



### ———— LIGHTENING THE LOAD ————



The first thing we have to do  
is to notice  
that we've loaded down this camel  
with so much baggage  
we'll never get through the desert alive.  
Something has to go.

Then we can begin to dump  
the thousand things  
we've brought along  
until even the camel has to go  
and we're walking barefoot  
on the desert sand.

There's no telling what will happen then.  
But I've heard that someone,  
walking in this way,  
has seen a burning bush.

-- Francis Dorff, O. Praem.





## CHILD PROTECTION WORKSHOP SUMMARY



Bill Colford, Silverio Wafula and Angie Obutu at the CPP workshop

The Onsite Child Protection Officers and ministry site administrators met at Mary Ward Centre for a three-day seminar on Child Protection Policy (CPP). The sessions were led by Cornel Ogutu and Wamboi from the African Network for the Prevention and Protection against Child Abuse and Neglect (ANPPCAN). ANPPCAN is a Pan African network that promotes child rights and child protection in Africa.

Together we discussed various areas concerning **“Keeping Children Safe”**. By the end of the three days the participants felt well equipped with skills on implementation of child protection policies, with the aim of keeping children safe in their respective ministry sites.

Some statements from the participants were: “I am proud of myself to learn all the things that are related to child protection.” “I am able to appreciate children’s backgrounds and how they influences their character.” “Child abuse cases are still rampant”.

The discussions on various case studies helped the participants to get in touch with the reality of different forms of child abuse. Personal encounters regarding child protection concerns were presented and discussed to help the participants understand effective procedures in implementation of the child protection policy in their individual ministry sites. For example, one participant testified that, “The case studies discussed have enlightened me on various methods to respond to child abuse”. At the end, the participants had a sense that they had acquired new ideas on how to tackle child abuse cases from shared experiences on case studies.

The seminar’s climax was the training of the OCPO on how to develop an action plan that will aid them in the implementation of the Child Protection Policy, including monitoring adherence to the policy. The participants felt that the workshop had enabled them to be prepared to better



Nestory, Janet and Gustavo - Teachers of Edmund Rice Sinon Secondary School at the Workshop



deal with situations as they arise in their ministry sites.

Below are some of the comments from the participants:

*There is a challenge in the implementation of the policy because of definitions of various forms of abuse. Example, is kneeling on concrete and corporal punishment.*

*The forum gave an opportunity for the staff from partner ministries under Christian Brothers to exchange practices, skills and knowledge.*

*The interest of the child is always put first. I am aware of the content of the CPP and can answer quite a lot about child protection.*

*I have learnt that our own values, beliefs and attitudes influence our views and takes on child protection.*

*Now I know the gaps that exist as far as CPP implementation is concerned.*

*I was delighted to meet so many professionals who take child protection seriously.*

*I was amazed to see commitment and fire burning in people to respond to child abuse.*

*The workshop has reminded me to listen to children and work with other institutions to respond to child abuse incidences.*

*The hot debates on case studies were enlightening and very educative. Child abuse cases are still rampant.*

*Corporal punishment is wrong.*

**Amandi Mboya**

## ———— CROSS CULTURAL ORIENTATION ————

We will understand people's way of living and even behaviour if we step out of our own familiar world to unfamiliar worlds – and by not using assumptions. Without such relationships, we will never engage fruitfully with our newly encountered communities.





Novices posing for a photo after the workshop

Novices in Tamale underwent a one week cross cultural orientation course at Tamale Institute of Cross Cultural Studies (TICCS), from 16<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> Feb. We covered various topics concerning the cultures of Ghana and especially northern Ghana for our purposes. We had classes, sharing and

discussions in the mornings and field trips in the evenings. We visited the only female traditional chief among the Dagomba people, a local brewery bar, the diviner and had a compound meal (local foods with the local people) just to mention a few of the visits. We hope that this course will help us interact with the people we meet both at the ministry sites and in our interactions with the local people.

Isaac Odongo

### ———— INVITATION TO GONE FISHING EUCHARIST ————

A group of Australians, led by the ERFA Executive Officer, is arriving in Nairobi on Saturday 28 February for a Gone Fishing immersion experience. As part of their welcome to Kenya, Brothers and their colleague ministries from Beausang, Mary Rice, Ruben and Edmund Rice Camps are invited to a Eucharist at the **Mary Ward Centre on Sunday 1 March commencing at 3.15 pm**. Brothers not in a formal ministry are warmly welcomed. After the Eucharist, there will be refreshments.

**Russell Peters**

#### CALENDAR

February 18	Ash Wednesday, DLT Meeting
March 4	DLT Meeting
March 7	Nairobi Cluster
March 14	Arusha Cluster
March 18	DLT Meeting
March 20-21	Community Leaders Meeting





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March 26-27	Formation Committee Meeting
April 1	DLT Meeting
April 3	Good Friday
April 5	Easter Sunday
April 11	Possible Final Profession in Eldoret
April 29	DLT Meeting

Thank you

George Massay

