



Christian Brothers
East Africa District

East Africa District Newsletter

DRAWN BY MYSTERY, DESTINED FOR LIFE.

Edition 125
Feb 6, 2017

———— BECOMING ————



Nowhere is it the same place as yesterday.
None of us is the same person as yesterday.
We finally die from the exhaustion of becoming.
This downward cellular jubilation is shared
by the wind, bugs, birds, bears and rivers,
and perhaps the black holes in galactic space
where our souls will all be gathered in an invisible
thimble of antimatter. But we're getting ahead of ourselves.
Yes, trees wear out as the wattles under my chin
grow, the wrinkled hands that tried to strangle
a wife beater in New York City in 1957.
We whirl with the earth, catching our breath
as someone else, our soft brains ill-trained
except to watch ourselves disappear into the distance.
Still, we love to make music of this puzzle.

~ Jim Harrison ~





———— **FADAL SHAI! (WELCOME FOR TEA!)** ————

I arrived in Yambio last Wednesday to live in community with Denis, Jim and Chris and to be involved in STAR Support Group. (Odongo will join us after his final profession). I had lived in Yambio back between 2000 and 2002, so I knew what I was letting myself in for. As is my usual practice, within the first day or two of being in a new place, I venture to the market to find out the price of goods and get a feel for the place. My Juba Arabic is rusty but coming back to me reasonably well. On Friday I went looking for dates to supplement the diet. It was rather comical to try to get across what I was looking for without knowing the word for “dates”! Still, in the end we prevailed. The shop owner was a Muslim from Khartoum (arriving here after Independence), named Mohammed. He naturally welcomed me in typical Muslim/Arabic style by offering me a seat and a cup of tea in his shop! I felt immediately at home, as I did with the other Muslim shop owner (Abdul) who led me to Mohammed’s shop. With all the ridiculous fear mongering being pedaled around the world, there is nothing like real, human experience of conversation, courtesy and genuine attempts at friendship to put things in perspective.



Br Denis Reardon addressing kids

Saturday saw the monthly gathering of orphans and vulnerable children, where they have some activities, catch up with friends and share a hearty meal. All these children (there were in excess of 300!) are affected by HIV/AIDS. It was a real delight to see them have fun, cooperate with the older teenagers amongst them who organised the queues, and to enjoy their meal, quite possibly one of the few, perhaps only meat meal they get for the month. Some trainee teachers from





Solidarity Teachers College came along to lead some games and activities.



Older kids helping young ones

The funding for this and other gatherings came from Caritas Austria, thanks to the hard work and networking skills of Fred Otieno. STAR is in very good shape because of Fred's leadership over the past few years.

BR GERARD ELLUL

———— MUKURU PROMOTION SKILLS CENTRE ————

The Mukuru settlement is situated in the heart the Nairobi industrial area. Because of its strategic location and the high poverty level within the settlement, many young people opt for manual jobs in the industries and factories instead of going to school, while others find themselves on the streets of Nairobi begging for money and food or engaging in crime

Mukuru Promotion Centre is reaching out to hundreds of youth through its skills centre which offers training in catering, dressmaking, knitting, crafts, hairdressing, computers, carpentry, plumbing and art.

I am involved in guidance and counseling and also taking part in some classes.





Br Allan Mwashi with students during catering classes

Br Allan Mwashi

———— **ENGAGING PEOPLE IN MUKURU KWA RUBEN** ————

The last two weeks have been engaging for us (two of the recently professed brothers , awaiting our departure for India) in ministry. We are involved in a research project, trying to assess the effectiveness of the educational and sponsorship programmes at Ruben centre. The research is also trying to gather the views from the locals about the value of the possible construction of a public secondary school at Ruben centre. This activity targets former students from the years 2012-2016.



We are part of a team of five that are involved in the research. The other three members are former students of the African Education Fund Reuben Primary School (AEF) and they are really essential in our trying to make contact with the target group. We are indebted to Br. Frank O'Shea who has accorded us his full support in terms of resources and vast understanding of the situation.





As a team we are applying two methodologies to try and achieve our objectives. Firstly, we are engaging in door-to-door interviews of former students or their parents. We move around Mukuru slum tracking these individuals and asking them to complete a questionnaire. Secondly, on the 4th of Feb we invited former students and/or their parents to Ruben Centre for an information day and fun day. This provided an opportunity to gather more information from those who have moved on from Mukuru. Both methods are yielding good results. So far we have interviewed 314 individuals out of 928 students who passed through AEF between 2012-2016.



We are looking forward to the coming six weeks in ministry. The experience is rich and touching. Apart from engaging in the research, we are learning to engage, interact and visit the locals. Through these contacts we are also evangelised and challenged to live a simpler lifestyle.

Brs Edwin Wekulo and Melky Musamia.





EDMUND RICE CAMP NAIROBI – COMMUNITY OUTREACH

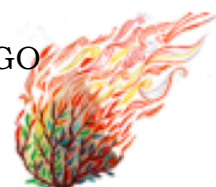
Thirty-three Karibu members were involved in interactive sessions that we organized with some of the informal schools of Kibera. We had a session on “The Pillars and Features of Edmund Rice Ministries East Africa (ERMEA)”, especially these two pillars: ‘Education to Empower’ and ‘Compassionate Response’. Members found that all students are yearning for education since it is the ‘only weapon that one can use to change the world’ (Ref. Mandela).



Karibu members were active in the following schools; St Catherine’s Primary School, St. Christine’s Primary School, St. Stephen’s Primary School, Baraka za Ibrahim Primary and Secondary school, Hoywick Primary and Secondary School, Hope Academy and Mashimoni Squatters Primary School.

Other sessions addressed the following topics of social outreach:

- “Be yourself”;
- ‘Stick to what you believe”;
- “Stand up for your rights”;
- Work hard at school;
- “LET GO” (LET GO of what other people think of you, be determined, resilient and LET GO of the belief that you have no power to move ahead; keep enjoying life; laughter, song and dance are so good for you and they are your rights, so LET GO of the idea that life is always hard)





Preparation of a session on the counseling of vulnerable children is underway.

Sammy Muga

—————**“LEADERS OF INTEGRITY IN KENYA”:**
WHAT IS MY RESPONSIBILITY IN THIS? —————



Some few Edmund Rice Karibu members availed themselves of the opportunity to attend a one-day workshop, sponsored by the alumni of the Centre for Leadership and Management at Tangaza University College. The main objective of the workshop was to enlighten participants, especially during this period of campaign and elections in Kenya, so that they can make informed decision and vote for ethical leaders who can bring positive transformation in the society. The main facilitator was Dr Tim Kiruhi, (PhD) -

Sammy Muga

————— **NOTICE** —————

Br Gerard Ellul in Yambio has a new phone number. Here it is
+211954498816
Please update your contacts.

CALENDAR

FEBRUARY 10-12
FEBRUARY 19-23

AP workshop
CLT meet African leadership teams (Lusaka)





FEBRUARY 25

Final Profession of Simon Peter Odongo

March 7-8

Province Formation Team Meeting (Nairobi)

March 13-14

Formation Committee Meeting (Nairobi)

March 20-24

PLT Meeting (Nairobi)

March 24

Mary Rice Launch of the Strategic Plan

April 4-8

EREA immersion

April 13-17

District Assembly – Mary Ward

April 18

Community Leaders Meeting

April 20

Departure of OP group to India

May 2-7

Mission Capacity Support Team Meeting

May 15-16

Formation Committee Meeting

May 15-19

PLT Meeting

May 27

Br Pascal Kituku's death anniversary

May 31 – June 6

AP Long Workshop

June 26-30

Accompaniment In-services training

Many blessings

George

