



TRASNA



The pilgrims paused on
the ancient stones
In the mountain gap.

Behind them stretched
the roadway they had
travelled .
Ahead, mist hid the
track.

Unspoken the question
hovered:
Why go on? Is life not
short enough?

Why seek to pierce its
mystery?
Why venture further on
strange paths, risking
all'

Surely that is a gamble
for fools - or lovers.
Why not return quietly to
the known road?

Why be a pilgrim still?

A voice they knew called
to them, saying:

This is Trasna, the
crossing place.
Choose! Go back if you
must,

You will find your way
easily by yesterday's
fires,
there may be life in the
embers yet.

If that is not your deep
desire,
Stand still. Lay down
your load.

Take your life firmly in
your two hands,
(Gently... you are trusted
with something precious)

While you search your
heart's yearnings:
What am I seeking? What
is my quest?

When your star rises
deep within,
Trust yourself to its
leading.

You will have the light for
first steps.
This is Trasna, the
crossing place.

Choose!
This is Trasna, the
crossing place

Come !

**By Sister Raphael
Considine, PBVM**





YAMBIO, NOT A PLACE OF ISOLATION



Brothers and Staff members in Yambio

Many of us think of Yambio as remote and isolated, and for understandable reasons. Yet, as this photo suggests, the Brothers there live and work with many others. The photo includes the community of Denis,

Fred and Odongo, plus the visitors (me and

Lawrence), as well as the domestic workers and the Star Support Group staff.

The size of the Star staff hints at how many lives are touched by that ministry - over 1,400 at last count. Other photos could have shown staff and students at Solidary Teacher Training College (where Odongo teaches), or at Bishop Abangite College (where Denis teaches), or the Comboni Sisters at Nzara Hospital, or the other friends, colleagues, religious and clergy whose lives and work are intertwined with those of the Brothers.

Yambio is a long way from the next Brothers' community, but it is not a place of isolation. The Brothers there are very much part of the lives of the local church and the local community. The way the Brothers have shared the lives of the people over the 20+ years they have been in Yambio has earned them great respect from the people - perhaps part of the reason why the Brothers have never been attacked during the occasional periods of violent conflict.

Tony Shanahan

FORMATION GATHERING CONCLUDES

The formation gathering workshop in Lusaka has just completed. It was an intensive one-week of learning and practicing the skills necessary for living healthy community lives. Many commented about the week as an experience, which will be hard to replicate or to even express to others. It was a process, and the challenge given to us by Br Hugh O'Neil is to remain in the process and to be a yeast to bring this forward to our communities, Districts, Region and Provinces. "The message of this week is us", said the Congregation Leader, Br Hugh





O'Neill. "We can't write or report about an experience, but hopefully we can transmit it".



Brothers during morning prayers

We thank the novices for animating our liturgies. I would say without any doubt that this is the best group of novices that I have seen in recent years in our Congregation who sing with incredible competency that could match any good choir group. Congratulation guys.

George Massay

SAMUEL KARANJA IN AUSTRALIA



Figure 1 Samuel Karanja (seated) with students

As part of the Edmund Rice Beyond Borders project Samuel Karanja has been sponsored by St Edward's College East Gosford and Dr Michael and Alison Slattery to visit Australia as an advocate for Edmund Rice ministries in East Africa. As the main work is really about relationship, Karanja has worked tirelessly for the last three weeks speaking to Religion classes, year groups and College Assemblies in NSW,

Tasmania and Victoria, including St Edward's, The Haven Annexe, St





Virgils Hobart, St Patricks Launceston, St Bernard's Essendon, St Aquinas Ringwood, St Kevin's Toorak, St Josephs Geelong, and Amberley. His work has included several promotions of the book *I Am Because We Are*. He also featured at the Rainbow Ladies Lunch on a tram boat in Melbourne and spoke to several people at private gatherings who have been on cultural immersions to East Africa over the years. He has now flown to Brisbane to speak to Gone Fishing participants and will then attend the Edmund Rice Congress in Kolkata India where he will present information on the work of the Christian Brothers and the Edmund Rice network in East Africa.

Dr Michael Slattery

———— **PICTURES OF THE WEEK** ————

Brs Peter O'Loughlin and Damien Price sharing a light moment in Lusaka during the formation gathering





Br Willie D'Souza leading the Brothers during Morning Prayer in Lusaka



Children having fun during the Camp in Nairobi on 10th Sept

BIRTHDAYS IN SEPTEMBER:

| SEPTEMBER | | |
|------------------|---|-------------------------|
| 12 | BILL DOWLING (Sinon) | <i>(Happy birthday)</i> |
| 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 nd year novice – Tamale) | |





CALENDAR

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| 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 | DLT meeting |
| DECEMBER 3-7 | DLT away for end-of-year review and planning |
| DECEMBER 12 | Jamhuri Day |
| DECEMBER 16-18 | District Assembly |

Many blessings

George

Brs Peter O'Loughlin and Damien Price sharing a light moment during the Lusaka Formation Gathering



(Below) Br Willie D'Souza (right) leading brothers in morning prayers

Chapter 2014

