



Christian Brothers
East Africa District

East Africa District Newsletter

DRAWN BY MYSTERY, DESTINED FOR LIFE.

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August 15, 2016

— SEEING TRULY —



Thomas Merton wrote about a transformative moment he had one day in 1958 at a city intersection in Louisville, Kentucky:

"I was suddenly overwhelmed with the realization that I loved all these people, that they were mine and I theirs, that we could not be alien to one another even though we were total strangers. It was like waking from a dream of separateness. . . ."

A bit further on, Merton writes, "Then it was as if I suddenly saw the secret beauty of their hearts, the depths of their hearts where neither sin nor desire nor self-knowledge can reach, the core of their reality, the person that each one is in God's eyes... If only they could all see themselves as they really are. If only we could see each other that way all the time".



Chapter 2014

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ANOTHER VIEW FROM SENANGA, ZAMBIA



Philip and Nicholas either side of Hub Community member, Sammy

Greetings from Senanga Mission Community, Western Zambia. It is my pleasure to convert into words some of my experience of what is happening on the ground here in Senanga into and share it with you across borders.

Through our community experience, I am becoming more and more international and intercultural. Living with four Brothers from Zambia, India, Australia and Kenya, has helped me to discover that we are one people despite our nationalities or colour.

We all participate equally in the community aspect of life. We are all involved in doing simple but creative activities such as cooking, cleaning, shopping, and many others. It is challenging for sure, but the secret behind it is that it is making me more and more responsible and aware of what is happening in the community as my new home. You may wonder, Where are these guys getting the energy to do all this work? The answer is simply **support and encouragement** within the group.

It is the same when it comes to important issues. Community decision-making means everybody is able to be seen, heard and listened to. It is a channel for building trust and a sense of belonging. To me it is very important that we all feel we are in the same boat, no one is left out.

In regard to our Ministry, I can say it is a Mystery! Some may laugh, or wonder what does that mean? It is all about reaching out to the very poor people. It is through this that I am able to encounter the Mystery we call God, through the suffering and the vulnerable. It is challenging but encouraging. It has taught me the virtue of being vulnerable and being more patient in time management. It has helped me to look at life in a different way.





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We started by doing what is called an Observation Survey. It helped us to be more familiar with the places, the people, their daily activities, among other things. Currently, we are almost through with the Listening Survey. It is amazing to see how open people are to share their deepest stories in terms of their daily challenges.

There are a lot of new learnings. For me, the most outstanding learning is that my presence is more than what I offer. Not only that, in order for me to understand people and to be understood, I have to put myself on their level. In conclusion, I believe even the journey of ten thousand miles must start with one single step. The journey has already started even if in baby steps!

Br. Philip Kwena

ERSSS SHINES IN YOUNG SCIENTISTS TANZANIA COMPETITION



Nancy and Grace demonstrate their device to the school.

For the first time Edmund Rice Sinon Secondary School has made its mark in the Young Scientist Tanzania (YST) competition. The competition, which was said to be very tight, was held in Dar es Salaam on August 11.

Nancy Godfrey and Grace Temu (both Form 3) made themselves and the school proud as they secured position three country-wide in the category of Technology. Nancy and Grace invented a simple vegetable-cutting machine which drew favorable attention from many people. Prof. Joyce Ndalichako, the Minister for Education in Tanzania, was present as guest of honor, and was fascinated by the simple device. The machine is meant to simplify the task and reduce cost.

They were awarded a trophy, medals and certificates, as well as other prizes. We thank Zepahia Mkaika (Project Patron), Bernard Kiwia (Technical Supporter) and the group members - Ajika Kalanje, Fredrick Palanyo and Daniel Massawe, for their ideas.





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Nancy and Grace display their trophy and medals.

YST is an annual exhibition and competition in Tanzania. It involves school students across the country in demonstrating their innovative ideas and showcasing their scientific talents. YST originated in Ireland and has now become a popular national event in this country. It is aimed at popularizing science and uplifting young people by encouraging them to identify and seek practical solutions to problems they face in everyday life.

Simon Kaswahili

EDMUND RICE KARIBU CAMPS IN NAIROBI

One of the good news stories in our District in the last year or so has been the steady growth of the Edmund Rice Karibu Group (ERKG), which runs Edmund Rice Camps in Kibera. This growth is reflected in the fact that there is now an employed Coordinator, Sammy Muga, who provides the organizational capacity that volunteers alone can't always provide.



Training Day for Edmund Rice Camp leaders.





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The photos here show recent activities –a training day for leaders; a meeting of the Executive; and the outcome of all the activity, a child happily absorbed in one of the activities at a Camp day.



ERKG Executive at work.



Lost in her own world.

COME AND SEE PROGRAMME

Eight aspirants recently spent a week of Come and See, based at Embulbul community. They all expressed their delight at what they experienced – the discussion sessions, the involvement at Br. Beausang, but especially the community life, which they characterized as simple and joyful- good signs of OWITF!! Thanks especially to Daniel Kyalo and Chris Munialo for organizing, picking up the lost, mobilizing them and caring for them as well as Sunday and Tom Kearney, who kept the discussion and prayer sessions moving. I found the one-to-one sharing very inspiring and personally challenging.

Peter Cole



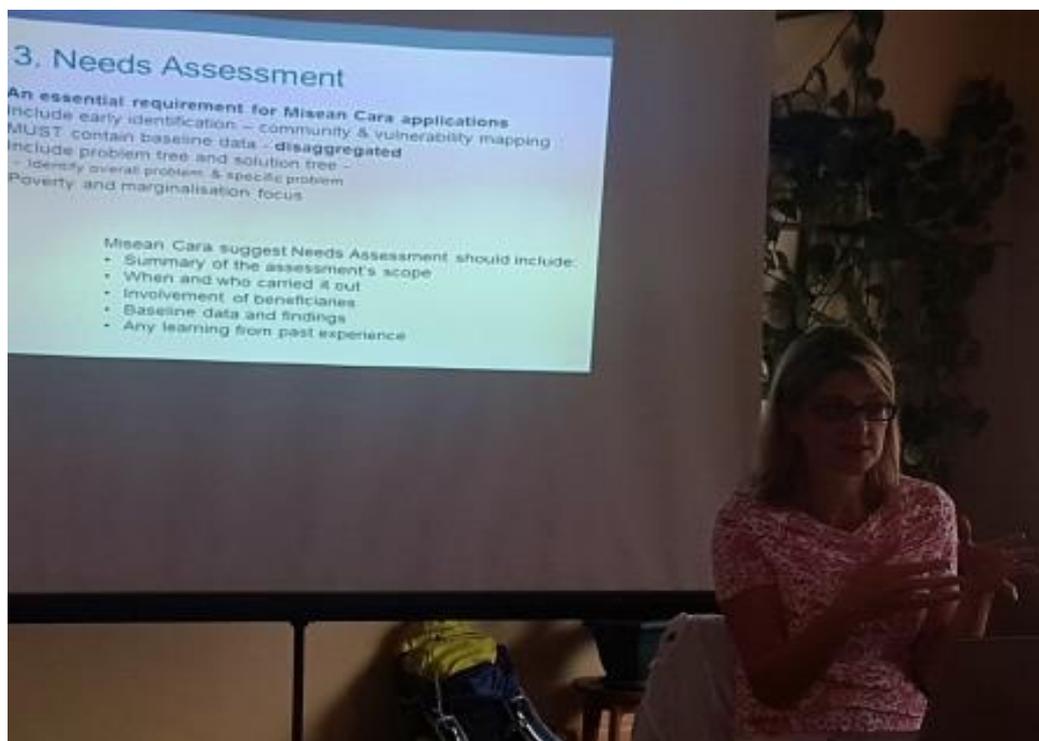


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FIONA DOWLING'S VISIT

We reported last week that Fiona Dowling of Edmund Rice Development in Ireland had spent a week with us. An important part of her time was training ministry representatives about Project Cycle Management and proposal development. The focus was on the leaders who were preparing upcoming submissions to donors. All programs in the district were represented apart from Ruben Centre, where Fiona had already spent over two days.

As well as monitoring visits to Ruben Centre and ERAN, Fiona also prepared for a Misesan Cara monitoring and evaluation visit to Edmund Rice Secondary next month. Fiona has been supporting our District by coming at least once each year to work with us and to make sure that our procedures are compliant with our own guidelines and the requirements of donors.



BIRTHDAYS IN AUGUST

AUGUST	17	NICHOLAS ODHIAMBO (Karen)
	18	CONSTANTINE SUNDAY (Embulbul)

CALENDAR

AUGUST 7-19	Come and See Programme
AUGUST 15-19	PLT Meeting (Lusaka)





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AUGUST 29	DLT Meeting (Arusha)
SEPTEMBER 4-11	Congregation Formation Workshop (Lusaka)
SEPTEMBER 14	DLT Meeting
SEPTEMBER 16-18	Child Protection Training Workshop
SEPTEMBER 26	ERMEA: Capacity Assessment Validation meeting
SEPTEMBER 28	DLT Meeting
OCTOBER 1	Cluster Meeting (Nairobi)
OCTOBER 8	Cluster meeting (Arusha)
OCTOBER 10-12	Formation Committee Meeting
OCTOBER 12	DLT Meeting
OCTOBER 14-16	AP Workshop (Arusha)
OCTOBER 26	DLT Meeting
OCTOBER 28-29	Community Leaders Meeting

