



———— **HEART OF STONE** ————



Homeless Jesus - by Timothy Schalmz

**Remove my heart of stone O Lord,
My heartfelt plea,
Restore my heart of flesh
As centre of my being.**

**When I meet you in a gutter,
May I kneel and feel at peace.
The other is my brother,
And therefore is my Lord**

Donal Blake

———— **PRAYERS REQUESTED** ————

For Sara Mithamo, staff member of Ruben Centre, who is undergoing chemotherapy treatment.





CHALLENGING STORIES



Brothers during the annual assembly

Saturday & Sunday December 12 & 13 were days when Julian McDonald led the assembled Brothers of the East Africa District through a reflection on the some of the implications of the 8 calls of the Nairobi chapter. Saturday was a very challenging day for me. Following directions to form groups of three with Brothers we did not know too well, providence led me to be with two Kenyan Brothers.

Part 1 was the telling of our personal / vocational stories, which, even after more than ten years in Kenya, I again found fascinating. The call to be disciples of Jesus cuts through though cultural nuances of different ethnic groups. Being Brother in a church where Brotherhood is barely known, or at best, almost despised, is an almighty step in the dark.

Part 2 was a huge challenge to me. We were asked to tell our sexual stories. What!! I thought, me at 75, share with Brothers on their 20's/30's, Brothers who, in their initial formation, had done so many times. In my 1950's/60's formation, right up to final vows and beyond, sex was a taboo topic. The only 'safe' place for me was on courses where there were no CB's. I was liberated by the two Brothers listening to me, setting the ground for communities to respond to the Chapter call to greater intimacy.

Russell Peters





——— DISCOVERING THE INSPIRATION OF REACHING OUT ———

It was one of those moments when we come together to celebrate our purpose and meaning as Christian Brothers in the society of today. It was a unique occasion as the day was colored by the gift of our newly professed Brothers and their families and friends, gathered to celebrate the commitment of five young men who have decided, through their first profession of vows, to live differently in a world that is so demanding and challenging.



Missioning of the newly professed and the Community Support Team

The day was made complete by the missioning of the newly professed into Zambia, where they will be members of the first new communities to pioneer Our Way Into The Future. Their courage is inspirational as they choose to be Brothers to the world and not only Brothers to the East Africa district or even to their families. They commit themselves to be of service to the world and to people made poor. Through their generosity, they remind of our own commitment to Gospel servanthood, and to launch our boats into the deep rather than to shelter in the security of the harbor. It's through the risk of reaching out that we not only become aware of our capability as disciples but encourage others to realize they, too, have the power to rewrite their own stories and live them with confidence.

Constantine Sunday





EXCHANGE TEACHER AT BROTHER BEAUSANG CATHOLIC EDUCATION CENTRE

Lisa Grass, a staff member from St. Bernard's College West Essendon, will never forget her experience in Africa and particularly in Brother Beausang Catholic Education Centre (BBCEC). She had come to BBCEC to find possible ways institutions could connect with one another and extend the work of Project Kenya Beyond Charity.



Ms Lisa Grass with pupils of BBCEC

A teacher herself, Lisa worked both with staff and students of BBCEC during her 2 month stay. With her proposition “Teachers Supporting Teachers”, she was keen on helping staff to develop teaching skills, especially in the use of IT in the classroom. She held workshops on teaching methods and suggested to staff of BBCEC ways in which they might improve their teaching.

She also compiled footage comparing “A day in the life of a student” at each of the two schools. Most of the Brother Beausang staff will remember her for her words: “The one who works hardest gains most”, in reference to increasing student engagement and class-participation.

We wish her well as she re-adjusts to life in Australia after three months here in Africa.

Mercilinus Ounde
Development Officer, BBCEC





———— **EDMUND RICE KARIBU: FULL DAY FORMATION
PROGRAMME AT REGINA PACIS CAMPUS** ————

New members were inducted into the spirit of Edmund Rice Karibu with inputs on the life of Edmund, Jesus and the Kingdom concept, the rationale of play therapy and a wide range of issues concerning attitudes towards children and the way of relating to them as compassionate and concerned leaders. All reports were done by new leaders!! The afternoon was taken up with learning new skills in running games and other activities. Old leaders were happy with the outcome.

PETER COLE

———— **EDMUND RICE KARIBU –
CAMP FOR KIDS AT OLD EDMUND-MARY RICE SITE** ————



Despite the difficulty of recruiting kids during holiday time we ended up with 70 children and 25 leaders. Leaders tended to wilt a bit in the first blast of hot weather but again the kids remained undaunted, screaming and playing with huge gusto. The leaders all agreed it was a great success. We were happy to have initiated ten new leaders.

PETER COLE

———— **EDMUND RICE KARIBU- A MODIFIED CAMP ACTIVITY DAY
AT OLD EDMUND-MARY RICE SITE** ————

Leaders were happy with this initial day of modifying the tempo of the physical activity and including more art/craft and skit responses beside some biblical teachings and sharing of life situations of the children.





Something less than 50 children attended and 28 leaders, again a great success on limited budget of 3000ks.

PETER COLE

———— **EDMUND RICE KARIBU- SUNDAY MEETING WITH MAINLY
NEW MEMBERS** ————

This was an afternoon of again inducting and welcoming new members after a mighty month or two of recruiting youth from Kibera Secondary Schools. It was also a preparation for the forthcoming Saturday (19th), the annual evaluation and monitoring of the year's activities, brainstorming for 2016 besides celebrating Christmas together and bonding over eats.

PETER COLE

Merry Christmass

George Massay



