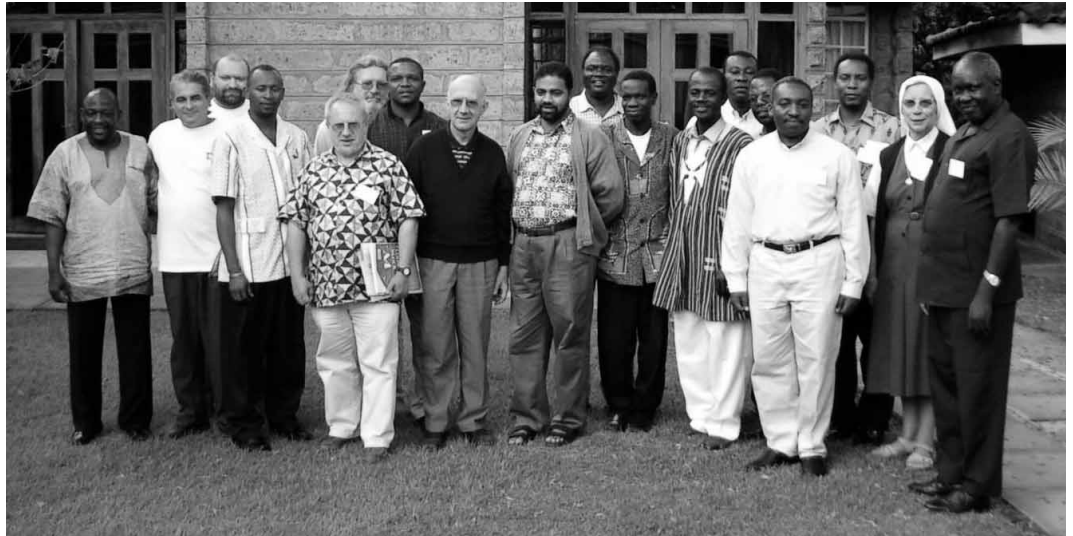




## Kenya: BICAM Meeting of Coordinators and Animators of Biblical Apostolate in Nairobi

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From November 16 to 22, 2003, 25 biblical apostolate coordinators representing 13 African countries, met at Mary Ward Centre, Nairobi, Kenya. The theme of the meeting was "The promotion of God's Word in Africa and Madagascar". This is a familiar theme but the framework of the discussion throughout the period of the meeting was planned in such a way that it revolved around a well-known passage of Saint Paul on unity and diversity in the body of Christ (1 Cor 12:12-27). Conversely, the Pauline passage remained the guideline and the reference point of all the activities of the meeting, spiritual and liturgical exercises, talks and discussions, sharing of experience, and planning for the future.



In his keynote address, Fr. Terwase Henry Akaabiam, Director of BICAM, urged the participants to discuss the promotion of God's Word and Love in Africa and Madagascar with Paul's analogy of the body and its constituent parts in 1 Cor 12:12-27 in view. He called the attention of the participants to the challenges of the text and of biblical apostolate today, while stressing the need for team spirit, interdependence, mutual respect etc. among all the coordinators of biblical pastoral ministry on the continent and the Islands.

The working session began on Monday, November 17, with the reports of biblical apostolate activities in the various regions, countries and institutes. On the three following days the speakers delivered their talks which generated many discussions among the participants both in plenary and in small groups. Fr. Moïse Adeniran Adekambi, Deputy Director of BICAM, gave the first talk on "Relaunching BICAM", Alexander M. Schweitzer, General Secretary of the CBF, disclosed to the participants the activities and structures of the Federation, with special regards and suggestions concerning Africa and, finally, Dr. Jean-Claude Loba of the United Bible Societies (UBS) presented a paper on the organization and activities of UBS. He ended the presentation with the question in which areas the participants could imagine to collaborate with the UBS.

There were two major sessions for group discussions, with two sets of questions to guide them. The first one referred to the keynote address and to relaunching BICAM, the second one to the role of CBF with regard to the African continent. Some of the questions during these sessions dealt with the collaboration among biblical apostolate coordinators and animators in general, the collaboration in training programmes, translations, production and in the distribution of the Bible and the question whether BICAM should be a mediator between biblical apostolate coordinators on the African continent and the Islands and CBF and the funding agencies.

