



Christian Brothers
East Africa District

East Africa District Newsletter

DRAWN BY MYSTERY, DESTINED FOR LIFE.

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———— **HAFIZ: "NOW IS THE TIME"** ————



Now is the time to know
That all that you do is sacred.

Now, why not consider
A lasting truce with yourself and
God.

Now is the time to understand
That all your ideas of right and
wrong
Were just a child's training
wheels
To be laid aside
When you finally live
With veracity
And love...

What is it in that sweet voice inside
That incites you to fear?

Now is the time for the world to know
That every thought and action is sacred.

This is the time
For you to compute the impossibility
That there is anything
But Grace.

Now is the season to know
That everything you do
Is sacred.

"Today" by **Hafiz**. From the Penguin publication ***The Gift: Poems of Hafiz***.





— GIRAFFE HEROES AWARDS 2015 —



Angie Obutu (in the middle) celebrating the reception of the Giraffe Heroes Award 2015

I had a privilege to be part of a larger community that was acknowledging ordinary people doing extra-ordinary things. Nakuru is a place that I spent my Friday, being with heroes and heroines. The Bridges Of Peace Initiative who are the key initiators of the programme are doing a great service by acknowledging work done by people around the country. I was moved and challenged to be in the presence of radical women from Pokot and Baringo to Kwale, all fighting for the rights of different groups in their small ways. Media may not cover these stories, but the Giraffe Heroes award is able to make these noble women and men known and encouraged in our society. These people think globally but act locally by initiating the change they would want to see in their society. Among those honored was Angie of the EFL program in Eldoret: she was acknowledged as facilitating change and growth of women living with HIV/AIDS and, in that process, reaching out to both the affected and infected in the society.

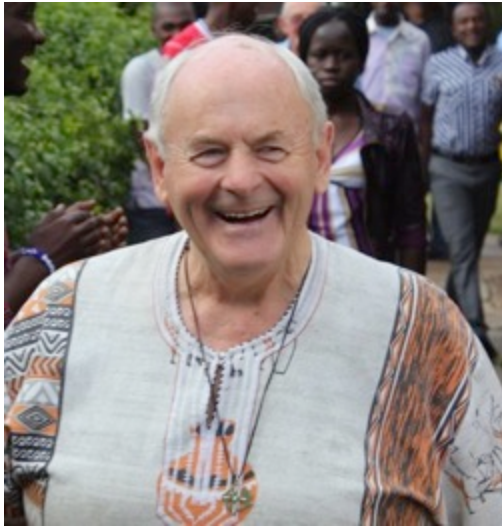
We congratulate Angie for being recognized and selected by the Bridges of Peace Initiatives (BPI) to be the winner of Giraffe Heroes Award 2015 for her extraordinary effort in making a difference in the lives of people living with HIV/AIDS in Eldoret.

Constantine Sunday





———— **20TH ANNIVERSARY OF LIFE AND MISSION
IN EAST AFRICA** ————



Br Tom Kearney

Today (Tuesday 20th/10/2015) Tom Kearney clocks 20 years since he left Australia to join East Africa District, known as an area those days when it was under St Patrick's Province (Australia). Tom has contributed greatly to the growth of the District through his leadership and presence in numerous roles, one being the District Leader. Congratulations Tom. We wish you so many happy and fulfilling years with us.

George Massay

———— **ANNUALLY PROFESSED WORKSHOP** ————

It wasn't a weekend like any other for the annually professed Brothers in the District. We all retreated to Bethany House in Sagana to share our reflections and insights from the articles on the book by Stephen Covey with the theme "Crucial Conversations."



Br Daniel Kyalo leading a session during the workshop

We had life-giving discussions. From our presentations, it was clear that crucial conversations drew our attention to those defining





moments that shape our quality of living in our communities, our interactions with people and the world, to which OWIFT calls us. The workshop was both educative and challenging. I came to realize that the journey towards self-awareness is a long and difficult one. There is more for us to discover about ourselves than we think there is. One profound teaching into developing this area of growth in conversation is to become aware of how emotions can affect the quality of our conversation, both positively and negatively. Once we become aware on how to handle our emotions well, thus creating safety for others, we can say virtually anything difficult to anyone and the quality of the relationships won't be at risk.

The weekend was rich in brotherhood and learning. The question, which remains with me, and probably with most of us, is "What impact do crucial conversations have in my relationships in the community and in the world in which I live?"

DANIEL KYALO

— DEALING WITH THE INTELLECTUALLY IMPAIRED AND AUTISTIC CHILDREN —



Denis Isaboke teaching children at Patandi in Arusha

Since July this year, our weekly ministry has been with children who are intellectually impaired or autistic. This experience has helped us learn much about how to be present to them in a way that helps. Here is a list of few things that we have learnt:

- 1) Build relationships of acceptance and humble yourself by seeing beyond the disability. Learn about their disability and see how you can help them. Show compassion and sensitivity by respecting the children's wishes.
- 2) Maintain a balance between helping and allowing the children to grow by listening to them. Avoid situations that can frighten the children of these natures. Involve the children to participate in class when you teach them. You look for activities in which they can be successful. Be comfortable with all of them.





3) You speak to them calmly, clearly and with a moderate voice. You avoid teaching them long and complex things which are beyond their capacity.

These things have helped us to handle the children. Now we enjoy to teach and to

be with them without any problem.



Alphas Otieno teaching pupils in Arusha

DENNIS ISABOKE/ALPHAS OTIENO

———— **EDMUND RICE CAMP DAY, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17** ————



Edmund Rice Camps children and leaders

With 75 children and only 26 leaders we tended to struggle a bit but the leaders were superb, carried on with great energy and craziness and showed they are remembering

many of the new games learnt on

training days. John Mutisyo and Vincent Otach ensured leaders were taking risks!! As usual dance, drama and craft presentations ended the day. Praise God we avoided El Nino rains. The children were wonderful, even seemingly eager listening to my stumbling words at the end- what grace here!! PETER COLE





EDMUND RICE CAMPS LEADERS RECRUITMENT EXERCISE



John Omondi with students of Silver

For two weeks in late September and early October, members of the Edmund Rice Camps Leadership Titus Kusimbo, John Omondi and Sammy Muga negotiated with six schools in Kibera to recruit some willing form 4s before they started their exams. It is not easy and we commend their good will and tenacity. You can see JOHN OMONDI talking to Silver Springs students. We

trust some will continue with us.

PETER COLE

OWITF FOR MINISTRY LEADERS

Our Way Into the Future is not affecting just the Brothers. It has implications for our ministries as well, and sharing the Edmund Rice vision and values with our co-workers in the ministries is



Section of Ministry Leaders during the gathering

becoming increasingly important for the future sustainability of these ministries. A meeting of ministry leaders in East Africa this week enabled sharing of ideas about how the District can help in the formation of staff and co-workers.

Tony Shanahan

EDMUND RICE CAMPS PRESENT TO FOURTH WORLD POVERTY PEOPLE

Through the instrumentality of members, Patrick Matara, Anne Nduku and Duncan we were allocated to present and interact with visiting personnel.





The photo shows the assembled team who promoted the charism of Edmund Rice. The visitors were happy to be escorted through Kibera by our leaders visiting some of the schools we target for our camps. Again, it was a chance to broaden our horizons. PETER COLE

—— PROMOTING THE DIGNITY OF
PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV/AIDS ——



Br George Massay with staff of Star Support Group in South Sudan

Star Support Group project in Yambio, South Sudan strives to respect the human dignity most especially of the people living with HIV/AIDS and builds the capacity of the community to be aware of, care for, and encourage the people who are infected and affected by the disease to live positively.

The HIV and AIDS epidemic has been a bearable burden for those in the Star Support Group because the project has created a conducive environment for people to accept their





status and live a dignified life. The epidemic has moved from a definite killer infection to a manageable chronic condition through the use of prophylaxis drugs and nutritional support given by the project to the clients. The ART treatment the project offers to the clients keeps the people with HIV healthier and reduces the risk of their transmitting the virus. The project helps 1341 clients (beneficiaries) and 384 orphan children.

Fred Otieno

———— **EDMUND RICE CAMPS VISIT TO MOTHER TERESA HOME,
SATURDAY 10TH OCTOBER** ————



On a crowded Saturday, some 15 members managed to spend from early morning to lunch time interacting with the children at the Mother Teresa home. The photo shows the spirit of the day

PETER COLE

REMAINING BIRTHDAYS IN OCTOBER

23	TONY SHANAHAN (South C) WYCLIFFE MAISIBA (Sinon)
26	SIMON KASWAHILI (Sinon)
31	TIM LOCKWOOD

CALENDAR

October 20 Mashujaa Day (Kenya)
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 District Assembly
December 12 Jamhuri Day (Kenya)

Many Blessings,

George Massay

