



### — WHEN I WAS THE FOREST —

When I was the stream, when I was the  
forest, when I was still the field,  
when I was every hoof, foot,  
fin and wing, when I  
was the sky itself,  
no one ever asked me did I have a  
purpose, no one  
wondered was there anything I might  
need,  
for there was nothing  
I could not  
love.



It was when I left all we once were that  
the agony began, the fear and questions came,  
and I wept, I wept. And tears  
I had never known  
before.

So I returned to the river, I returned to  
the mountains. I asked for their hand in marriage.  
I begged, I begged to wed every object  
and creature,  
and when they accepted,  
God was ever present in my arms.  
And God did not say "Where have you been?"  
For then I knew my soul - every soul - has always held God.

**Meister Eckhart**





## ———— JUST ANOTHER DAY AT THE OFFICE... PART 2 ————

*‘So Frank what is the next big thing for you?,’* asked Michael Slattery who was leading a group of Australian teachers to Ruben Centre. *‘Retirement,’* I said without hesitation. *‘Sixty five next year and my reward is nigh.’*

Focusing on reward has been my preoccupation this past 48 hours since the gospel of Sunday and its mentioning of the word three times in two verses, and so I have been asking myself what is my reward for spending *just another day* in the office last Friday.

The clinic has been under pressure these past three weeks due to the ongoing nurses strike affecting all public health facilities across Kenya.

A quick glance at some of the key areas from last Friday’s data reinforces this claim.

Out patients	88
Mothers in postnatal care	78
Dentist	30
Laboratory tests	59
Reproductive health	39

However two statistics highlight the efforts that the staff goes to as they serve patients.

Firstly cholera patient # 33 since the outbreak occurred over three weeks ago. Staff thought that the outbreak had been contained, thanks to great help from Kenya Red Cross and MSF France, but they were still able to quickly isolate him in the tent for Cholera patients. His condition was not too bad unlike a previous client who was presented with a near cadaver like state and temperature of 26 degrees Celsius.

A second case worth talking was a very pregnant woman who staggered into the clinic in the afternoon. With no history of her pregnancy and after a quick examination, it was decided there were risks associated with having the birth at the clinic. The Prado was summoned and driver, nurse and the mother to be, went off to Cana, a nearby mission hospital. On arrival they were informed that this shilling less woman needed to pay KES 5.800/- (US \$ 55) to have some tests and have the baby there. The nurse pleaded for special consideration with the pastor and owner but to no avail. On hearing





the news that they were being sent away the increasingly distressed woman wailed and moaned, but again it all fell on deaf ears. Ten minutes later the nurse orders the driver to stop the car, as the baby was ready for this world. They stopped at the entrance of the Remand prison and surprisingly, and in contrast to the hospital, the guards listened and let them drive in. The nurse enquired about the prison clinic but it was shut due to the nurse's strike. Soon a healthy baby was born in the car. The mother had no clothes for the baby, and quickly the guard's Maasai blanket became swaddling clothes and our Christian Brother talk of being brother to people made poor became flesh. ...

(Her Profile)

*Name* Abel  
*DAB* June 30<sup>th</sup> 2017  
*Place* Nairobi Remand Prison  
*Parents* Single mother; Millicent  
*Address* Mukuru slums  
*Occupation* unemployed  
*Comments* All is well.

Next up on this day at the office was the news that one of our forty-two special needs kids had died. Seven-year-old Wanjiru was healthy at birth, but at three years contracted Meningitis and was left severely disabled. Apparently on the Friday morning her mother found her with breathing difficulties and she died in her arms as she dashed to the clinic.

Her C V

*Name* Wanjiru  
*Age* 7 years  
*Sex* female  
*Location* Mukuru slums  
*Date of Death* June 30<sup>th</sup> 2017  
*Buried* July 2<sup>nd</sup> Nakuru (end of story )



Her short and troubled life making visible again those words of being made poor, and a far cry from Jesus own desire *for life in its fullness for all* and of course the 2015 Strategic Development Goals.

Abel came to see me today. Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> July. Here with delivery nurse: Note Masai blanket





June 30<sup>th</sup> was not yet done and literally at the eleventh hour one of our maintenance workers was attacked near his home in the slum and shot. Fortunately the bullet passed harmlessly through his upper arm and he should recover.

The next day when following the incident up with our police, I was assured with the words, ' *don't worry brother we are together in this.* ' I left wondering what this could mean given the reputation of our police for summary executions and unease with paper work. Still engaged by this day at the office, I spent Sunday alone and with the gospel of the day and its image of taking up your cross and its promise of reward three times in two verses.

Later I wrote, ' I am rewarded with the fullness of ' *with him, through him and in him,* ' that energizes me to serve, and maybe just like the mess of this ' *just another day* ' I am being made holy.

*Maybe my reward will be the postponement of that retirement.*

**Br Frank O'Shea**

———— IMMERSION DAY 8 ————



Kesheni Participants and Youth of Edmund Rice Karibu Camps

After breakfast we headed off to Mass at St Michael's Langatta. Here we are welcomed in to have a seat by Sammy Muga as hundreds cram outside who cannot get a seat! The Mass is long at 2.5 hours. The feature includes a vibrant choir of men and women who shake the Church with drums, music and unbelievable harmonies. The deep voices of African men and the distinctive high African (almost Arabian) shrill of the women is terrific and nothing like the dreaded durgues of





Australian Church music! Many of the Karibu group is in the choir and we sit next to them. A once in a lifetime experience of what 'community' could be in first world churches!

We walk with the ER youth to the Mary Rice Centre for a lovely lunch which is a real treat and some cross cultural conversations including the array of contemporary issues facing Aussie and Kenyan people, including national politics, technology, dating, university, church, music, sport, access to education, dating, likes and dislikes, and lots more. This is a great session of activity and our group and we learn so much from the encounter. Of course John asks the most questions and they are all good ones! New friends are made, old ones for Alison and Michael re-established, new Facebook contacts entered and laughter a plenty endures. The Karibu leaders presented each Aussie with a Masai blanket in a ritual of Karibu or welcome. These colourful blankets are placed in Masai style over the shoulder of each person. Speeches of thanks then follow in truly African style.



Kesheni Participants (Paul Morgan, Michael Slattery, Molly Morgan, Trish Dounias, Terry Blizzard, Mark Crowe, Andrew Scadden, John Murphy, Alison Slattery, Samuel Karanja) and Brothers at Otiende Community

We then walked to the Brothers house in Otiende for a dinner with Brothers Vincent, George, Amandi, Peter, Russell, and Fred. We did our normal evening debrief for all to hear and lots of banter between all the group. The dinner was excellent with soup, meat and vegetables and ice cream and fruit salad. The Brothers were perfect hosts. Lots of catching up on Aussie news, especially the AFL scores!





After dinner we travelled home with wingman John to our digs at the Conference Centre for a good night of sleep. All safe and well.

**Dr Michael Slattery**

———— **EDMUND RICE KARIBU YOUTH  
AND IMMERSION PROGRAMMES** ————

Members have been highly motivated and excited by the opportunity of guiding Australian immersion groups through the Kibera informal schools the group is connected with and in visits to their own Kibera homes.

First on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup>. there was the Zimele group with Tom Purcell who ALSO connected with a women's group characterized by a beautiful mutual supportive spirit.



Melton and Kesheni Immersion groups, Brs Peter Cole, Gerard Mgalula and Youth

Friday, 7<sup>th</sup> July, we had 6 teachers from Melton Catholic regional secondary and 10 members from the visiting Kesheni group, mainly teachers.



Sunday, 9<sup>th</sup> July was a full day with the Kesheni group with Mass at the local parish with lusty singing from the youth, followed by a cross-cultural sharing into the evening.

The feedback from the





three groups was very positive. Universally the visitors were delighted to experience the joy, resilience and curiosity of the children. They expressed their admiration for the youth's generosity and their commitment to the spirit of Edmund

**Br PETER COLE**

**BROTHER BEAUSANG TO GRACE THE KENYA NATIONAL MUSIC FESTIVALS - KAKAMEGA**



Miss Winnie preparing a dancer for the Baganda dance

This week Brother Beausang Catholic Education Centre will be among the schools that will be battling it out for honours in the Kenya National Music Festival competitions to be held in Kakamega (Western Kenya). Ever since exotic dance category was introduced, Brother Beausang has presented items in Scottish dance and this year there will be an addition of Indian dance. Miss Winnie who is popularly known as the YouTube trainer has never been in Scotland nor India but from the way the young lads trained

by her dance you may think she is Scottish or Indian. She says last year she missed the first position because of some technicalities which she has rectified now. She heavily relies on YouTube videos to choreograph her dances and scripts. One of the solo guitarist (Class 8 pupil) who was chosen to entertain the President at State House last year will be competing again this year in his category.

Brother Beausang will also be presenting a Baganda dance, but stiff competition is expected in that category keeping in mind that the Western part of Kenya borders Uganda and it is expected that some counties which have heavily borrowed culture from the Baganda people might have similar items. If you are around Masinde Muliro University-Kakamega contact Miss. Winnie about the programme and be part of the audience as Brother Beausang pupils showcase their talents.

We wish them well in the competitions

**Mr Mercilinus Ounde**





———— **EDMUND RICE KARIBU GROUP (ERKG)**  
**CAMP ON 8<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2017** ————

Edmund Rice Karibu Youth once again set off into what they do best. An Eddie Rice Camp at the Regina Pacis grounds in Langatta. Play being a fundamental right and a good way for development for children, 75 children from six different schools, and some ten others from Women for Women (Frank Chapel High School) got out of their normal school routine and home in the crowded slum with no play grounds and got an opportunity to do some bit of body exercises.



The day kicked off in a chilly morning and was well coordinated by over 40 Karibu group leaders who made sure that things followed on smoothly in an interactive and most of all creative way. The Kesheni Immersion participants from Australia fit in very well to make the day even more enjoyable. The activities followed the almost predictable order of big circles, song games then rotation game which saw most leaders, initiate at least a game that was full of energy and innovativeness. Silas Shikanga, did an exemplary work all through the day in his small group something that caught Mzee's (Br Peter Cole) attention that he couldn't miss to comment about him at the end of the day.

**Mr John Muisyo**

JULY

07  
07

JOHN PAUL OLUOCH (Shams)  
STEPHEN WANDABUSI (Karen)







16  
26

FRANCIS NKWABI (Karen)  
GERALD MGALULA (Otiende)

## CALENDAR

August 14-18	PLT Meeting
August 30-Sept 1	DLT Review
September 8	Community Leaders Meeting
September 9	Cluster
September 11-15	Accompaniment Workshop
September 15-17	Aspirants Discernment weekend
September 21-22	Formation Committee Meeting
October 11	Child Protection Workshop
October 20	Mashujaa Day
October 20-22	Selection of 2018 Postulants
November 6-17	ERI Training Geneva
November 8-10	RSCK AGM
November 20-24	PLT Meeting (Lusaka)
November 25	First Profession (Lusaka)
December 12	Jamhuri Day

Many blessings

George

