JAKARTA 2026 FINAL RESOLUTIONS

5th BIBLE AND COMMUNICATION ASSEMBLY, ASCLA EAST AND WEST - 2026

Introduction:

The Bible and Communication Ministry of ASCLA East and West gathered at Rumah Retreat Canossa, the retreat house of the Canossian Sisters in Jakarta, Indonesia, from 9 to 13 November 2026. The main sessions took place from 9 to 12 November, followed by the formal closing on 13 November. The theme of the Assembly was "**Asian Claretians Harnessing Digital Culture for Bible Ministry and Proclamation."** Fr. Josekutty Mathew Cherukara, CMF, together with the ASCLA Bible and Communication team, coordinated the preparations under the guidance of Fr. Henry Babatunde Omonisaye, CMF, and the General Government. Fr. Valens Agino, CMF, of the host Province, played a key role in organizing the event. Twenty-one participants represented ten Organisms: (1) Ave Maria Province, (2) Bangalore Province, (3) Chennai Province, (4) East Asia Independent Delegation, (5) Independent Delegation of Kolkata, (6) Independent Delegation of South Korea, (7) Northeast India Province, (8) Fr. Rhoel Gallardo Province, (9) St. Joseph Vaz Independent Delegation, and (10) St. Thomas Province. With Fr. Henry Omonisaye, CMF, the total attendance was 22.

Proceedings:

The Assembly focused on the biblical animation of pastoral ministries in Asia, with particular attention to Asian approaches to biblical interpretation, the formation of missionaries and lay collaborators, the strengthening of structures for effective biblical ministry, and engagement with the digital world. Through presentations, sharing, and attentive listening, we gained a deeper understanding of the realities of Bible and Communication Ministry in Asia, illuminated by the contributions of the resource persons. Six insights emerged: (1) mission needs continuity, not merely more activities; (2) digital ministry must remain deeply human; (3) the formation of missionaries is a structural priority; (4) laypeople must be partners, not merely helpers; (5) missionary presence matters even when results are difficult to measure; and (6) the means of communication may change, but the Word of God remains the same.

The discernment phase was facilitated by Fr. Louie Guades III, CMF. Through a participatory group process, we examined five challenges:

Challenge 1: From Bible Distribution to Living Communities of the Word
Challenge 2: A Trustworthy and Human Digital Mission.
Challenge 3: Forming Missionaries and Lay Collaborators Together.
Challenge 4: Serving the Word Across Asian Religious and Cultural Frontiers.
Challenge 5: From Bandung Recommendations to Accountable Joint Action

Following this discernment and a vote, the Assembly selected nine priorities for the next three years. Three were adopted for common action at ASCLA level, while the other six are to be adapted and prioritized by each Organism according to its needs and capacity. At the formal closing session on 13 November, the Assembly approved its statement and resolutions.

Nine Strategic Priorities for Claretian Bible and Communication Ministry in Asia

A Vision for Biblical Empowerment, Formation and Evangelisation

These nine strategic priorities constitute the resolutions of the Fif[th] ASCLA Bible and Communication Assembly. We therefore commit ourselves to the following priorities:

I. The Three Major Priorities

1. A Bible in Every Catholic Family in Asia

Priority statement: *To promote access to the Bible among Catholic families in the areas served by our missions in Asia, especially those unable to afford one, and to encourage families to read, pray, and live the Word of God in their daily lives.*

Activities:

- Promote the initiative "A Bible in Every Catholic Family."
- Organize Bible distribution programs for families who cannot afford a Bible.
- Encourage each family to establish a Bible corner at home.
- Promote family Bible reading and prayer.
- Introduce a weekly family Lectio Divina program.
- Organize Bible awareness programs in parishes and Small Christian Communities.
- Provide Bible-reading guides in local languages.
- Celebrate Bible Sunday and Bible Week at parish and diocesan levels.
- Encourage parents to introduce the Bible to their children.

Expected outcome:

Catholic families in the areas served by participating Organisms increasingly have access to a Bible and make the Word of God part of their daily lives.

2. Word-Centered Claretian Communities: Making Lectio Divina a Way of Life

Priority statement: *To encourage every Claretian community to be continually animated by the Word of God, making Lectio Divina a regular practice for prayer, discernment, community life, and mission.*

Activities:

- Practice Lectio Divina regularly as a community.
- Organize monthly Bible-sharing sessions within communities.
- Develop resources and guidelines for community Lectio Divina.
- Prepare and share appropriate materials to support community Lectio Divina.

Expected outcome:
Every Claretian community grows as a Word-centered community, allowing the Gospel to guide its spirituality, relationships, and missionary activities.

3. Spreading the Word of God through Digital Applications (Apps)

Priority statement: *To make the Word of God more accessible, especially to young people, through innovative digital applications and communication platforms.*

Activities:

- Develop or promote a multilingual Bible application.
- Provide daily Gospel readings and reflections.
- Share short biblical videos, audio reflections, and podcasts.
- Offer daily Bible verses with explanations in local languages.
- Develop digital Lectio Divina guides.

Expected outcome:
The Word of God reaches more people through accessible, creative, and engaging digital platforms.

II. The Other Six Strategic Priorities

4. Biblical Animation of All Aspects of Claretian Life and Mission

Priority statement: *To ensure that all aspects of Claretian life, formation, spirituality, and missionary activity are inspired, guided, and animated by the Word of God.*

Activities:

- Integrate biblical reflection into all Claretian apostolates.
- Promote biblical animation in education, social ministry, youth ministry, and parish ministry.
- Encourage missionaries to prepare for pastoral activities through prayerful engagement with Scripture.
- Organize biblical retreats and recollection programs for various groups and communities.
- Encourage each Claretian ministry to develop an annual biblical action plan.

Expected outcome:
The Word of God becomes the foundation and inspiration of every Claretian activity and apostolate.

5. Biblical Animation of Youth as a Focal Point of Our Mission

Priority statement: *To make biblical formation and the animation of young people a central focus of our missionary commitment.*

Activities:

- Organize Bible camps, Bible festivals, and youth Bible conferences.
- Introduce creative Bible-sharing programs for young people.
- Promote Bible quizzes, biblical competitions, drama, and art.
- Develop youth-friendly biblical resources in local languages.
- Organize online Bible courses specifically for young people.
- Encourage young people to form Bible-sharing groups.
- Train young people to become Bible animators and faith leaders.
- Connect biblical values with contemporary issues such as ecology, justice, peace, and social responsibility.

Expected outcome:
Young people become rooted in the Word of God and actively participate in the mission of evangelization.

6. Empowering Claretians and Laypeople through Webinars and Shared Human Resources

Priority statement: *To share the available human resources and biblical expertise through webinars and online formation programs, strengthening the biblical and communication competencies of Claretians and empowering lay collaborators across ASCLA.*

Activities:

- Identify biblical scholars, theologians, communicators, and experienced missionaries within ASCLA.
- Prepare a regional directory of resource persons and their areas of expertise.
- Organize regular webinars on biblical themes, media-related topics, and contemporary Church issues.
- Facilitate the sharing of expertise among different Claretian Organisms.
- Record webinars and make them available for future reference.
- Offer certificates to participants who complete a series of formation programs.

Expected outcome: Existing expertise and human resources are effectively shared to strengthen biblical knowledge and missionary competence throughout ASCLA.

7. A Common Digital Platform for Formandi to Share Their Biblical Journals

Priority statement: *To establish a common digital platform where formandi can upload, share, and access their biblical journals, fostering mutual learning, reflection, and biblical enrichment.*

Activities:

- Create a common online platform for formandi across ASCLA.
- Encourage formandi to maintain personal biblical journals.
- Provide common guidelines or a format for biblical journal writing.
- Encourage the regular sharing of biblical reflections and insights.
- Encourage formators to accompany and guide the process of biblical reflection.
- Organize an annual online gathering to reflect on the progress of biblical journaling.

Expected outcome:
Formandi develop a deeper personal relationship with the Word of God through reflection, sharing, and mutual enrichment.

8. Making Biblical Resources Available in Different Languages for Academic and Pastoral Formation

Priority statement: *To make quality biblical resources in different languages accessible to formandi and laypeople, promoting biblical knowledge, academic study, and pastoral formation.*

Important aspects and activities:

- Create a common digital collection of biblical resources.
- Appoint a team to collect Bible commentaries, dictionaries, concordances, and scholarly publications.
- Make biblical resources available in English and other Asian languages.
- Encourage the translation of valuable biblical resources into local languages and identify persons responsible for coordinating this work.

Expected outcome:
Formandi, missionaries, and laypeople gain access to quality biblical resources for deeper study, research, and effective pastoral ministry.

9. Regular Meetings of ASCLA Bible and Communication Ministry Coordinators

Priority statement: *To strengthen regional collaboration, coordination, and shared responsibility through regular meetings of ASCLA Bible and Communication Ministry coordinators.*

Activities:

- Organize regular online meetings of coordinators, preferably once every three months.
- Review progress on the nine strategic priorities at each meeting.
- Identify common challenges and develop collaborative solutions.
- Prepare a common annual action plan.
- Establish working groups for specific areas of ministry, drawing on experts from outside the coordinating team when appropriate.
- Prepare an annual ASCLA report highlighting achievements, challenges, and future plans.
- Document the current situation for each priority to establish a baseline and measure progress over the three-year period.

Expected outcome: A well-connected and collaborative regional network of Bible and Communication Ministry coordinators working toward common goals.

The ASCLA Bible Team:

Each Organism should designate a coordinator to facilitate implementation of the Assembly's action plan. The ASCLA Bible and Communication Coordinating Team was elected from among these coordinators.

The Coordinating Team comprises the following members:

1. Fr. Louie Guades III, CMF (Fr. Rhoel Gallardo Province) – Coordinator
2. Fr. Josekutty Mathew Cherukara, CMF (East Asia Independent Delegation)
3. Fr. Joseph Johnson Thurackal, CMF (Northeast India Province)
4. Fr. Benny Mathew, CMF (Bangalore Province)
5. Fr. Ronald Sujeevan, CMF (St. Joseph Vaz Independent Delegation)

The following are the designated persons responsible in each Organism:

1. Fr. Yeremias Nadin, CMF (Ave Maria Province)
2. Fr. Suraj Tete, CMF (Kolkata Independent Delegation)
3. Fr. Rajesh Augustine, CMF (Korea Independent Delegation)
4. Fr. Martin Varghese Vithayathil, CMF (St. Thomas Province)
5. Fr. Michael Francis, CMF (Chennai Province) *(not present*)

The participants express their profound gratitude to the General Government, particularly to Fr. Henry Babatunde Omonisaye, CMF, General Prefect of Bible and Communication, whose sustained accompaniment, encouragement, and guidance have been instrumental in the development, achievements, growth, and coordination of the Bible and Communication Ministry in Asia. In gratitude for this accompaniment and in the spirit of our shared Claretian mission, the ASCLA West and ASCLA East Conferences reaffirm their willingness and readiness to share with the entire Congregation their biblical and communication resources, expertise, experiences, and the new initiatives and projects emerging from Jakarta 2026, so that these may contribute to the strengthening of our common missionary service to the Word of God.

Let us commit ourselves to the priorities of the ASCLA Bible and Communication Assembly 2026, which will guide our common mission over the next three years.

Let our light shine!

SGD.

Fr. Henry Babatunde Omonisaye, CMF
Vicar General and General Prefect of Bible and Communication

Fr. Ronald Sujeevan, CMF
Secretary