

CLM International Treasurers Meeting 02.03.224

Attendees: Don (NAP), Beatriz (International Economics), Justin (TGB), Adán and Hortensia (Mexico), Yovanna and Mario (Peru), Martin (Kenya), Stasztek and Anna (Poland), Sobhi (Egypt), Rosa and Micaela (Italy), Anicetus and Beatrice (Uganda), Vania (Portugal), Flavio (Brazil), Leo (Spain), Martinho and Margarida (Mozambique), Felipe (Colombia).

Presentation of the different countries:

Peru:

During 2023 we worked to consolidate the unity of the movement in the country. We looked for professional help on some activities. For 2024 we want to strengthen the internal part. Concerned about being, more than doing.

In terms of economy we are focused on contributions and small activities. As the letters to entities or people who want to support.

From the contribution of the members to the local groups 30% of the groups have been allocated to the country fund.

Kenya:

We met in January to approve the 2024 budget in assembly.

It has worked for us:

- selling honey and peanut butter. We sell on Sundays during Mission Animations in different parishes.
- Also tamarind juice and jam.
- We also make bracelets and other handicrafts that we send mostly to Europe.
- The monthly contribution of the members is also an important boost to our economy.
- As well as the close collaboration with MCCJ which they also support for example by offering us place to meet.

It does not work well:

- Not everyone contributes regularly as they are students or unemployed. The high inflation in the country is a big challenge.
- We only sell in friendly parishes which are not many.
- Some products are only available seasonally.

We calculate contribution to the ICF with 5% of all income for the year.

Proposals this year:

- Promote our activities through social networks.
- Look for more friends and benefactors.
- Diversify entries.
- We are aware of the reality of the ICF and we are committed to support it. Hopefully the change of currency will help.

Italy:

The coordination is made up of several base groups. Each base group, in autonomy, freely collects a contribution that goes to the coordination's common fund.

Each base group procures autonomously funds. With the contribution of each family and some make initiatives to collect funds.

Then the coordination sends a support to the ICF.

Some of these groups have missionaries outside the country. For example, in Bologna, each one of us is committed to make a particular contribution to Linda, who is in Kenya. That we support annually. What also happens with other base groups that support those who go out of their groups.

For next year we are evaluating a different way of how to collaborate for those who leave. As a coordination we are thinking of other ways to raise funds.

Each base group is thinking of an innovative proposal on this theme.

NAP:

A commission has been formed to appoint a director who can also participate in the international assembly.

We are also revising our own documents on economic issues.

Last year, the NAP province made a donation to the ICF.

Here we are becoming aware of the role of international coordination and see how to support.

Our program has been at a standstill these years. There is no one in training or available to leave. With those returning to the NAP there is no organization to bring them together or even how to organize to support the movement. It will take us time, once the director is hired, to organize and also collaborate.

At the moment there is no clear idea of how to contribute at the international level. We are waiting to restart to see all these things.

TGB:

We started to look at the possibility of starting to produce some things when we came back from Cotonou.

We also have contribution from each member.

Also when we go for pastoral experience we do our part to make it possible.

The challenges for the monthly contribution are when we do not meet.

We will try to send to the ICF between 10-20% of the income.

We expect more members from Togo and Benin in the near future.

Poland:

In 2023 we had a large number of Polish CLMs on mission, reaching 6 people at the same time. That was a problem for us to keep all 6 on mission.

This means that we need more donations to maintain our missions.

Most of our donations come from individuals who are particularly supportive of our missions. We need to increase the number of donors.

As an extra activity, we had a mission picnic and it went well. We want to continue with this type of initiative and have more income.

We have the same problem as others, not all CLMs give regularly and we need to raise awareness in this regard. It is important the participation of everyone.

We also want to highlight that we have missionaries outside. And new candidates in the group.

For 2024 our biggest challenge will be to organize meetings for all CLMs in Poland and dedicate part of the meetings to work on the economic issue.

Mexico:

We do buying and selling of articles, organization of trips. Virtual training courses.

It has been difficult for some people to contribute regularly.

We have budgeted to help the person who will represent us in Portugal. Also see how to support the opening of new mission in Mexico. We also participate with the lay institutes ad gentes and we collaborate there as well.

Calculation of the contribution to the ICF: we have maintained the contribution of the previous year. Now we are looking at sending the first contribution for this year.

We are also studying some activities at the local level in order to be able to contribute to the ICF.

Innovative: we have resumed income with virtual trainings.

Brazil:

We are a little behind in this area. In 2023 we did not manage to collect anything. We were very busy in receiving two Italian couples, one CLM and the other fidei domun in Ipê Amarelo. This took us a long time and did not allow us to collect funds. Also with the sending of Cristina to RCA and her return due to her father's illness. Also accompanying the couple who are in Mozambique and their renewal for another two years. With all this we do not dedicate enough time.

We need some structural adjustments in the houses of Ipê Amarelo and Piquiá. We managed to make some adjustments and we are still working on it.

In 2024 we started to organize ourselves to make up for lost time. We managed to get support through the NAP for activities in Piquiá, the maintenance of this family and the cost of the car and so on.

As we have a legal personality, we made elections of the new direction. I am now the treasurer. We have to register these changes.

We did a Pizza solidaria activity. With an online raffle, we raffled a pizza at their house (through a chain present in all Brazil), to be able to pay the expenses in the registry.

In the assembly a commitment of contribution from each of the CLM came out. As treasurer, I must encourage this contribution at the individual or family level.

We had stipulated a percentage on the entries for the ICF. This was defined in 2019 but we have not yet managed to put it into practice.

We are thinking of doing some punctual activity to collect funds for the ICF.

Egypt:

We are 7 people in Egypt. For the economic issue we have difficulty, we have to do some project, but we are having some difficulties at the ecclesial level and to carry out the activities.

We have our monthly meeting and we will see how to do some activity or collaboration to contribute to the ICF.

We are looking to see how to do some project, but at the moment we have not been able to or know how to do it. Even for our own activities in Egypt.

Portugal:

Positive aspects:

- In 2023 we celebrate our 25th anniversary. The local communities are working and we managed to send two people to RCA.
- We are happy to receive the international assembly.

Negatives:

- We have a lot of disinterest or lack of participation from some of the CLMs.
- There are only few members collaborating regularly.

In 2024 the budget is positive also because of the contribution of the MCCJs.

Our contribution to the ICF is annually to the value of one minimum wage in Portugal.

We have also contributed to projects in Kenya and Mozambique.

Innovations: in March we will have a new assembly where we will analyze our reality as a movement and see how to do better for the mission.

Guatemala:

What has worked for us:

- We have a single account divided into three parts. Community area with all the group expenses and income. The area of mission in Chispuditos and the third one of mission for those who go out of mission.
- This helps us to stabilize income and expenses. We have been helped by the sale of second-hand clothes, shoes and toys (340\$). Also \$300 in animations where we have sold plants and crafts with newspaper.
- The biggest contribution is the \$2000 from benefactors.
- Our monthly contribution as CLM is low, about 50\$ maximum per month.
- Last year we had a film forum at the Domund on human trafficking. We sold tickets and there we collected something with crafts and plants.

Difficulties:

- At the end of 2023 we ran out of money.

- At the beginning of this year we do not have this help from the benefactors for Chispuditos, which as a malnutrition project for children has high expenses for medicines, tests and so on. Now we do not have it and we hope to get it.
- One of the biggest challenges is that most of the community does not have a vehicle. There is no public transportation and we spend a lot on this. We hope to be able with the project to sanitize this.

What's new:

- The 10% of the community contribution is what we give to the ICF. We proposed to give a second contribution according to the activities.
- We want to do workshops and we will sell this workshop to teach people. Continue the film forum (2 or 3 sessions per year).
- We want to make a permanent mission house in Petén. Whether it is for us in Guatemala or internationally. We have a house with a rental to get to know the place.
- We also want to buy a vehicle to be able to move around.
- It has also worked for us to have interviews on television on Catholic channels where we can make ourselves known and where people can collaborate. We have had a good reception on radio and TV.

Uganda:

Positive: Some members have been collaborating, not all. We have a house to host volunteers coming from abroad (Germany or Canada). We also have support from the LMCCJ who support us.

Negative: The economic issue in the country has been complicated. If there are no volunteers we have no income. We want to work on the issue of identity, to help us understand our vocation and commitment to it.

Some members do not contribute to our national fund.

Calculate our ICF contribution: We have decided to offer \$50.

This year we have started with honey and peanut butter sales and hope it works.

We intend to go to radio where we can talk about CLMs and develop in two schools some program with young people about behavior.

Spain:

It has worked for us the contributions that each CLM makes to the movement and from these is where we make the contributions to the ICF.

Also the missionary animation of sale of Easter flowers where in the last years we have supported from Spain the CLM of Granada. We have increased. This year we will dedicate 4000€ to the RCA project. In April we will send the money (in Spain the MCCJ send only every 3 months).

Some time ago we established a fixed contribution to the ICF, now it is 2000€. In the last assemblies it has been decided that the annual surplus could be sent to the ICF. Two years ago we had a deficit, but this past year there has been some surplus.

We will continue with the indicative that has worked for us.

Mozambique:

We are grateful for the support we received that has helped us to buy the car and also support families in need.

We have had difficulties in contributing to the ICF. Many times we have no external support, only from our salaries. From that we manage to support group work.

This year we managed to support the ICF.

There will be the international assembly in December. We do not know if we will be able to participate.

In the organization we have had difficulties. Sometimes we cannot have group meetings.

Colombia:

Regarding economic situation say that we are 3 CLM that we contribute a "tithe", only obligatory for the CLM. We have a maintenance fee for the 7 of the group (about 2 or 3\$/month) but only the 3 CLM are collaborating.

We have a small fund for retreats. We are thinking about fundraising activities. Like a course of Fr. Franco on the Jesus in the Apocalypse, and give a symbolic value to help our economy.

Economic report and ICF budget

Beatriz wants to underline that two trainings on project elaboration were given and that we can find them recorded in the blog. She encourages us to watch them as a group.

She explains the report sent to everyone, as well as the 2024 budget.

He begins by highlighting some aspects of the comparative table.

We appreciate that the MCCJ contributed more. And thanks to that contribution we stay alive.

It is important to encourage personal donations. Also from activities that we can do personally or with benefactors.

Also looking for international benefactors could help us.

He reminds us that this year we have the challenge of the international assembly.

This year's budget is a big challenge compared to what we did last year. We need to focus and study well. There is a need for a big increase on our part.

It encourages us to identify as countries what would be the tasks to be done to contribute to the ICF. And that we share it.

How can we do in each country?

We can see how to increase donations from groups and at the international level. As well as to see how to carry out activities and look for benefactors that will make it possible for us to do our things.

The international assembly is a major over cost and we need to see how to deal with it.

Questions:

How to send money?

Normally we can send money through the MCCJs. It is enough to approach the bursar of the MCCJ and indicate that this money goes to the ICF of the CLM in Rome.

It is suggested to look for more direct methods. Perhaps from the international page we could set up a direct payment gateway like PayPal or similar.

Or something that we can put in an advertisement to benefactors.

Ideas that are working:

In Mexico the formation courses we are offering to lay people is working. We can think of something similar in Portuguese or other languages.

It would be good to share all our initiatives and copy those that are working. From our abilities we can draw resources, not only from our personal contribution (which is also). For example 3 activities during the year to be able to draw resources.

But also remember that we have to think about the needs at the local level.

We agreed:

- **Do at least one activity for the ICF or one per semester. Let's be realistic.**
- **Another possibility is to take a percentage of the activities for the ICF.** Sometimes it is not easy to do a lot of activities.
- **We will see how things work out until June.**

Beatriz will send a report of the first semester and from there we will be able to evaluate whether or not we have achieved the objective and assess the effort to be made in the second part of the year. Let's not wait until the end of the year to contribute in order to know if we will reach the expenditure.

One activity per year would be a good start for everyone, whoever can do more, so much the better.

But it is essential to be aware that we all have to contribute. However little it may be. It is not possible that there are countries that do not contribute anything. We all need to unite. We know that not everyone will be able to participate in the same way, also depending on the economic reality of each country or the change, but it is true that we must all collaborate.

Evaluate with our groups the international situation, without of course forgetting the local reality, which is fundamental. But think in each country how we can make it possible.

We recommend that they see the training and we can also encourage people who are not in the group to support us in this.

That each country, if possible, send a communication of what amount they estimate they can send this year for the ICF, apart from the specific activity of this special year. In this way we will be able to calculate to what extent we can cover the budget.

Thank you for your participation.

We end with a prayer to close the meeting.

