



WEEKLY REFLECTION



Policeman carrying a baby from the scene of the attack at the Westgate Mall 21 September 2013

Sometimes standing against evil is more important than defeating it. The greatest heroes stand because it is right to do so, not because they believe they will walk away with their lives. Such selfless courage is a victory in itself.”

— N.D. Wilson, *Dandelion Fire*

PRAYER REQUESTED

For our Brothers in West Africa District who are in the midst of Ebola outbreak. As we heard on the news, Sierra Leone just concluded a three-day curfew, to try to control the spread of the disease.





———— HAPPY 40TH BIRTHDAY ————



On 18th September Cornel Mwiru celebrated his 40th birthday, increasing a number of the East African born Brothers in their 40's to 8. We congratulate Cornel and pray many blessings for him. The famous words – “life begins at 40”, may they also be true for Cornel.

———— WESTGATE MALL ATTACK ANNIVERSARY ————



On Sunday 21st September 2014, Kenya commemorated the anniversary of the horrendous terrorist attack at the Westgate Mall on September 21st last year by attending interdenominational prayers. The attack that astounded everyone has left deep scars in the lives of many Kenyans. The country has changed since the attack that occurred last year; security is beefed up in many public places like churches and shopping malls, with people being frisked before entering them. The local media in a lead-up to the anniversary has been recounting the last year's events and revisited the victims of the attack. One policeman who was shot fifteen times cannot get over the





fact that God has saved his life, but his life is changed forever. We pray for Kenya and her people.

George Massay

———— **IN THE EYES OF A PATRIOT** ————

As I sat leisurely on my couch flip-flopping different television channels to find anything of interest, my eyes suddenly became wide-transfixed, my body numbed by the horror of what I was watching, the recounting of painful memories of the tragic events of the Westgate terror attack that robbed this country of both wealth and loved ones. I was tearfully and empathetically moved; startled by the very fact that many people are still deeply hurting, not just from Westgate but also other atrocities like Mpeketoni, Gikombaa Market blast, Garrisa and Tana River killings and the almost forgotten 2007/8 Post Election Violence to mention just but a few.

It then struck me that Kenyan's are highly resilient people. We have withstood many trials and tribulations. We have come together in a strong show of solidarity, donating food and blood to help save another's life in the face of calamities and things that threaten our national security. We have demonstrated statesmanship in our sports and taken pride in the achievements of our sons and daughters who have made a mark in the history of our world.



Brian Bond giving a workshop on advocacy

Paradoxically though, as Kenyan's, we are still far from becoming a nation. We remain sharply divided along tribal lines with widening socio-political and economic disparities. Our deeply ethicized politics and politicized ethnicities

continue to create rifts of exclusion and throat cutting competitions in the management and distribution of political and economic power, resources and opportunities. The devolved system of governance that





has become the bedrock of Kenya's dreams and hopes is once again under siege, threatened by divisive politics, corruption and mismanagement of resources. The wounds of past atrocities perpetrated by both individuals and the State remain openly exposed and the deafening cries of healing and reconciliation seem to go unheard. Our nationhood is under threat and we are once again challenged to reclaim it.

Brian Bond of Edmund Rice International, in co-facilitating a workshop on human rights and advocacy at the Dimesse Centre in Nairobi between 8th and 12th September 2014, once again challenged participants to temper charity with justice, embracing a radical shift to a right-based approach to development programmes. The link between human rights, peace and development are evident and could not be emphasized enough as participants were challenged to work towards national cohesion and integration through advocacy in promoting human rights, national healing and reconciliation. They were strongly reminded that public participation in national affairs is not only a right but also a duty bestowed upon them.

Actually, this workshop was an invitation to reflect on our national values as enshrined in Article 10 of the Kenya Constitution 2010, espousing values of patriotism, national unity, sharing and devolution of power, the rule of law, democracy and participation of the people; human dignity, equity, social justice, inclusiveness, equality, human rights, non-discrimination and protection of the marginalized; good governance, integrity, transparency and accountability; and sustainable development. It is indeed my hope that this was an eye opener to many of us who chose to commit to the course for social justice as human rights defenders.

Joash Diemo Sigu

———— EAST AFRICA LEADERSHIP COMMISSIONING ————



Amandi, Tony and George washing Brothers' hands

Following a morning's consideration of the calls of the congregation chapter, the afternoon began with a group carrying of a jug of water, a bowl and towel by members of the leadership team. Not a word of explanation; the





symbols of servant leadership spoke for themselves. The pouring of water, the holding of the bowl and the drying the hands was done as a team to both individual members of the District and to the district community. As was pointed out by each member of the team, it was not only the team being called to leadership but the whole District, each brother, from Arusha in the south to Yambio in the north was being called to leadership. As the team shared their previous 'being at home' in previous ministries, and their reluctance, but obedience, to take on their leadership roles, it was clear that they place high value on speaking the truth as they see it and their expectation that each of the Brothers in the District will speak the truth to one another in love.

Russell Peters

———— CLUSTER DAY ————



Brothers and Sr Brigit at the Cluster

Forty-four Brothers and Sr Brigit Mathew of PRT gathered at Mary Ward Centre for the Cluster Day on 20 September 2014. It was the first gathering of the District since the new leadership team was appointed. In his welcoming words before the activities of the day, Tony reminded the Brothers that this is not just an ordinary cluster day. It is a beginning of something new, a beginning of the journey of the District for the next six years. It is the beginning of new leadership team, the beginning of the new Chapter of our Congregation – the Nairobi Chapter.





We thank all the Brothers who made a great effort to participate in this very important event of our life together.

The focus of the day was on the eight Nairobi Chapter Calls and the missioning of the new leadership team. It was a blessed day for all of us. Michael Godfrey and Brigit Mathew were our able facilitators of the day.

George Massay

———— **WORKSHOP ON ADVOCACY** ————

Many times we think and act differently from our goals and aims; Could this be the case with ERI/ERAN and the Christian Brothers? Where are our humane acts of love, tolerance and activism headed? Will we make it? What avenues are possible with our goals or visions? This took a different turn as a result of the workshop that was facilitated by Edmund Rice International and other relevant organizations that aim at restoring environmental rights and advocating for human rights.

We were enlightened on how we can use United Nations' Mechanisms as well as our local mechanisms in Kenya to empower the abused victims to stand on their feet and fight for their rights. We found ourselves reflecting on various aspects of human rights, like the right to education. For what sort of education do we advocate? For what sort of food do we advocate? Right to sanitation: what happens to us when we walk in Kibera and other slums in Kenya? These were some of the realities on which we found ourselves reflecting as we entered to the core of the workshop.

On the last day we were able to come up with action plans, it was so interesting as I shared my action plans for the Karibu group, which had the biggest representation in the workshop. As I type this write up already simple activities from our action plan are been carried out in various schools in Kibera. We were also able to meet with other like-minded organizations in the workshop where we deliberated on networking and collaborations on various aspects of advocacy that were covered in the training.

Catherine Jemimah



———— **WELCOME BACK BILL COLFORD** ————

After undergoing an extended period of treatment, Bill Colford has been permitted by his Doctor to return to East Africa. We are delighted to welcome Bill back. Bill will be a member of Eldoret community and will minister at Education for Life.





Karibu sana.

REMAINING BIRTHDAYS IN SEPTEMBER

SEPTEMBER	24	FRANK O'SHEA	(Balozi)
	24	GEORGE MASSAY	(Sth C)
	25	PASCAL KITUKU	(Sinon)
	29	NICODEMUS OKUKU	(Eldoret)

CALENDAR

Sept. 7-26	PRT visit to East Africa
Sept. 28 – Oct. 1	ERMEA gathering, Mary Ward Centre
Oct. 10 – 12	Annually Professed Weekend
Oct. 30 – 31	Formation Committee Meeting - Nairobi
Oct. 31 – Nov. 1	Community Leaders Meeting (Friday supper and Saturday)
Nov. 29	First Profession (Tamale)
Dec. 6	Reception and missioning for newly professed (Nairobi)
Dec. 12 - 15	District Assembly
Dec. 16-18	DLT review and planning days

Many thanks

George Massay

