



Christian Brothers
East Africa District

East Africa District Newsletter

DRAWN BY MYSTERY, DESTINED FOR LIFE.

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— A GIFT —



Just when you seem to yourself
nothing but a flimsy web
of questions, you are given
the questions of others to hold
in the emptiness of your hands,
songbird eggs that can still hatch
if you keep them warm,
butterflies opening and closing themselves
in your cupped palms, trusting you not to injure
their scintillant fur, their dust.
You are given the questions of others
as if they were answers
to all you ask. Yes, perhaps
this gift is your answer.

~ Denise Levertov ~

— PRAYERS REQUESTED —

For our Brothers and the people of West Africa who are in the midst of the Ebola outbreak.





HAPPY 40TH BIRTHDAY



Simon Kaswahili

On 26th October, Simon Kaswahili celebrated his 40th birthday, slightly pushing the District average age upward!

We wish Simon all the blessings as he prepares to take on his news ministry as the Headmaster of Edmund Rice Sinon Secondary School in Arusha, at this prime age. As they say: "Life begins at 40".

EDMUND RICE SINON SECONDARY SCHOOL CELEBRATES HER 24TH FORM FOUR GRADUATION



Form 4 Graduates of ERSSS 2014

As I continue wondering, experiencing, and learning new ideas in the new environment, I was privileged to join the Edmund Rice Sinon Secondary School (ERSSS) to celebrate the joyful moment of the year.

On Friday 24th October 2014, ERSSS celebrated her 24th form-4

graduation. That morning all fourteen hundred

students, together with a hundred staff members, numerous parents and invited guests, were filled with joy and excitement. The sunny day began with prayer services, organized creatively in various religious clusters. All denominations gathered for at least two hours, thanking God, before joining the big celebration. Fr. Geoffrey, SVD, celebrated the mass for the Catholics. His carefully prepared homily on integrating the past into the present so as to overcome the future inspired many.

Immediately after the prayer services, all processed to the reception hall just adjacent to the spectacular green school garden. The outgoing Headmaster, Br. Francis Nkwabi, welcomed all and encouraged the graduates to use the knowledge they have acquired to transform society. Br. Pascal Kituku, who was the coordinator of the graduating class, addressed the class, saying that the 210 graduating students were adequately prepared and were ready to sit for their





national examination. He urged the class to disengage themselves from corruption. The guest of honour, Dr. Suma Kaare, the Principal of Training Centre for Development and Cooperation (TCDC) urged the graduates to translate words into actions. She asserted that education is not about accumulating certificates and degrees. It is about practicing what has been learnt. She affirmed the school for including technical subjects in the curriculum for this would enable learners to demonstrate knowledge in a practical way.

Simon Kaswahili

— **EDMUND RICE CAMPS FOR KIDS** —



Peter Cole with Cottolengo Kids

Last Saturday was different: Edmund Rice Camps gathered at Cottolengo Children's home for children living with HIV positively.

We prayed and played with them. But the play outcome was very different. The youth leaders (25 in number) tried their usual tricks and routines but to no avail. We all had to

submit to the control of the kids. They had different ideas: a ball was not so much to be passed, as to be held. However, we quickly learnt to adapt and to be led. In the long run, all were happy.

I was very encouraged the next day by the youth feedback at our Sunday meeting to hear them saying that the frustration was a good learning experience for them, and that in fact the day had been a success in a quite different way. Finally they were happy that the kids were happy. Many of the leaders now feel attached to the place and will ensure we don't forget the kids there.

What saddened me is that so many of the kids looked much more sickly than the HIV-positive kids that I know in Kibera. To make it worse, we heard there were 20 bed-ridden kids inside. We are also happy that many of the kids with whom we played study at Brother Beausang primary. That is a blessing. As an addendum, the kids also refused catechism classes in the afternoon. Well, there are good psychological theories of it all!!

PETER COLE





— ACT JUSTLY, WALK HUMBLY AND LOVE TENDERLY —

Micah asks us to act justly, walk humbly and love tenderly. As an Australian on a Gone Fishing immersion trip to Nairobi, it is easy to say that I have heard these words so many times before. Yet the true meaning of these words has been shown to me in so many ways while we have been here in Nairobi.

It is hard to fathom justice in Kibera and Ruben, and in fact, in Kenya at large. It seems to me that people who should be acting justly and can afford to act justly do not act justly and

those who have so many challenges, barriers and burdens are the ones acting justly. It is the children of the slums that have taught me so much about acting justly: the way in which they share what they received, look out for each other, care for each other. We have met staff here, who embody in their everyday work acting justly. With limited resources, poor conditions, I believe it is the staff members that are the ripple of change that can liberate lives.

“To walk humbly.” The parents whom we have visited seem so humbled that we have visited them. It is safe to say that the gone fishing people feel incredibly humbled to be here walking side by side with you: the mothers who work so hard to feed your children; the staff who are doing such amazing work; Frank O'Shea, who is such an amazing and inspiring model at the Ruben Centre, yet seems to simply take it in his stride.

“To love tenderly.” There were so many that we saw people loving tenderly: Gerald, at the Mary Rice Centre, consoling Alex as he cried because he lost his jumper; the very tall Maurice and the charming Lewis sitting on a tiny little chair doing bead work with the children; the children of Ruben showing us their fantastic garden, with faces of pride and love for the work they do there; Ester, rolling Nancy (who was in so much pain) around during her therapy session, receiving a big hug from Nancy when it finished. In fact every staff member I saw had a heart full of love and compassion.

So I will go home to my house in west end in Brisbane with my three little girls and my lovely husband. And I will forever remember the



**Genevieve Atkinson - Gone Fishing
2014**





amazing, hardworking, compassionate people who have taught me through their actions and words how to act justly, walk humbly and love tenderly.

Genevieve Atkinson

———— **KENYA WINS IN MELBOURNE** ————



Dominic Ondoro defended his Melbourne marathon crown

Appearing in a Melbourne Newspaper is this photo of Kenyan Dominic Ondoro winning the Melbourne Marathon on 12 October 2014

Russell Peters

———— **PICTURE OF THE WEEK** ————



Julius Oluoch, Clement Sindazi and Martin Binyenya in Keating House - Lusaka

REMAINING BIRTHDAYS OCTOBER

31 TIM LOCKWOOD (Otiende)

CALENDAR

Oct. 30 – 31

Oct. 31 – Nov. 1

Formation Committee Meeting - Nairobi
Community Leaders Meeting (Friday supper and Saturday)





Nov. 29
Dec. 6

First Profession (Tamale)
Reception and missioning for newly professed
(Nairobi)

Dec. 12 - 15
Dec. 16-18

District Assembly
DLT review and planning days

Many thanks

George Massay

