



———— HALF LIFE ————



We walk through half our life
as if it were a fever dream
barely touching the ground
our eyes half open
our heart half closed.

Not half knowing who we are
we watch the ghost of us drift
from room to room
through friends and lovers
never quite as real as advertised.

Not saying half we mean
or meaning half we say
we dream ourselves
from birth to birth
seeking some true self.

Until the fever breaks
and the heart can not abide
a moment longer
as the rest of us awakens,
summoned from the dream,
not half caring for anything but love.

~ Stephen Levine ~

(Breaking the Drought)





PRAYERS REQUESTED

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

REFLECTIONS FROM TWO BROTHERS PREPARING FOR FINAL VOWS

Putting into the deep-an inward journey



Martin Binyenya

The call to put into the deep has been vivid as I continue to integrate into my personal life the inputs I am receiving in the “Preparation for Life Commitment Programme” here in Lusaka. This call has hit me hard as I move towards deepening and living out my Religious life in a more authentic way. The questions that are providing the road map for my inward journey are:

1. What am I really committing to?
2. What is the cost of this commitment?
3. What am I risking in putting into the deep?
4. What are the joys of putting into the deep?

Reflecting on these demanding yet inevitable questions has made me more aware of the demands of Religious Life and led me to ask: For what am I putting into the deep? In essence I am putting into the deep for:

1. A life of being rather than of doing.
2. A more interior journey rather than an exterior journey
3. A call to come down rather than to go up
4. A call to radical consciousness: a call to witness before people values by which to live.
5. A challenge to live in a healthy relationship with God, others, myself, and nature that is characterized by inclusive love.
6. A life of joyous dependence on God and a ministry of open-hearted sharing of God’s gifts with the human community.





As I reflect deeply on these elements of the call to religious life, I am greatly disturbed that, like Simon Peter, I have worked hard the whole night and caught nothing. I have fallen short of the expectation of Religious life. Nevertheless I feel strongly the challenge to venture into the deep and lower my nets for a catch as Jesus commands. Simon and his colleagues, when they risked putting into the deep and lowering their nets, were able to catch more fish than ever. I am hopeful that my venture into the deep will result in my becoming the religious I am called to be.

The catch of more fish by Peter and the colleagues gives me hope that putting into the deep is a life worth living; that it is a life that brings more joy than sadness. Indeed it is a celebration of life!

MARTIN BINYENYA

The Elder Son

In the parable of the prodigal son, most people focus on the younger son but I found myself thinking about the elder son.

The elder son lacked self knowledge, he didn't know what he wanted and took the love of his father for granted. He didn't even realize that his father loved him. He was obedient and worked so hard in the farm and he was always there with the father, as if he was doing this to earn his father's favour. He told the father "look I have slaved for you all these years. Never have I disobeyed your orders. Yet you have never given me even a young goat to celebrate with my friends". I don't think he even realized that he wanted to celebrate with his friends so he never asked his father for a party. However, he recognized his desire for this when he felt jealous of his brother when the father prepared a banquet for him. He refused to celebrate with him, but instead he started blaming the father for preparing a banquet for this son of yours (he does not even call him "my brother"). "When this son of yours returns, after squandering your property with loose women, you kill the fattened calf for him". Sometimes we are so loyal that we fail to recognize and appreciate the love of God- just a thought.

On the other hand, the younger son came expecting the father to be angry and denounce him. He was met with love, forgiveness and a celebration for his return.

I pray that we may be more committed, loving, kind, generous, humble and forgiving. We should yearn to deepen our relationship with God and Jesus for the changes and difference to be seen in our lives. Always be open to be inspired by the spirit.

JULIAS OLUOCH





STAR SUPPORT GROUP YAMBIO-SOUTH SUDAN

Giving never impoverishes, withholding never enriches... Star Support Group continues to promote the dignity of a large number of People Living with HIV/AIDS here in Yambio. In a resource-constrained country, especially in South Sudan where conflicts keep escalating, transmission of HIV remains a major public health problem. The psychosocial care and support that our project offers to the clients has greatly contributed to an increased level of awareness in the community. As a result those in 'the infancy stage' of the disease have taken steps toward health because they were more informed through the workshops that the project conducts on monthly basis for both affected and infected clients.



A section of Star Support Group sharing lunch

I had the privilege to carry out an evaluation of the project through the monthly gathering of all the members, which gives us an opportunity to learn how the clients are coping and to identify 'loop





holes' which the project should address from the beginning next year. From the evaluation, we learned that the clients appreciated the zeal; enthusiasm and energy the Brothers have put into the project to help them live positively with the HIV/AIDS virus. Among the many key areas described by the clients include:

- they have become aware of the disease through intense monthly workshops on different topics that enables them to acquire more knowledge,
- the home based care support especially the bedridden patients,
- sense of motivation, homeliness,
- provision of Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission that enables the 'newly born babies' not to react when tested for the virus,
- transportation especially to the referred clients and enabling the members to meet once a month for their 'spiritual nourishment' prayers and nutrition support.

What remains an on-going challenge is the provision of prophylaxis contrimaxazole and opportunistic infection drugs for the dispensary that helps to boost the immune system of the clients. Star Support Group respects the human dignity of all and builds capacity of the community to be aware of, care for, support and encourage PLWHA through home based care programmes and workshops. On my behalf and the on behalf of the beneficiaries of the project, I wish to convey my sincere heartfelt gratitude and appreciation to the Edmund Rice Foundation Australia (**ERFA**) for their continued support to fund the project carry out all its activities. Indeed the Spirit of Bl. Edmund is truly alive...striving to mirror the discipleship of Jesus.





————— **FIRST PROFESSION – TAMALE GHANA** —————

This is to inform you that eight young men will, on Saturday, November 29, 2014, make their first profession of vows as Christian Brothers. Two are from the Oceania Province and the other six from the Africa Province -

PAPUA NEW GUINEA (OCEANIA PROVINCE): Desmond Taboeya and Francis ToLiman.

ZAMBIA (SOUTH CENTRAL DISTRICT): Cephass Bwalya; Emmanuel Nonde and Paul Kakulunda.

SIERRA LEONE (WEST AFRICA DISTRICT): Dominic Konkoro Kargbo.

KENYA (EAST AFRICA DISTRICT): Lawrence Ouma Agalo and Philip Ombucha Kwena.

The profession and Eucharist will take place in our parish church at 10 am that morning.

Please keep the eight novices in your prayers as they take this important step into Christian Brotherhood.

On Monday, December 01, they will depart Tamale to return home. We wish them well in their new ministries and community assignments for 2015 and pray that God will continue to be with them.



STANDING: Conrad, Dominic, Cephass, Desmond and Francis.
SEATED: Lawrence, Emmanuel, Philip and Paul.

BRO. CONRAD CEREJO





**NEWSLETTER OF EDMUND RICE EDUCATION
BEYOND BORDERS**

Below is the link of the EREBB newsletter which is worth reading.

<http://us8.campaignarchive2.com/?u=576270af2bed73295d44f78e5&id=4ea62797e1&e=ab8ab92594>

CALENDAR

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

