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WEEKLY REFLECTION



*"From too much love of living,
Hope and desire set free,
Even the weariest river
Winds somewhere to the sea--"*

But we have only begun
To love the earth.

We have only begun
To imagine the fullness of life.

How could we tire of hope?
-- so much is in bud.

How can desire fail?
-- we have only begun

to imagine justice and mercy,
only begun to envision

how it might be
to live as siblings with beast and flower,
not as oppressors.
Surely our river
cannot already be hastening
into the sea of nonbeing?

Surely it cannot
drag, in the silt,
all that is innocent?

Not yet, not yet--
there is too much broken
that must be mended,

too much hurt we have done to each other
that cannot yet be forgiven.

We have only begun to know
the power that is in us if we would join
our solitudes in the communion of struggle.

So much is unfolding that must
complete its gesture,

so much is in bud.

Beginners
By Denise Levertov





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FIELDS OF DREAMS IN ELDORET

The Acting Editor has been on the move, spending some days in Eldoret to update himself about the Brothers' ministries there, especially Education for Life (EFL) and the Youth Empowerment project being facilitated by Paul and Sunday with the local community in Langas.

Paul and Sunday have laid a solid foundation for the project, mobilizing representatives of the youth in all areas of Langas, as well as getting the enthusiastic support of the local Member of the County Assembly (MCA). Their listening to, and interaction with, the local community has given birth to the dream of a youth resource centre for the thousands of deprived young people in the Langas area. The centre is to include vocational training, sports and social facilities. The dream has come a big step closer to reality with the purchase by the government of a four acre plot for this project. The property is in the process of being registered as community land. Once the title is secured, proposals can be forwarded to donors with a view to getting the funding needed for the building of the centre.

At EFL there is also a field of dreams being realised. There has been much progress since I was last there in 2010. The ministry is now a District ministry, it has new premises and a larger group of clients, there are now over ten Savings and Internal Lending Community (SILC) groups, and the team running the programme includes a former client, Monica. There is even a choir that some clients have formed, and they led the prayer at the start of the morning gathering with great spirit as well as great singing and dancing.



Nicodemus and one of the SILC groups at EFL.

It was a moving and fascinating experience sitting in on the psychosocial support session with the clients, while Monica (with support from Nicodemus) addressed issues of sexual responsibility, family planning and healthy living. There were knowing smiles, nods and murmurs of agreement and complete attention as Monica got down to basics about what it means to be sexually active and bear more children while HIV+, especially when the





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person has no partner or stable relationship, and then expects to call on others (like EFL!) to help with school fees, food and the other necessities.

Paul and Sunday are also assisting a group of women in the Yamumbi area of Eldoret, whose homes and possessions were destroyed during the post-election violence of 2007-08, to realise their dreams of greater self-reliance and economic security. A project to raise chickens for the market is under development. Once again, the spirit and vitality in the group were obvious during the regular weekly meeting that I sat in on.

It was a joy to experience the atmosphere of friendship, mutual support and hope in all of these groups.

Tony Shanahan



Paul and Sunday (at the back) with the Yamumbi women's group.

INSPIRING AND TRANSFORMING COURSES IN TAMALE

Our novitiate community has continued to be transformed in new ways over the last two weeks when Br. John Casey from the Congregation Leadership Team, and Br. Michael and Sr. Brigit from the Province Resource Team visited our community. John took us through the 2014 Nairobi Chapter Document which reflects *Our Way Into The Future*.

Michael and Brigit shared with us the 'Search for the Mystery we call God' through the Universe Story. We began each day by entering into the mystery of the Universe Story by moments of stillness which helped us become aware of our *interconnectedness* with the whole of creation. The experience of the Universe Story was in itself an experience of personal transformation.

Some areas for transformation were: we need to move from a spirituality of alienation from the natural world to that of intimacy with the natural world;





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from a spirituality concerned not only with justice for humans but also with justice for the devastated Earth. We were also challenged to understand that ALL is *Sacred*.

The workshop is over, but we carry with us the new ideas and skills which will be applied in our future holistic lives. We are grateful for the contribution John, Michael and Brigit have made in our transformation process.

Agalo Lawrence



Transformation being celebrated in Tamale – eight novices with Br. John Casey (far r. at front) and Br. Michael Godfrey and Sr. Brigit Mathew (centre front).

ENJOYING AUSTRALIAN HOSPITALITY

We have been in Melbourne for a week now. It has been a roller-coaster of activities, attending lunches and dinners, giving short speeches in schools, meeting friends and brothers. I think I am losing the battle in keeping an eye on my waistline.

One significant visit that stands out for me was to St Joseph's College Flexible Learning Centre in North Melbourne. It is a centre which works with young people who are vulnerable and experience a complexity of inter-related needs. St Joseph's FLC is their last resort, and here they feel valued, trusted and given an opportunity to mend their lives. The center has no rules but have four core principles of respect (self, others and environment), safe and legal, participation and honesty. It is great to see that in a country like this, not only are the successful given opportunities but also those who are not so successful. Blessed Edmund Rice is pleased I believe.

Pictured below are the Brothers at Treacy Centre after Sunday Eucharist. Some of them have been or are in East Africa, others support us in the best way they can. Fred and I are very grateful for their kindness and hospitality.

George Massay





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George and Fred with the Brothers at Treacy in Melbourne. Can you spot Frank Chappell and Tom Kearney? For those with longer memories, what about Frank Lloyd?

PRAYERS REQUESTED

Later this week **Julias Oluoch** begins his 30 Day Retreat at Mwangaza, in Nairobi, a key moment in his discernment about final vows. Please keep Julias in your prayers so that the retreat will be an encounter with the Lord that will take him deep into his call to discipleship.

Many of us would have received with sadness the news of the drowning of two elderly Presentation Sisters at a beach in County Kerry, Ireland. Sisters Imelda Carew and Paula Buckley got into difficulty swimming at Inch Strand, Co Kerry, on Thursday evening. They were pulled from the water by coast guards but were dead on arrival at the hospital. Although we didn't know them personally, we share the shock and sorrow of our Sisters of the Presentation and unite ourselves with them in love and prayer.

CORRECTION

Please note that, although last week's edition was labeled as Vol. 2 Edition 4, it was in fact Edition 6.





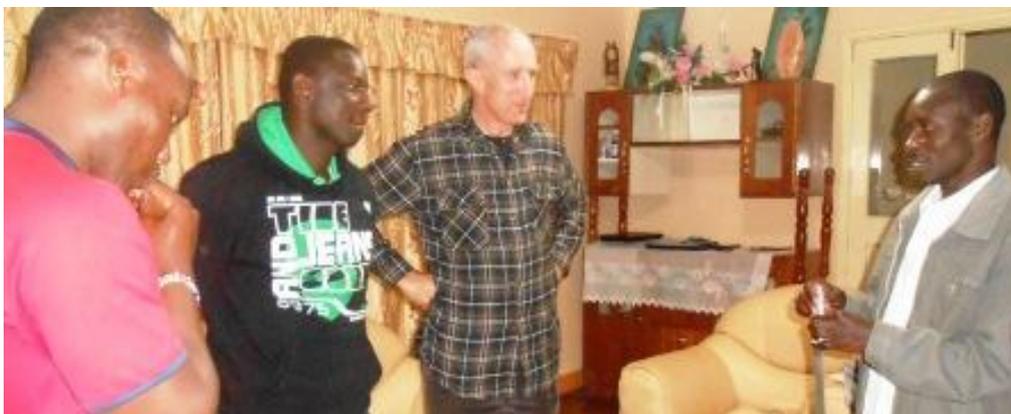
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CALENDAR

Sept. 7-26	PRT visit to East Africa
Sept. 20	Cluster Day in Nairobi (Saturday 9 am to 5 pm)
Sept. 28 – Oct. 1	ERMEA gathering, Mary Ward Centre
Oct. 10 – 12	Annually Professed Weekend
Oct. 30 – 31	Formation Committee Meeting - Nairobi
Oct. 31 – Nov. 1	Community Leaders Meeting (Friday supper and Saturday)
Nov. 29	First Profession (Tamale)
Dec. 6	Reception and missioning for newly professed (Nairobi)
Dec. 12 - 15	District Assembly
Dec. 16-18	DLT review and planning days

BIRTHDAYS IN AUGUST

August 17	Nicholas Odhiambo (Otiende)
18	Constantine Sunday (Eldoret)



Birthday celebrations at Eldoret – Kithinji calls on Sunday to cut the cake while Paul and Tony look on. Also celebrating, but out of photo, are Silverio and Nicodemus.

