



— A SLEEP OF PRISONERS —



The human heart can go the length of God.
Cold and dark it may be
But this is no winter now.

The frozen misery of centuries cracks, breaks, begins
to move.

The thunder is the thunder of the floes.
The thaw, the flood, the upstart spring.

Thank God our time is now
When wrong comes up to meet us everywhere
Never to leave until we take
The greatest stride of soul that people ever took.

Affairs are now soul-size.

The enterprise is exploration into God...

Christopher Fry

— PRAYERS REQUESTED —

We pray for the repose of the soul of Brother Paul Kakulunda (22 years) who made his first profession in Tamale in November 2014. Paul is a member of the South Central District, of Africa Province. There is a short write-up in this Newsletter from Lawrence who was in novitiate with Paul.

We also continue to pray for the repose of the soul of Mrs Marie Kearney, mother of Brother Tom Kearney, who was buried in Melbourne this last week.

We pray for the repose of the soul of Mrs Anne Casey, mother of Brother John Casey – CLT.





———— **FROM TOM KEARNEY** ————

"The extended Kearney Family and I would like to thank the Brothers and Members of the Edmund Rice Network of the East Africa District for your prayers and condolences on the death and burial of our mother Marie Kearney. We were able to bury our loved mother, grandmother and great grandmother with an appropriate grateful ceremony last Friday . The ceremony was attended by many family members and friends of her long and happy life. It was also good to have the District represented by Daniel Lyimo and Paul Follas. God bless you all.

———— **FROM THE CONGREGATION LEADERSHIP TEAM** ————

We were saddened to hear this afternoon of the death of Mrs Anne Casey in Athy, Ireland. She has deteriorated in health quite quickly since late last year when she was first diagnosed with cancer. John was with his mother and his family in recent days, and it has been a very special time for him. Please keep Anne and John's family in your thoughts and prayers, as they celebrate the person Anne has been for them, and support one another in their loss.

Your Brothers

Congregation Leadership Team

———— **GONE TOO SOON BUT
THE MEMORIES ARE STILL WITH ME** ————

"My man,I hope you are enjoying life in the community. How is Nairobi? And how about 'Pinto'?"-as he used to call Philip Ombucha. "Please, tell him to get in touch. Otherwise, I am doing fine and I look forward to meeting you when you come to Zambia for the new hub communities."

Those are some of the very last words 'Paulo small boy', as I used to call him; spoke to me via a lengthy Facebook Live call on Sat 7th at around 8 East African Time. Little did I know that Paulo was going to be with me in another way in a few days time!!

Having lived with Paulo in Tamale for two years, I knew Paul as a young energetic man who had a lot of strengths. He was a jovial, hardworking, creative, respectful, straight- forward, committed, social and friendly, thinker, compassionate, composed, a great soccer player just to mention but a few.

In the picture, Paulo is on the right with Emmanuel Nonde on the left and myself Lawrence in the middle.





Though he was the youngest of all the eight of us in the Novitiate,



Emmanuel, Lawrence and Paulo

Paulo showed a mature relationship, both with us and the neighbours. My relationship with him was such a good one that I enjoyed working with him in different ministries as well as in different areas such as chapel and, dining, community and recreation rooms in the Novitiate. I also lived with Paulo alongside Emmanuel, Francis and Martin in the same house during CPP (Community Pastoral Placement). The memories of the life experiences I shared with him are still lingering freshly in my mind and heart.

The news about his death came to me through Br.

Cephas Bwalya who sent me a Facebook text that

same Friday evening that Paul passed on. I was completely dumb and shocked!! I am still striving to believe that Paulo is no longer alive but he is still with us in our hearts.

Br. Albert Gomez, the DDL of West Africa is very right in his email when he wrote, ***“The scorching sun has sucked away the sap off the young shoot that would blossom into flower and seed to nourish us all.”***

I feel for my fellow Brothers Cephas, Emmanuel, Philip, Desmond, Dominic and Francis. I also feel for Martin who left the Novitiate before profession. He must be in the same agony since he was part of our journey. I also grieve with his family, South and Central District Brothers, friends, relatives and the entire congregation of Christian Brothers.

I want to believe that ‘Paulo small boy’ has gone to rest with the Lord he saw and served in the faces of the poor and indeed, is going to rise with Him to glory on the resurrection day.
May Paulo rest in eternal peace.

Lawrence (‘young man’ as Paul called me) Agalo.





CLUSTER GATHERING IN ARUSHA



Standing L-R Bill, Wycliffe and Clem. Seated L-R Simon, Gerard and Kevin

The brothers gathered in Arusha on Saturday 14th March for the cluster meeting, which was held at Shams. The topic was about masculinity, where we expounded the notion of “being a man” in the past and the present experience of what it means to be a man. The brothers shared openly how culture dictated the attitudes and behaviours of men in the past. Even though presently education has affected our thinking positively, it was

discovered that a lot more needs to be done in the society and we, the brothers, being the

men in the church, we have a role to play in order to enhance unity and equality with women.

Wyclife Maisiba

BEHAVIOUR CHANGE WORKSHOP



Jane Kamau facilitating a behaviour change workshop

From March 11 – 13 the EFL facilitation team of Jane, Antonio and Bill travelled to St. Michael’s, Kipsombe to present their Behaviour





Change Programme. Each day they travelled for 40 minutes to the school and, fortunately, they were against traffic so we able to arrive on time each day. They were told there would be 70 students but found 130! After an initial hesitation on the part of the students to engage, the programme took off. Part of the first day was the sharing of values, stresses and pressures the students were facing. A deeper look into what was behind these points took part of day two. The morning of day three was used to present information on HIV/AIDS and to discuss how promiscuous sex can lead to many and varied problems.

In the afternoon we revisited the topics of values, stresses and pressures before closing with a commitment ceremony and an evaluation. It was amazing to see how the values changed drastically from the first day. But the highlight was when the boys and girls were asked to write what they really wanted to get rid of in their lives and then to burn it. One hundred and thirty 15/16 year olds were solemn and respectful during the 20 minutes it took to finish the ritual. They sang, prayed and were silent throughout. It was a very rewarding experience for me personally.

Bill Colford

———— MY FIRST DAY IN MINISTRY ————

On 12th March 2015, we had our first day of ministry as novices here in Tamale novitiate. When we got back to the community that evening, each one of us shared his experiences with the rest of the community. Many of the experiences were fascinating as well as promising.



Edwin Saka with pupils of Kanvili School

My ministry placement is at Kanivili School. I am with Wallace, one of the novices from Liberia, the only 2015/16 novice from Liberia. I found it very interesting and wonderful. I had a privilege to join with the other Brothers, Paul, Erick and Samuel, from Chogu. Br Paul works as the school principal. He welcomed us and introduced us warmly as his Brothers. Kanvili School is both a primary and junior high school institution.

Prior to joining the ministry, we attended a seminar at (TICCS) Tamale Institute of Cross-Cultural Studies. This seminar was an eye





and mind opener for us on how to relate with Ghanaians. Not only that, but we also had classes on Dagban language, facilitated by Joseph one of the community's best friends. Dagban is the local language spoken here in Tamale. This made me to approach my ministry place with a prepared mind of dos and don'ts. I used the difference to challenge my own assumptions about 'right' way of doing things and through this, I got chance to learn new ways on how to relate and solve things. Generally it is a wonderful experience from which am looking forward to benefit much more in the coming ministry days.

Edwin Saka Wekullo

EDMUND RICE ACTIVITIES



At exactly 4pm on Mondays, it's a special time here at Shams for Edmund Rice Activities, coordinated by postulant Cylus Juma. It's an hour full of energy and a beehive of activities involving children from Shams. Postulants mingle and play with the children to the best of their abilities.

Edmund Rice activities in Shamsi

The peak of it is marked by a simple refreshment time. An aura of joy dominates the evening atmosphere!

Willy Mutuva (fellow postulant)

BIRTHDAYS

MARCH	23	JOHN NYAMBA (Second year novice – Lusaka)
	26	BILL COLFORD (Eldoret)
	30	PETER SHANAHAN (Embulbul)
	30	EDWARD MASINDE (Second year novice - Lusaka)

CALENDAR

March 18	DLT Meeting
March 20-21	Community Leaders Meeting
March 26-27	Formation Committee Meeting





April 1	DLT Meeting
April 3	Good Friday
April 5	Easter Sunday
April 11	Final Profession in Eldoret of Julias Oluoch and Martin Binyenya
April 29	DLT Meeting

Thank you

George Massay

