



————— SOMETIMES —————



Sometimes
if you move carefully through the forest

breathing
like the ones
in the old stories

who could cross
a shimmering bed of dry leaves
without a sound,

you come to a place
whose only task
is to trouble you with tiny
but frightening requests

conceived out of nowhere
but in this place,
beginning to lead everywhere.

Requests to stop what you are doing right now,
and to stop what you are becoming while you do it,

questions that can make or unmake a life,
questions that have patiently waited for you,
questions that have no right to go away.

~ David Whyte ~

(Everything is Waiting for You)





PRAYERS REQUESTED

This last week we received news from Yambio, (please read the article below), indicating lack of peace. You are requested to keep people of South Sudan in your prayers, and especially our brothers in Yambio and the people they serve.

TENSION IN YAMBIO

Yambio is a county in the Western Equatorial state of South Sudan. It has been one of the most peaceful states among the other nine. The tension in Western Equatorial began about a month ago when some 35 innocent young people were arrested at a place called Meridi by an order from Juba. The whereabouts of those young men is not known yet but the rumor is that they are in Juba in a torture chamber.

The tension started mounting here in Yambio, when some civilians, in response to the disappearance of the youth, killed some soldiers. On 29 July 2015, the military decided to take revenge; a Dinka soldier executed two boda boda young men at the airstrip.

The killing of the two young men marked the beginning of a mass exodus: people fled Yambio town seeking refuge and the town was nearly deserted. Friday night we heard heavy gunshots, which continued past midnight. On Saturday the situation deteriorated: the shooting started in the morning with heavy firing of heavy artillery. It was very scary. By the end of the day, the town was completely deserted. People sought refuge elsewhere. According to the Catholic Bishop, people are hiding in the bush and others have crossed the border. The shooting yesterday ceased around 7pm. We do not yet know how many were killed.

Today, Sunday, the governor assured safety to the few faithful who managed to attend mass. More security personnel have been deployed and we hope that peace will come. Tension is still very high, but we hope for the best. The bishop spoke during the mass about the issues. He said the saga is a provocation to destabilise the Western Equatorial state and he challenged the government to identify the cause of the problem, especially to identify the big sharks who are fuelling the problem.

We ask readers to keep us in your prayers; more so, please pray for peace in this county.

Pascal Kituku





———— THE POWER OF BEING A VOLUNTEER ————

There are several reasons we reach out to people in need. For the leaders of Edmund Rice Camps in the North Rift, the realization of a different perspective comes into play. I call this the power to volunteer!

The leaders who volunteer are people who see the need to give the extra they have to the needy in the society. These individuals have taken a very rare journey: the journey to be compassionate despite the many challenges they face in their own lives as youths living in a slum area.



A child having fun during the camp

These leaders have the patience to encourage children whose self-esteem is low due to the harsh reality of their environment. They keep trying to open up new possibilities in life for the children and to teach them to undertake that which is challenging.

It's all about love and recognizing the power of touch and smile that can create a difference in the child's world. Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment or even the smallest act of caring. This is what we witness when leaders engage with children in camps. A small act of kindness has the potential to turn a life around and give a child a shoulder to lean on. The world of the children is turned around as





they celebrate a second chance in life by being a child again, supported by these strong young men and women leaders.

We all have a responsibility to create a world where all are treated equal, despite gender, sexual orientation or even social status, by extending our hands and hearts to every person and to all of creation.

Constantine Sunday

PICNIC DAY AT ROCK CITY



Naomi Machua (teacher) and during the picnic

Mary Rice children and Staff were given a rare opportunity to visit Rock City, a venue of the picnic, where everyone, especially the children, enjoyed this trip out of the city. This was a fun-filled day that took place just before the Centre closes for the August holiday.

At Rock city, the children were treated to fun-filled games: boat rides; Toddlers' Splash (an inflatable toddler swimming pool with a slide); swings; a merry go-round; and a motor-cycle track. Amazingly, some of the children knew how to swim better than the staff!





The food was very good and plentiful. The children expressed their excitement and happiness on this trip by asking that the next trip should come sooner.



Br Gerald assisting children in the game

The staff too were very happy and excited that everything had went according to plan and that every child returned home feeling happy. To the supporters of Mary Rice Center, we thank you for the continued support and more specifically for supporting this trip, which was so beneficial to the children in many aspects.

Gerald Mgalula

———— **POWER TO TRANSFORM** ————

The lack of meeting spaces in Eldoret and the chilly weather did not stop the leaders' recollection day from taking place.

The recollection was a day to redefine “Who we are and why we do what we do”. Different speakers, including some of the youths, helped us realize that, in order to be more effective and meaningful in the society of today, we must know who we are. Self-knowledge informs the choices we make, how we react to the challenges in life, and what keeps us going every day. It was also crucial in helping us understand that we need each other since we are all have unique gifts and talents.





Youth volunteers during the recollection day in Eldoret

It was an eye-opener to the leaders to realize how just being ready to offer time and self to the children from humble background can make such a difference in the world. The possibility of helping others is not limited to those with wealth or money, but is a possibility for anyone who is ready to learn and allow others to learn from them.

The experience of leading camps has given these youth leaders meaning, purpose, and a reason to celebrate life in their community, despite the many challenges they themselves face in an informal settlement.

Constantine Sunday

———— **NOTICE** ————

Brothers in Nairobi are invited for the farewell dinner for our brothers Philip Kwena, Lawrence Agalo and Sammy Munyua as they head-off to Zambia for the orientation program prior to joining the new clusters of communities in Zambia.

The dinner will be at South C Community on Sunday 30th August at 5:00pm.

RSVP George Massay for catering purposes.

BIRTHDAYS





AUGUST

- 06 EDWIN SAKA (First year novice – Tamale)
17 NICHOLAS ODHIAMBO (Otiende)
18 CONSTANTINE SUNDAY (Eldoret)

CALENDAR

- August 9-14 AP Brothers workshop with Br. John Casey (CLT)
August 10-14 PLT meeting
- August 30 Send-off dinner at South C for Sammy, Philip and Lawrence
- September 4-6 Child Protection Workshop
September 12 Nairobi Cluster meeting
September 19 Arusha Cluster meeting

Many Blessings,

George Massay

