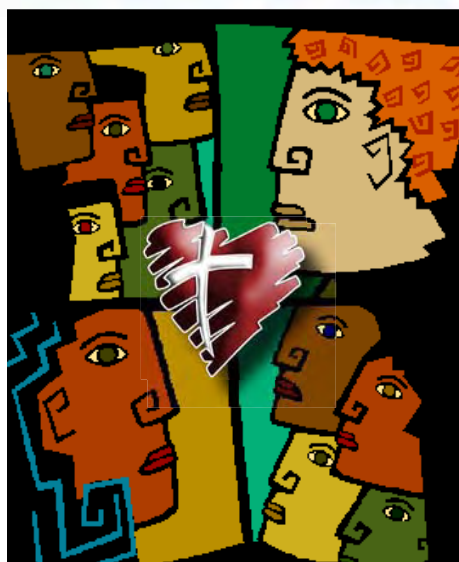


"Towards a creative, constructive and open communicative style"

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Dear brothers,

The theme of our next General Chapter: "The love of Christ impels us (2 Cor 5:14): Rooted in the Word, Committed in His Mission", invites us to a spiritual renovation. While moving towards a spiritual revitalization, I think it is necessary to reflect also upon our communication style as a Characteristic dimension of our Congregation.

Perhaps Pope Francis' message for the World Social Communications Day of this year 2017 helps us as a principal guide to a more creative, constructive and open communication. The pontiff encourages us to exercise a kind of communication that is Good News, together with confidence in the seeds of God's Kingdom and the horizons of the Spirit. (Pope's Message)



MODESTE MUNIMI, SVD
*GENERAL COMMUNICATIONS
COORDINATOR*

Our vocation and mission as Divine Word Missionaries, is Good News for many people. In the moment in which we are overwhelmed with information, the development of digital media, etc. we must find the means to use this informative space to assure that the Gospel and missionary zeal reach the hearts of all people. For that, we need to rethink our communicative style, making it open, constructive and creative. That is, make

sure that our missionary practices sound and resound; respond to the problems, questions and worries of the 21st century man, and, also question him. For that, we must value the human resources in our provinces, regions and missions through certain key aspects such as the formation, the reorganization of our communication centres, the participation of all, team work and sharing of information and news.

With these thoughts, I leave you to enjoy reading this second edition of our communication bulletin in which we will find certain good communication practices in the AFRAM zone, the team work of the Grupo Editorial Verbo Divino, news on the Mobile applications of the congregation and many more.

I wish you Happy Easter!



BEST COMMUNICATION PRACTICES IN THE CONGREGATION

AFRAM ZONE

CATHOLIC RADIO AND TELEVISION BIBLICAL TRANSMISSIONS IN KINSHASA, DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO



NICOLAS MAKOLO, SVD

Being preoccupied with the mission of proclaiming of the Good News in Kinshasa, the Divine Word Missionaries (SVD), have been committed in the last 21 years to the production of media transmissions called “Biblical emissions VERBUM BIBLE” on Catholic Television and Radio in Kinshasa. Bearing in mind the importance of the means of social communication in the new evangelization, the biblical emissions have the objective of providing Christians: Catholics and non-Catholics with the necessary tools for reading and interpreting the Bible.

Kinshasa is the Capital of the Democratic Republic of Congo and has a population of about 8 million of whom 90% are Christians. Catholics represent 50% of the populace of Kinshasa. Since 1990, with the coming of “democracy”, and the influx of the means of social communication, the so-called evangelical churches and sects have multiplied in the capital. There are thousands of such churches and sects in Kinshasa and some of them even have their own Television channels and Ra-



dios, from which they propagate their teachings. In most cases, they are people without any biblical formation. For us, as the Catholic Church, or better put, as Divine Word Missionaries, this is a great challenge. Our “Verbum Bible Emissions” is a response to this challenge, as we are preoccupied with the formation of our Christians in the Word of God and helping them at the same time, to pray from and with the Bible.

The “Verbum Bible Emissions” have produced a total of ten programs and have been transmitted on Catholic Radio and Televisions in Kinshasa as well as other TV Channels and radios, in the Capital and the rest of the country. The emissions are in >>>

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LAY-OUT: MARK ANGELO M. RAMOS (ESP)



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in French and Lingala (one of the languages spoken in the whole country). There are certain emissions that are translated into Kikongo (another local language), for the SVD confreres working in areas where Kikongo is spoken, especially in the province of Bandundu. To mention a few of these programs, we have Beliefs of Today (Bondimi bwa lelo); The Bible, a Page, a Word (Biblia, Liloba mpe Ndimbola); Bible Sharing (Botangi biblia na lisanga); Bible Reading on Radio (Botangi bwa mikanda misantu).



EUROPE ZONE

GRUPO EDITORIAL VERBO DIVINO, GEVD. A MISSION IN MOTION



ELÍAS PÉREZ ESTEBAN
EDITORIAL VERBO DIVINO-ESP

G EVD was born in the late nineties; an organization that has played an extraordinary role in the animation of the pastoral, diffusion and formation of the biblical apostolate. Paraphrasing our former Superior General, Fr. Antonio Pernia, it can be affirmed that this effort not only helps to propagate the missionary cause: it is in itself, mission.

Concretely, on the 25th of January, 1999, with the consent of the Generalate, nine representatives of different Divine Word entities met in Cochabamba, and thus was founded the Gevd on the 29th of January, coinciding with the feast of St

Joseph Freinademetz. We can highlight the great reception that this initiative received from the SVD with the words of the then Fr General, H. Barlage: “from what is visible in the reports, we see that a lot of good work is being done and that gladdens us, especially that fact that it is the Bible that is principally being taken to the people...”

If we look back, we could see the trails and prints left by those who have marked the history of the group: people filled with vitality who have, in communion and dialogue, set in motion various ideas, accomplished objectives, experienced events and other realities that have transcended and gifted the Gevd its own identity; with its own style, supporting, informing and identifying its purpose at the service of the Biblical Apostolate.>>>



BEST COMMUNICATION PRACTICES IN THE CONGREGATION



Today, Gevd is present through different platforms, in Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Spain, United States, Mexico, Paraguay... . Recently Verbum Bible from D.R. of Congo has joined the fold, extending its editorial work and diffusions to different parts of Africa.

To communicate, edit and spread the Word of God through the creation and distribution of books, publications and other aids, especially in the Biblical domain, is our principal mission. It is our contribution to the work of evangelization in today's world and an expression of our commitment to the Church. Through Gevd and moved by the person of Jesus and our Divine Word charism, we respond to the call to evangelize.

One of the challenges we face, is working together to strengthen the spirit of solidarity and the search for means of collaboration among our publishing houses, libraries, biblical centres and other SVD institutions. Another challenge is to maximise the collaborative dimension of our service with the other entities with the objective of bringing the prophetic message of hope to the men and women of our world. With that, at the same time, we hope to be a concrete response to what the Santo Domingo document underlined:

“...that the catholic publishers act in a coordinated manner within the pastoral system” (SD 286). In this light, mention must be made also of the great effort of distribution and diffusion that the Gevd has been realizing for Hispanic publishers; that being a motive for the huge recognition received by the Gevd from the publishing sector.

In the last years, we have strengthened the three great columns that sustain the work of Gevd: Biblical Pastoral animation, Biblical formation and Biblical diffusions, making sure they always go hand-in-hand. At the same time, another great challenge is how to coordinate this work at the ad-intra level in the SVD with the work being done in the individual provinces and biblical centres, and on the ad-extra level as Pope Francis puts it: “going out into the peripheries”, collaborating in the life and mission of the Church and sharing the new realities of the modern society in which we have to be witnesses of hope with the Gospel as our message.

From the Generalate, Gevd has always received support and in this sense, we need to value especially the message of Fr. Arlindo Días Pereira, General councillor, when in one of the last annual meetings, he led us in the reflection >>>



BEST COMMUNICATION PRACTICES IN THE CONGREGATION

we need to ask ourselves more questions than search for answers: “why are we here, what is the purpose of our presence, why do we do what we do, what must we do differently, what do people seek for today? Surely we need to continue questioning ourselves on our mission and on how our contribution to this present world must be; for it is not only a question of editing, distributing and diffusing, but also we must be faithful to the Gospel and the message of Jesus, being convinced that He is the Word that remains and transforms hearts.



PANAM ZONE



WORDNET--THE APPS AND THE FUTURE!

STEPHEN PARDY, SVD
*WORDNET PRODUCTION,
USA COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR*

In February 2010 Father Mike Manning led the staff in creating a short daily reflection/meditation App on the liturgy of the day for iPhone and Android. It was named: “iGOD TODAY. Original presenters consisted of the staff of Wordnet Productions. Since that time the total hits from the US and around the world have risen to about 14,000 a month. Currently the grand total is close to a million.

In October 2016 the studio expanded its outreach with a Spanish App: “DIOS HABLA.” The kick-off episode was presented by our local Bishop Gerald R Barnes, from the US together with presenters from not only the US but Panama and

Colombia as well. (These latter two Provinces had accepted the open invitation to the SVD Communicators gathered in Quito for the PAN-AM ZONAL meeting in Feb 2016.) Since inception this Spanish app has attracted over 11,000 hits.

The English presenters number 14 and the Hispanic 12. Each presenter voluntarily writes and delivers his or her own reflection. The two Apps can be accessed from the App Store and Play store respectively, as well as from Wordnet’s website: www.wordnet.tv. Starting March >>>

BEST COMMUNICATION PRACTICES IN THE CONGREGATION

1, 2017, and made possible by generous grants, these morning meditations air in High Definition aligning them with today's technology.

These initiatives are part of the legacy of Father Michael Manning, SVD, who led the way in many promising and potential uses of the media. His many interviews were successfully carried for years by TBN (Trinity Broadcasting) but now, on the passing of TBN's founder and its change of leadership and vision, this partnership has come to an end. However this can be seen as fortuitous in so far as it has forced all of us to take a new look at the industry, assess our role in it and move forward in new directions. Wordnet has already been making productive use of Facebook and YouTube in sharing the weekly shows as well as the daily English and Spanish meditations.

Moving forward, Father Mike and his staff decided to: "Launch out in to the deep" (Lk 5:4) and made plans for creating a new use of the internet with a web streaming channel of our own creation. This new channel will enable Wordnet to air programs produced by SVD communication centers around the world as well as those of other Religious Orders. The idea is to enlist additional hosts for interviewing and produce shows on topics presented by professionals in their respective fields; e.g., bible, marriage counseling, youth, etc.

Father Manning was eager to promote this. One of his concerns was that people conflated he himself with Wordnet Productions. The studio, he pointed out, was bigger than himself alone and should be seen as such. The studio should be producing programs that include other people with their own speciality. For various reasons Wordnet was not able to do that due to contractual obligations but now, with the possibilities available to us in the media today, the studio has the opportunity of sharing the Word of God in unique and powerful ways. That being the case, steps are being taken to begin preparing new programs in April and launching its efforts in June of this year.

Wordnet has been blessed with the presentations made in this country and province as well as those of other provinces in South America. The invitation is extended to others as well. "Come over and help us" (Acts 16:9) in this relatively cost effective ministry to "Go into all the world to preach the Gospel to all creation." (Mk 16:15) >>>

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One way or the other, Father Mike continues to lead us in carrying on this ministry. Across the hall from this office hangs a framed letter to Father Mike from Bishop Fulton Sheen in August 1978. In closing, the Bishop wished him "...every success. If you bring Christ and Him Crucified to the public you will be blessed!" And so it was. Father Manning's outreach was to hundreds of thousands at least and to all corners of the world. Father did his job in carrying us this far. Now it is up to us to continue that which was so successfully started!



RELIGIONS AND THE **digital world** OF ASIA: SOME CONSIDERATIONS

FRANZ-JOSEF EILLERS, SVD

Cultures live from and with Communication: They share communicative forms and contents, experiences and expectations of groups of people reflecting their physical and spiritual environments. The same must be said about Religions which are essential part especially of Asian Cultures: they share convictions, experiences and insights based on revelations, life experiences and especially the desire to make sense of

life experiences. This is not done only in teachings and revelations (e.g. Bible, Qumran) but also through communicative forms like ceremonies, Rituals and similar actions like pilgrimages but also through religious images and symbols which have taken different artistic forms. They are also reflected in architecture but in the use of time, artistic figures as well as the placement of visible forms and spaces....



Into these 'traditional' ways and forms of communicating comes now a 'digital World' with new ways of communicating (cf. John Paul II Redemptoris Missio 1990, 37c) not only changing or at least complementing technical devices but bringing completely new ways of personal relationships beyond any boundaries of time and place...

Here the challenge arises how to see, study and use these new ways of communication in view of Religion: What are the new possibilities, experiences and needs available and how do the established Religions of Asia "re-act" to this? This poses questions and considerations on some of the following 'topics':

-Are the 'traditional' Religions just 'using' in a 'digital World' the 'new' means like in the past they adapted the communicative expressions>>>

ARTICLES

of existing cultures, like in the past the ways of writing or is there now a new dimension and challenge in using and integrating new digital means and ways and if so with respective technical/spiritual consequences?

-Are there 'new' religious and theological insights and experiences to be expected, studied and analyzed? Do new digital ways of communication influence contents of 'messages' and concerns? What are the consequences for 'teaching' and living Religion?

-Are digital ways of communicating and teaching influencing or possibly change or also widen religious messages and practices?

-What are the moral dimensions of digital religious communication? How do they possibly change, heighten or even hinder proper religious communication, relationships, attitudes...?

-How can or are respective religious cultures and environments expressed and reflected in digital communication and are they different from traditional views? New insights, changed or 'adjusted' expressions and relationships?

-Are there new digital expressions and possibilities for sharing religion and religious experiences beyond the 'traditional' ones? If yes: which ones and how do they look like? What are their strengths or weaknesses but also special possibilities ('abilities') beyond 'traditional' ways? Possible shortcomings or special strengths?

-Are artistic presentations in pieces of Religions, like religious illustrations in general or images or expressions of deities, saints etc. influenced or possibly changed through digital techniques and presentations?

-Is digital communication related in special ways to age, expectations and needs or ways of living with people? If yes: how can this be integrated in traditional cultural forms and ways of life?

-Are there special challenges or possibilities for interreligious exchange, dialogue and cooperation? New perspectives on Religion in societies, new ways for mutual understanding and



possible cooperation and common concerns? Ways of life...in and for a digital environment?

-Does analog communication still play a role and if yes in what way and where? (Cf. David Sax: The Revenge of Analog. New York (Public Affairs) 2016!)

-Are Religions from their essence not both analog and digital? Is God 'online' or 'offline' or both like actually also all human life? What is more 'real' : digital or analog? Are their areas which from the 'essence' are offline analog like for Christianity the sacraments which are from their 'essence' offline: Is God real (analog) or digital or both? If both: when, where, how...?

-What is the difference between "digital" religious services and their analog expressions?
>>>

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Can both be combined? When and how? Strengths and weaknesses?

-What does all this mean for “digital natives” growing up in a digital world today? Is there a ‘generation gap’ between young and old and what is the role of Religion in all this?

-What does a ‘digital shift’ in Asian Religions mean for their practice and developments in general but also their expressions of ‘ways of life’? Are there also special ‘digital expressions and challenges which have to be taken up? Does ‘digital’ Religion change the life of people and their religious practices? If yes: How, why?

are digital, be careful” about the ‘digital Situation’ after some ‘revelations’ in actual political developments in the US (Trump-Russia) as “tipping points” for in a description which might have a challenging message for Religions when he writes: “... It was the moment when we realized that a critical mass of our lives and work had shifted away from the terrestrial world to a realm known as ‘Cyberspace’. That is to say, a critical mass of our interactions had moved to a realm where we’re all connected but no one is in charge. After all, there are no stoplights in cyberspace, no police officers walking the beat, no courts, no judges, no God who smites evil and rewards good, and certainly not “1-800-call-if-Putin hacks-your Election”. If someone slimes you on Twitter, well unless it is a life threat, good luck getting it removed, especially if it is done anonymously, which in cyberspace is quite common.

- And yet this realm is where we now spend increasing hours of our day. Cyberspace is now where we do more shopping, more of our dating, more of our friendship making and sustaining, more of our learning, more of our commerce, more of our teaching, more of our communicating, more of our news broadcasting and news seeking and more of our selling of goods, services and ideas. It’s where both our president elect and the leader of ISIS can communicate with equal ease with tens of millions of their respective followers through Twitter - without editors, fact checkers, libel lawyers or other filters....” >>>

-Is there a ‘digital’ mission for Religions and how does it look like?

-Is there a special digital “ministry” for religious leaders, like “Cyber-missionaries”? How does it work and look like?

-And to conclude with a recent – challenging - example: In an opinion editorial of the “New York Times”, International Edition from January 12, 2017 Thomas L. Friedman writes on “Our lives



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-(The reason of this ‘tipping point’ development is) ”because so many companies, governments, universities, political parties and individuals have concentrated a critical mass of their data in enterprise data centers and cloud computing environments... it is a huge legal, moral and strategic problem and it will require “a new social compact” to defuse. Work on that compact has to start with every school teaching children: digital civics. And that begins with teaching them that the internet is an open sewer of untreated, unfiltered information, where they need to bring skepticism and critical thinking to everything they read and basic civil decency to everything they write.” Thus far the editorial from the New York Times.

-Are there for Asian Religions from all this consequences and how do they look like? And this way not only in the way of ‘teaching’ but also in dealing with each other? Can we in such a situation develop positive possibilities for worship and life?

PHOTO MISSION WORLD

Already a year has passed since the project called “Photo Mission World” has been launched. The idea behind this was to have a photobank with mission pictures which can be used easily for our mission animation and various publications. At the moment there are almost 2500 photographs which can be find on website: svdphotos.org/

All the pictures are divide according to the continents and then they belong to various categories. The navigation is quite easy and simple. You can search for certain pictures by a keyword as well. Every photograph has its unique number, for example “AF 457”. Each picture can be downloaded in full resolution directly from the website.



ANDRZEJ DANILEWICZ, SVD
*AREA COORDINATOR FOR
MISSION SECRETARIES*

To do so, press the download icon located under the particular picture at its right side. All images are provided with the necessary information on the author, location and subject. Information about terms of use and copyrights is placed on the home page.

This project will fulfill its role only when the image database will be continuously expanded. That is why I respectfully ask for your cooperation and sending me mission pictures of good quality and proper resolution (more than 2 MB). They should be accompanied by a short >>>

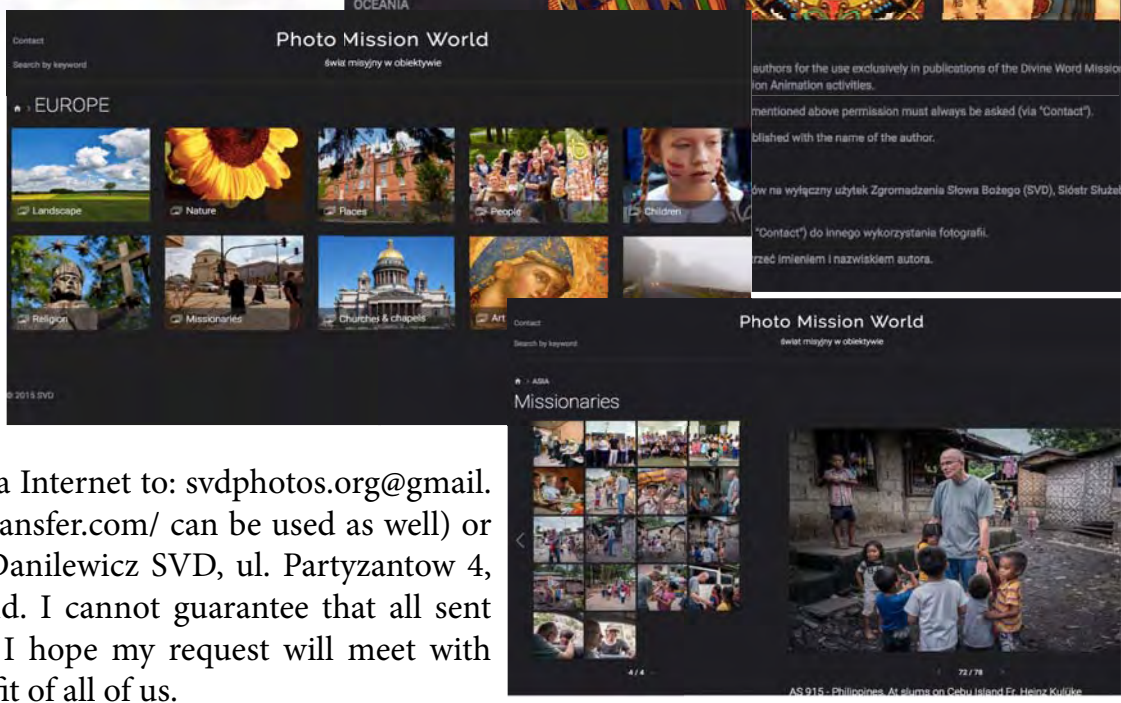


NEWS



as it is visible with those already published. By sending photographs I would understand that the authors express their agreement to the use of their work. Before publishing every image goes through a special graphic program and no one can publish them on the site yourself.

The pictures can be send via Internet to: svdphotos.org@gmail.com (the service www.wetransfer.com/ can be used as well) or on CD/DVD to: Andrzej Danilewicz SVD, ul. Partyzantow 4, 05-816 Michalowice, Poland. I cannot guarantee that all sent pictures will be displayed. I hope my request will meet with good response for the benefit of all of us.



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NEW MOBILE APP

New Mobile App SVD Mission is the new SVD mobile Application, where you can find news and best practices of the SVD mission in the world, both in English and Spanish. It is available in App Store and Google play.

SVD Mission

By Thomas Augusti

Open iTunes to buy and download apps.



View in iTunes

This app is designed for both iPhone and iPad

Free
Category: News
Released: Apr 07, 2017
Version: 1.0
Size: 19.9 MB
Language: English
Seller: Thomas Augusti
© Society of the Divine Word
Rated 4+

Compatibility: Requires iOS 8.0 or later. Compatible with iPhone, iPad, and iPod touch.

Customer Ratings

We have not received enough ratings to display an average for the current version of this application.

View More by This Developer

Description

Society of the Divine Word (SVD), We bring the Word of God to the most underserved and remote areas of the world, working first where the Gospel has yet to be preached and where local Churches are struggling to survive. We share Christ through service, teaching and caring for the sick and the poor. We do this through ministries that build and staff schools, hospitals, orphanages and hospice.

[SVD Mission Support](#)

Screenshots

