

# **SUBCONTINENTAL GUIDELINES FOR EVANGELIZATION APDESAM 2013 First draft**

## **R.L. 5:**

*“God’s call to missionary service became reality for Comboni in his choice of the peoples of Africa who at that point in history appeared to him to be “the poorest and most abandoned of the universe”, especially concerning the faith.”*

*5.1 This unbreakable link with Africa is part of Comboni’s personal charism, being tied to that particular moment in history. From its very foundation the Society was called to work for the evangelization of Africa. Therefore, as long as there exists in Africa the need for evangelization, the Society will continue in its commitment to that continent.*

## **1. The Context of the sub-Continent**

- 1.1 The ten circumscriptions that belong to the Assembly of Provincial/Delegates of English Speaking Africa and Mozambique (APDESAM) are at the service of evangelization in this part of the Continent. . Each Circumscription has a variety of socio-political, economic, cultural and religious situation that justify our presence in different ministries.
- 1.2 Africa in general and the region of the former Vicariate of Comboni in particular, stands in the Institute of the Comboni Missionaries as a hallmark of its history. The rich legacy of over 150 years of evangelization has experienced important transformation according to the historical moments of the region and its peoples.
- 1.3 The socio-political, religious and economic context of each circumscription is so diverse that it is difficult to propose a homogeneous line of action in the field of evangelisation.

## **2. Aim of the Guidelines**

These guidelines aim at creating a basic structure that may help to fulfill the commitment of the different provinces and delegations of the sub-Continent **“to share ideas, programs and personnel”**<sup>1</sup> in the field of evangelization in order to **“help identify concrete forms of collaboration”**<sup>2</sup>.

---

<sup>1</sup> *“Planning Guidelines of the sub-Continent of the Circumscriptions of the English speaking Africa and Mozambique (APDESAM)”*  
no. 5.

<sup>2</sup> *ibid. no. 5*

### 3. Different Fields of Action<sup>3</sup>

- 3.1 First Evangelization, with a special attention to inculturation and interreligious dialogue; in particular:
  - 3.1.1 Evangelization in an Islamic context;
  - 3.1.2 Evangelization in a Pastoralist context through the reflection group already working in some circumscriptions;
  - 3.1.3 Evangelization in Urban and “slum” context;
- 3.2 Evangelization in the perspective of Human Promotion, Reconciliation, Justice and Peace and integrity of Creation;
- 3.3 Formation of local leaders and empowerment of people.

### 4. Role of the sub-Continental Coordinator and Local Secretariats of Evangelization

- 4.1 Each circumscription counts on the help of the General Secretariat of Evangelization to assist the Provincial/Delegation Council with their reflection, proposals and actions. Therefore, it is the duty of the APDESAM to provide the local Secretariats with a forum for sharing ideas and experiences, through the APDESAM responsible of each sector.<sup>4</sup>
- 4.2 In the field of evangelization Sub-Continental Coordinator will concretely animate the local Secretariats:
  - 4.2.1 To make operative the Provincial Reflection Group (it can be the Secretariat itself) on Mission;
  - 4.2.2 To study new trends in Mission;
  - 4.2.3 To keep alive the reflection on Mission in the different pastoral zones;
  - 4.2.4 To foster the organization of workshops on Mission and Interreligious Dialogue.
  - 4.2.5 To help draft, together with the GSE, the Provincial Directory of Evangelisation in line with the Ratio Missionis.
  - 4.2.6 The website of the GSE <http://segretariato-evangelizzazione-mccj.over-blog.com/> is a means to share ideas, programs and proposals.
- 4.3 It is also the duty of the provincial/delegate responsible of evangelization to communicate regularly with the SGE and to encourage the different local secretaries to keep these links active with frequent flow of information.
- 4.4 The provincial responsible of the sector will organize “periodical meetings” in coordination with the provincials/delegates of the APDESAM and the SGE.<sup>5</sup>

---

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.* no. 5.1

<sup>4</sup> C.A. 03. 140.1

<sup>5</sup> Op. Cit. no. 4.4: “Each sector will hold periodical meetings. These meetings will be programmed during the annual assembly of the Superiors of Circumscriptions. They will be convoked by the Superior responsible for each sector always in agreement with the sub-continental coordinator and the Secretary General of the correspondent sector. The meetings are usually held every three years alternating the meeting of the Council (namely the meeting with the Secretary/Coordinator from each Circumscription) and the Assembly (which includes all the members of the secretariats/commissions of each Circumscription). Other meetings or monographic courses inside each sector (Justice and Peace, Islam, pastoralists, urban ministry...) and their frequency are also programmed in the annual encounter of the sub-Continent.”

## **5. Structures present in the sub-Continent**

- 5.1 “Missionary Reflections”: the APDESAM is responsible for coordinating the regular publication of this “paper.” The APDESAM Assembly of Evangelization will propose the “editor” of “Missionary Reflections” to the meeting of provincials/delegates for approval; The editor in collaboration with the APDESAM Provincial Responsible for evangelization will ask the different circumscriptions for contribution providing topics of reflection. The provincial responsible for evangelization will give the last approval to the published text.
- 5.2 The APDESAM provincials/delegates will share materials produced in the fields of Islam (Dar Comboni and Reflection Group), JPIC, Social Ministry, and the various reflection groups on Pastoralists, being these fields part of evangelisation.
- 5.3 Comboni Missionary Magazines: New People (and NPMC), Worldwide, Leadership and Vida Nova, (although not a Comboni Missionary magazine) are invited to improve collaboration with each other.

## **6. Decision Making Body<sup>6</sup>**

It will be the task of the Superiors of Circumscriptions to define how collaboration should be defined and developed during their annual meeting.

Likewise, the date, venue and character (council or assembly) of the sub-continental meetings will be decided by the Assembly of provincials/delegates.

Prepared by Fr. Julio Ocaña Iglesias  
APDESAM Responsible for Evangelization  
Provincial Superior  
Ethiopia

*Addis Abeba, May 29, 2013*

---

<sup>6</sup> Ibid. no. 5