2009).

I couldn't attend the meeting because it coincided with the course in Lome (See above). We have to be grateful to God for the achievements of the meeting in Rome contained in the letter aforementioned.

6. SOME NEWS AND CONCERNS

6.1. Biblical Apostolate Teams

I am grateful to you for the efforts in putting in place a BA Team at the national level. Thanks to the Bishops and Episcopal Conferences who helped you to achieve that.

6.2. Life at BICAM Office

SECAM Secretariat

We are trying our best. The former Director, Fr. Henry Akaabiam who was serving as 1st Deputy Secretary General of SECAM and Secretary of SECAM Department for Evangelization under which BICAM operates, terminated his service at SECAM Secretariat in November 2009, on request of his Bishop.

He was given a token on your behalf to buy a souvenir as a sign of gratitude for his contribution to Bible Apostolate in Africa. While he was leaving he promised to continue to collaborate with us in any manner.

New computers

With the understanding and help of our donors, BICAM was able to purchase two PC desktops and one HP Color Laser Jet Printer. Join us in expressing our appreciation to our common donors.

6.3. Our collaboration

I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to those of you who are keeping in touch with us on a regular basis. As coordinators, you understand very well that there is no coordination without information, without sharing, without consultation, etc. May the "pastoral organic solidarity" be lived out every day and by each of us.

6.4. Follow up of our activities

One of the characteristics of coordination is to make things done. It means that you have a key role to play if we want our actions at the continental level to really bear fruit. I particularly wonder if there is a follow up of our actions and activities on your side. Some are concerned about it and I like every body to be concerned too. For instance: what do we do with the beautiful Final Statements of our workshops either at the continental, regional or national level? Who follows the implementation of our planning?

I think that we need to ask ourselves these questions and find solutions "in order to make sure that (we) were not running, or had not run, in vain" (Ga 2,2).

7. PERSONAL ASSESSMENT

It is actually difficult to assess one's work. The only thing I have to say is to voice the reactions of some beneficiaries of our activities. I am personally impressed by the enthusiasm of those who attended the training course. The Coordinator of Mali, Fr. Cyriaque Diarra, for instance, has this to say:

Dear Friends of BICAM,

The two national coordinators of Bible Apostolate in Mali, Frs. Gaston COULIBALY and Cyriaque DIARRA met for a nice training workshop for coordinators of which they participated from November 30 to December 5 at Lome.

They wish to express their heartfelt gratitude to the main organiser of the training, Fr. Moïse ADEKAMBI and his team of BICAM as well as the National Bureau of Biblical Apostolate in Togo for their warm reception of the participants to this training.

Our participation to this training of information and formation is destined to equip the coordinators the pedagogical and technical means, Biblical Apostolate programmes to the full realization of their work of coordination and animation of Biblical Apostolate at the National, Diocesan, Parish levels

and Christian Communities will enable us to accomplish with the most conviction and love and technically our mission to the service of the Word, Life for us all. (Translated from French)

Concerning the BICAM Newsletter, a Bible Lecturer in Uganda wrote:

“We are grateful for the way you keep us informed and formed about BICAM and the biblical apostolate” .

We received also an email from Fr. Guy Theunis, M. Afr., one of our faithful collaborators, with the following encouraging phrase: *“And congratulation for the work done!”*

I am convinced; we can do better with your advice, observations and active collaboration.

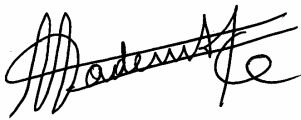
8. APPRECIATION

This report does not cover what you are doing in your countries and regions. But I am aware that you are doing a lot and would like to commend you for that. I know that majority of you are not full time coordinators and do not have always the supports you need. May God be your reward and the power of his Word continues to strengthen you.

On your behalf I thank our financial partners who enable us to achieve our goals. Let us pray together for those unknown people whose contributions reach us through our partners.

Finally, since we are starting our spiritual journey toward Easter, may we discover that “One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God” (Mt 4:4).

Accra, 17th February 2010
Ash Wednesday



Fr. Moïse Adeniran ADEKAMBI
Director, BICAM-CEBAM