



### RISE UP ROOTED LIKE TREES



How surely gravity's law,  
strong as an ocean current,  
takes hold of even the smallest thing  
and pulls it toward the heart of the  
world.

Each thing—  
each stone, blossom, child—  
is held in place.  
Only we, in our arrogance,  
push out beyond what we each belong to  
for some empty freedom.  
If we surrendered  
to earth's intelligence  
we could rise up rooted, like trees.

Instead we entangle ourselves  
in knots of our own making  
and struggle, lonely and confused.

So, like children, we begin again  
to learn from the things,  
because they are in God's heart;  
they have never left [God].

This is what the things can teach us: to  
fall,  
patiently to trust our heaviness.  
Even a bird has to do that before he can  
fly.

—Rainer Maria Rilke [1]





## ———— VISITOR TO OUR DISTRICT ————



Brothers making a toast to welcome Tim L-R Vincent Mallya, Boniface Kituku, Simon Kaswahili, Frank O'Shea, Gerald Mgalula, Gerard Ellul, Tim Moloney and Tony Shanahan

Last week we had a pleasure of hosting Br Tim Moloney who stayed in South C community and made some visits to Ruben Centre where he worked about 12 years ago before returning back to Australia. Tim was a member of formation team at Shamsi, known as Sombetini, in the year 1999/2000, and he was the Director of Ruben Centre in the year 2000-2002.

Tim is now in Lusaka attending the Congregation Formation Gathering.

## ———— 25 YEARS OF CHRISTIAN BROTHERS IN KENYA ————

On Sunday 25 August, 1991, Br Peter Ellis and I arrived at the Maasai Language Centre in Lemek. This day marked the establishment of the Christian Brothers in Kenya. I had visited OSAS (Olchekut Supat Apostolic School) in March 1991 on my way back from Australia and had given a favourable report on the 'Good Shepherd' school to Br Paul Noonan, the Province Leader of St Patrick's Province.





L-R Unkown, Paul Noonan, Fr (later Bishop) Cornelius Schilder, Bob Aron, Frank Llyod (RIP), Peter Hudson

A visit by Br Paul followed in May. He then concluded an agreement with Bishop Colin Davies (Mill Hill) of the Ngong Diocese for the Brothers to start teaching when the third term started in early September. Other Brothers who taught at OSAS were Gerard Bennett and Gerard Ellul.



Michael Podbury, Gerard Ellul, Tim Moloney and Peter Cole in South C

In 1995 it was seen that the Brothers could not maintain communities in both Sinon and Lemek. The decision was made to focus our efforts on Edmund Rice Secondary School and, consequently, the Brothers withdrew from Lemek at the end of 1995. This was a bitter disappointment for Bishop Davies, but, following his





retirement from Ngong, he has lived to see the Brothers return to Ngong Diocese at Br Beausang in Embul-bul.

**Michael Podbury**

———— **CONGREGATION FORMATION**  
**GATHERING – LUSAKA** ————

Thirty-four representatives from different Provinces and Region of the Congregation worldwide are gathering at the International Spirituality Centre in Lusaka attending the Congregation Formation Gathering. This gathering is organized by the Congregation Leadership Team in their effort to plan a program that addresses the needs of the Brothers across the Congregation at this time; most especially on how we could live what our Chapter documents asks of us.



Back Row L-R Eddy McArdle, Luke Quinn, Tom Costelo, Peter O'Loughlin, Julian McDonald, Parag D'Costa, Hugh O'Neill, Edward Masinde, Gerry McGlone, Alberto Llanos, Daniel Lyimo, Hugh Moloney, Mark Da'Costa, (Middle Row) Gussy Jairaj, Henry McGann, Donal Kirk, Jim Keane, Ed Bergeron, John Paul, Paul Hendrick, (Kneeling) Tim Moloney, Charles Belmoh, George Massay, Sammy Munyua, Cedric Andrade, Fred Ochwalo, Senan D'Souza, Willie D'Souza, Michael Burke, Francis Hall and Peter Dowling

Br Hugh O'Neil, the Congregation Leader, during his welcoming speech to the participants, gave the background of the gathering, which he said originates from our various Chapters to try to address the way we live in community. Quoting the recent Chapter document, he said, "Our desire for new life leads us to attend to the obstacles that are blocking us... (*Drawn by Mystery pg 7*)" This gathering hopes to name the obstacles that block us and hopefully find skills in addressing them. He reminded the participants that they are "leaven that goes back to the Provinces and Region" to assist leadership in moving the Brothers forward.





The importance of this gathering is underscored by the presence of three members of CLT – Brs Hugh O’Neil, Peter Dowling and Julian McDonald.

Fr Gerard McGlone SJ, a Faculty and Staff Psychologist at the Pontifical North American College in Rome, is the presenter and moderator of this gathering.

**George Massay**

———— **MOTHER TERESA’S SISTERS**  
**STORM OTIENDE** ————

In the late morning of Sunday Sept 4, about 50 Missionaries of Charity from their Otiende house came to our Brothers’ house to witness the canonization ceremony of Mother Teresa. Gerald Mgalula had set up a data projector from the TV connection so that a large picture could be seen. He also lit a charcoal fire to warm the room after another unusual cold morning. The sisters were delighted with their viewing.



*Sisters of Charity watching the canonisation of Mother Theresa*

In addition to their special ministry of caring for the profoundly disabled, they have a dedicated visitation ministry to the peoples of the Kibera. Gratitude to host Gerald.

**Russell Peters**

———— **RECOUNTING A TRIP**  
**TO MANNYA** ————

Recently Russell and I visited Mannya in Uganda. You might have heard a lot about Mannya and this may be much of a repetition but as has always been the case, the people of Mannya have their own story





and since it belongs to us all then why shouldn't we tell it or listen to it again or sell it!

When I set my foot on the holy grounds of Mannya I was fascinated by the fact that the tales I always heard about there were all real. The stories that described Mannya as surrounded by beautiful hills and its vegetation covered with banana trees. That the people of this village valued hospitality and kindness and appreciated the presence of Brothers who continually pay them a visit. That Fr. Nestus, a young energetic, passionate, committed and social parish priest would welcome us plus hundreds of other visitors from all corners of the world who visit the place. That the Cotton On Foundation, an Australian based organization, is supporting different projects in the area, which have shaped and changed the lives of thousands of people around. These are the tales of passion of Mannya.

My interaction with the local people gave me a nice feel of Mannya. I was overjoyed to see how women have been empowered in running different projects ranging from coffee plantations, to cattle keeping among others. The students from the schools around too felt that education was the best gift they are receiving from well wishers.



Part of the places we visited was a poor school by the name St. Joseph Kenseca, but I was overwhelmed by the amount of joy in the faces of the young boys and girls. Speaking of their hopes and joys they expressed gratitude for the support from well wishers such as St. Joseph's Geelong. This has seen them move from sitting under a tree for a class to sitting in a class room although still much support is needed. The attached picture is of class 4 (with sugar cane) whose class room is normally under a tree.





In summary, a parallel between showing compassion and love for the poor was clear to all the different experiences I had in a short time. As Russell kept telling many who asked him why anyone would choose to travel and support Mannya, it was evident that providence was the inheritance of this village which did not know what to make of itself until God sent them a few good angels, Jaaja Russ being among those few who have great passion for Mannya and I think it is infectious once bitten.

~Chris Munialo

———— **THINKING A NEW** ————

It was an interesting and challenging week where we (Paul and I) facilitated Training for Transformation workshop to a diverse group of novices in Lusaka.

The interesting moment during the workshop was when we all become aware that as religious people we don't have the answers to every challenge in our society. We might tend to think that the poor might have nothing to offer, which might reflect from what system of thinking do we see the poor? What are my value systems when it comes to engaging with the people made poor? During the workshop we came to realize that for us to transform the world we first need to transform the world within us, free ourselves from stereotypes and prejudices that we have about people and things of the world. Transformation of the mind is the beginning of change.



Once our mind has been liberated we become aware about issues, we create a common vision with the people we work with and we start a proactive process of development and not a reactive process. We don't treat human needs as emergency but we go into the root cause of the problems and address them rather than just deal with symptoms.





At the end of the week the participants realized that it was not about changing the world as religious but is about working with the community to rewrite their own stories and find their voices in everything.

**Constantine Sunday**

———— **TIME WELL SPENT IN YAMBIO** ————

The past four weeks have been moments of spirit-driven grace as I encountered life in Yambio, South Sudan, especially at this time when the country is experiencing serious political warfare, which is making the people's lives so miserable. Loss of lives, poor infrastructure, rapid inflation and high prices of commodities are but a few of the negative consequences caused by this 'Never ending' war crisis.

During the weeks I was privileged to work and share life with The Star Support Group--a group which consists of children, women and men infected with and affected by HIV/AIDS. The group provides psycho-social support as well as medical care to its members. However, despite the challenges these people face, either as individuals or as a group, each day their faces radiate joy and enthusiasm while taking on their day-to-day chores. I could vividly see this when I attended their regular morning devotions (prayers), joined them in gardening, made home visits and observed them in the tailoring classes. I dearly thank the Star Group for sharing the pieces of their lives with me. I feel blessed to have worked and shared lives with them because that, in itself, has strengthened the awareness in me to always see and approach life positively despite the ups and downs of life.



I also express my sincere gratitude to Brs. Odongo, Denis and Fred of Yambio Community for their “fantabulous” hospitality and above all,







for assisting me in settling down as soon as I arrived through a well-facilitated orientation.

**Lawrence Agalo**

———— **EDMUND RICE KARIBU GENERAL MEETING** ————

Gradually and finally 38 members appeared. The meeting confronted the challenging issue of recruitment which will involve a big effort to access informal Kibera Secondary Schools and two more formal ones besides making another effort in the nearby parishes. Again as the last term is short, we are forced to dialogue and negotiate with teachers of the informal Primary Schools to enable the Amberley immersion to happen. Members seemed confident but training and caution are paramount which we tried to touch on. The second agenda, again, interactive, is the organization of two up-coming camps and training day. We are trying to relax and trust though it obvious we will be luckily to squeeze it all in during these two short months.

**PETER COLE**

**BIRTHDAYS IN SEPTEMBER:**

<b>SEPTEMBER</b>	08	AMANDI MBOYA (Sth C)
	12	BILL DOWLING (Sinon)
	14	PHILIP OMBUCHA (Senanga, Zambia)
	18	CORNEL MWIRU (ISC - Lusaka)
	18	SILVERIO WAFULA (Eldoret)
	24	FRANK O'SHEA (Sth C)
	24	GEORGE MASSAY (Sth C)
	27	ALLAN SHUNZA (2 <sup>nd</sup> year novice – Tamale)

**CALENDAR**

SEPTEMBER 4-11	Congregation Formation Summit (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
NOVEMBER 8	DLT meeting
NOVEMBER 21-24	PLT meeting (Freetown)
NOVEMBER 26	First Profession (Tamale)





---

NOVEMBER 30  
DECEMBER 3-7  
DECEMBER 12  
DECEMBER 16-18

DLT meeting  
DLT away for end-of-year review and planning  
Jamhuri Day  
District Assembly

Many blessings

George

