



S.M.A.-Training Centre, Holland

Press Release

Amsterdam / Cadier en Keer, 22 January 2010

Dutch SMA-province celebrates 25th anniversary of its Lay missionaries

Mission is sending and receiving

The Society of African Missions (SMA) in the Netherlands will celebrate on 6 February 2010 the 25th anniversary of its Training Centre for lay missionaries. In the Netherlands the SMA is one of the few religious institutes that still sends new missionaries to Africa. The 25th anniversary of the Training Centre will be celebrated with a symposium "Mission is sending and receiving". Its keynote speaker will be Professor Peter Kanyandago from Uganda.

In the late 19th century the SMA was one of many religious groups that settled in the Netherlands. During the 20th century, the Society sent hundreds of brothers and priests as missionaries to Africa. In 1985 the Dutch SMA started a Training Centre for lay missionaries. While the number of brothers and fathers declined, there has during the past 25 years a fairly constant influx of these lay missionaries. Right up to today, each year new people are sent to Africa for a few years.

Anniversary Symposium

The 25th anniversary of the SMA Training Centre will be celebrated on 6 February with a symposium in Amsterdam. Its theme is "*Mission is sending and receiving*".

Mission refers to three parties: the **sending** party, the **lay missionary** and the **receiving** party. All three are taking part in the Symposium and will tell about their own motives and interests.

During the jubilee symposium, the sending and receiving party will pay particular attention to the following questions:

- What does it mean to send missionaries to Africa in the year 2010?
- Why do lay missionaries want to go to Africa?
- How do Africans think about Western missionary workers in 21st century?

S.M.A.-Training Centre, Holland

Speakers at this symposium are:



Prof. Dr Peter Kanyandago from Uganda. He is director of the School of Post Graduate Studies at Uganda Martyrs University. He was until recently Director of Ethics and Development at the same institute. He opposes the idea that marginalized Africans should be approached as a separate group. Prof.

Kanyandago is co-author of the book "*Marginalized Africa*". He acts on behalf of the receiving party.



Mr. drs Ryan van Eijk is an SMA Associate from its earliest years. He worked as a lay missionary in Ghana and is currently employed as a pastor for prisoners and as a researcher at the Dutch Pastoral Centre for Justice. He is a co-author of the book "*Powerful vulnerable - Reflections on missionary presence*".

He represents the sending party.



Prof. Frans Wijzen SMA is Professor of Mission Studies at the Catholic Radboud University, Nijmegen and the Institute for Mission Studies. He will evaluate the day.



Leo Fijen acts as chairman. He is a well-known television-journalist in the Netherlands and works with the Catholic Radio station RKK/KRO.

The symposium takes place on the 6 February in Amsterdam. Participation is free. If you are interested, please contact Wim Kroeze from the S.M.A.-Training Centre: vc@sma-nederland.nl or telephone: 0031-434077381. Website: www.sma-nederland.nl

The Dutch Province currently has two communities: one in Cadier en Keer (near Maastricht) and one in Amsterdam. At the Mission House in Cadier en Keer is a professional museum about Africa. In Amsterdam the SMA is responsible for the pastoral care of Africans in the Netherlands.