



Christian Brothers
East Africa District

East Africa District Newsletter

DRAWN BY MYSTERY, DESTINED FOR LIFE.

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WHAT IS TRUE FAITH?

The amazing story of Charles Blondin, a famous French tightrope walker, is a wonderful illustration of what true faith is.

Blondin's greatest fame came on September 14, 1860, when he became the first person to cross a tightrope stretched 11,000 feet (over a quarter of a mile) across the mighty Niagara Falls. People from both

Canada and America came from miles away to see this great feat.



He walked across, 160 feet above the falls, several times... each time with a different daring feat - once in a sack, on stilts, on a bicycle, in the dark, and blindfolded. One time he even carried a stove and cooked an omelet in the middle of the rope!

A large crowd gathered and the buzz of excitement ran along both sides of the river bank. The crowd "Oohed and Aahed!" as Blondin carefully walked across - one dangerous step after another - pushing a wheelbarrow holding a sack of potatoes.

Then at one point, he asked for the participation of a volunteer. Upon reaching the other side, the crowd's applause was louder than the roar of the falls!

Blondin suddenly stopped and addressed his audience: "Do you believe I can carry a person across in this wheelbarrow?"

The crowd enthusiastically yelled, "Yes! You are the greatest tightrope walker in the world. We believe!"

"Okay," said Blondin, "Who wants to get into the wheelbarrow."
As far as the Blondin story goes, no one did at the time!





CLUSTER DAY HELD IN NAIROBI



L-R (Standing) Frank, Tony, Tom, Gerald, Amandi, Stephen, John Paul, Tim, Daniel, Amos, Bill, Vincent, Nicholas, Richard, Peter, Nico, Peter Cole, Russell. Seated: Martin, Sunday, George, Silverio, James and Paul

The Brothers in Kenya had a successful cluster day on 12th September 2015. A major theme of the day was how we can live ***Our Way into the Future*** (OWITF) in our District. There were three sessions in the day. The first session which was led by Tony, provided an opportunity for all present to reflect on OWITF and to surface their own feelings about our response to the call. Several different photographs helped the brothers identify their own reactions.

In a process, led by George, the brothers met in four groups to identify the main directions of OWITF. The results of these discernments were shared with the plenary group.

After these were presented in plenary session, the same four groups met again to surface possible action steps that the District might take to implement OWITF. These were presented and each brother was then asked to vote by checking the three action steps to which he would give priority. A quick review showed that there was convincing consensus among those gathered as to what would be the best way to implement OWITF in the District. The DLT will study the results of this show of interest and will discern the way forward.

In the third Session, Amandi presented a mid-year financial report to the group. He provided detailed information, which occasioned many questions and discussion. The over-all report was that the District is maintaining a healthy financial situation. A conversation took place as





to the best way to provide for the care of the aged brothers in the future.

Finally the brothers re-convened for Eucharist at which Maurie Scheppers, O.P served as celebrant. Dinner followed and with that ended a day that had been rich in brotherhood and learning.

We thank the brothers for their commitment to the process of the day.

George Massay

———— **NATIONAL FREEDOM TORCH** ————
AT EDMUND RICE SINON SECONDARY SCHOOL ————



Mwenge wa Uhuru (Freedom Torch)

Can anything good come from Edmund Rice Sinon Secondary School? The answer is “WHY NOT”.

In the next two days from 14th September, if you watch the 8.00pm news on TBC channel 1 in Tanzania, you may be able to see Edmund Rice Sinon featuring.

On 14th September 2015 was a remarkable day at School. This was the day which The National Freedom Torch, also known as “Mwenge





wa Uhuru” appeared at the school for the first time. Normally the torch goes around the country accompanied by top government officials including army commanders every year. It is meant to identify and acknowledge the good things established by citizens throughout the country. One noticeable good thing that led to the freedom torch to appear at Edmund Rice was the newly established project of Green House.



Mr Nolasco inspecting the project

This project was initiated this year and has attracted many, including heads of schools, government officials and the freedom torch itself. Right now, the project has tomatoes and green papers planted using modern technology. In the actual sense, green house is not something new, but surprisingly Edmund Rice Sinon is the first secondary school in Tanzania to establish such a project. The project is meant to produce vegetables for students’ diet. It is also a learning site for students doing agricultural science. Again, it is meant to be a source of income for self-sustainability. The School Community is grateful that somebody from somewhere has noticed the difference the school can make.

Simon Kaswahili.





EDMUND RICE CAMPS COMMUNITY OUTREACH



On Saturday, 12th, Edmund Rice Camps had community outreach. 24 leaders, three by three to each of 8 schools in Kibera, led sessions on assertiveness as distinct from passivity and aggression. Despite the large number of students in the classroom, the leaders tried interactive role-plays. All leaders were happy with the outcome.

Br Peter Cole

SELESTINO'S 50TH BIRTHDAY

On Sunday evening 13 September a group of Brothers gathered at Taidiy's (an African style restaurant well used by Brothers) to celebrate the gift of Selestino's life, tragically shortened in a bus accident ten years ago.

Organized by his fellow Novice Gerald Mgalula, there was a free flow of stories, flavored by Tanzanian Brothers Amandi, George and Simon, and Selestino's Tamale Novice Director of 2003-4, Tim Lockwood. There sure were some interesting characters around the Formation Houses in those years.

Recalled were Selestino's being at a seminary for two years, but as the eldest son, having to return to his family home following the death of his father who owned a large land estate. After some years of personal searching, he took up the suggestion of a Religious Sister to contact the Christian Brothers, who, through Sean McManus gently led him to begin the Formation journey.

In a recent visit to Shams where Selestino's body is buried, Russell noted the birthday 25.8.65 and saw the opportunity for a party.



Russell Peters

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS





14	PHILIP OMBUCHA (Lusaka)
18	CORNEL MWIRU (Lusaka)
18	SILVERIO WAFULA (Eldoret)
24	FRANK O'SHEA (Balozi)
24	GEORGE MASSAY (Sth C)
25	PASCAL KITUKU (Yambio)
27	ALLAN SHUNZA (First year novice Tamale)
29	NICODEMUS OKUKU (Balozi)

CALENDAR

September 19	Arusha Cluster meeting
October 2-3	CL's meeting
October 4-6	ERMEA meeting
October 14	DLT meeting
October 16-18	Annually Professed Workshop (Sagana)
October 20	Mashujaa Day
October 21	DLT meeting
October 23-24	Formation Committee (Nairobi)
October 28-30	DLT, PLT and CLT meeting in Lusaka
November 21	First profession Lusaka
November 23-27	PLT meeting in Lusaka
December 11-14	Reception of the newly professed and assembly
December 12	Jamhuri Day

Many Blessings,

George Massay

