

ST PAUL'S CATHOLIC CENTRE

1. **RADIO.** St. Paul's Centre has tried to maintain and keep in pace with the use and application of relevant communication technologies in order to improve the quality of the programs. The main equipments in use include computer programs to produce and edit, a digital mixer, one only tape recorder and an amplifier. For outdoor recording, a small portable mixer, microphones and stands are available. With these limited equipments and manpower capacities in hand, we are able to produce
 - a five minutes morning devotion program for 14 days in every month,
 - 15 minutes radio magazine on the three Sundays of the month and a
 - 45 minutes Mass celebrations for three Sundays of the month.

For every minute that we send on-air in Radio Kiribati, it is costing us \$1.00 per minute. This has increased from 50 cents per minute. Besides, empty discs, cassettes and technological accessories and the know-how are always on the demand. It is estimated that around \$30 weekly is received from the sale of CDRs.

However, we do feel that it is our obligation to do well and to keep abreast in maintaining our on-air times, which should contain better, interesting and entertaining programs, since there are others besides who are doing the same religious programs.

2. **Film and Video Production** - This section has faced considerable pressured from outside and within in keeping in touch with the growing demand and need of the Christian communities and perhaps by the general members of the population. The demand has focused towards the need to video recording religious activities, feast and special Mass celebrations as well as the national celebrations down to family functions. Additionally we have an existing stock of over 600 overseas and nearly 200 local vhs video cassettes that require converting into dvd system, since vhs system are obsolete and are not popular any more. The work to record and to convert films into dvd systems would require suitable but efficient recording system, equipment which is coupled with technical skills. Presently we have got one digital camera, a tripod, one apple Final Cut which is in need of repair, two computers for recording, editing and copying purposes and a pair of new loud-speakers. It is estimated that around \$50.00 weekly is gained from the sale of these films.

3. **Manpower and the Executive Committee** - Usually, the Studio is looked after by a Sister from the Order of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart and is assisted by five lay people. Presently the position of the directorship has been taken over by the lay person. Sr. Teneti Bakarereua has been transferred to take up her mission in Nauru. The remaining full time staffs are four only. Two are working on the radio program, one works on video section and she is assisted by a work experiential layperson. The other full-time male staff works as a maintenance officer and driver.

Heart FM 87.7 MHZ

1. The name was proposed 2004 with the intention to start an FM radio broadcast that year. The frequency that was allocated to St Paul Communication Center by the Frequency Department within the Ministry of communication and Information was 89.9 MHZ. A sum of one thousand dollars was paid to the Ministry to secure the frequency for St Paul radio broadcast would enable the centre to operate for one year.

2. Unfortunately, the proposal was not successful due to the scarcity of funds to acquire the required transmission equipments for this operation. Owing to this fact of a down and out scenario the intension to go on air in the FM band had naturally suspended indefinitely. However, the centre kept heading to the direction of finding ways and means of going on air in the FM broadcast.

3. Radio broadcast chronically the forefront issue to propagate the Word of *God* to the people on South Tarawa. As St. Paul could only live from hand to mouth, it is remains clear as well that one of this days the centre may finally fulfill the intention to go on air as soon as funds are available. Towards the end of last year the Bishop of the Diocese Paul Mea had approved \$40,000.00 Australian dollars to the centre for the purchase of the FM broadcast equipment. Out of this amount, \$36,000.00 has been ready for the studio and transmission equipment.

4. One of the major component that St. Paul could not able to obtain is the Tower for mounting the transmission antennas, A good height of tower is in vicinity 30to 40 metres. A self-supporting tower of this type would roughly cost more than twenty thousand dollars or more. That amount of fund could not be available now.

5. In order to launch the FM broadcast a small tower of 40 to 50 ft is to be build from a galvanized pipe. This type of height will be used for a certain period of time until such time the centre could afford to establish a proper tower.

6. In the meantime the general target coverage area would be attempted by employing two radio transmitters. The main On Air Station be stationed where St. Paul Studio is at Teoraereke radiating a signal from a SOOwatt to Betio in the west together with eastern villages from Teoraereke.

7. Another transmitter would be stationed at Bikenibeu in the east radiating a signal from a SOOwatt towards Teoraereke and the nearby villages to Buota and Bonriki. One good sensitive receiver would be stationed where the SOOwatt TX to receive the signal from the main On Air Transmitter for a re-transmission at Bikenibeu is to enhance the strength of the FM signal in that area. It could be used as a repeater station.

8. If the FM signal between Teoraereke and Bikenibeu experienced to be fading, another small TX is to be employed about in the middle for FM listeners in the area. This has to be seen while the network has come into operation.

9. The new frequency allocated now to St. Paul is B7.7MHZ as 89.9MHZ has already given to Radio Australia operated by the only government station, Broadcasting and Publication Authority. Let us keep our fingers crossed that Heart FM 87.7MHZ will be

on air if it is the Will of God well in time before the World Communication Day on the 5Th of June 2011.