



— AND REFLECTIONS ON ORIGINS OF LIFE —



Just another day at the office was proceeding. I was distracted with our financial plight, (KES 34,000/\$US 350 in our bank account), but desiring to think about something else, I got into planning the upcoming week-end retreat with key staff on STORY. Of course the beginning takes me back 13.7 billion years and the great flaring forth of life with the big bang. Now away from my small world, I felt immediate relief.

However just as I began my journey into space and time, I was called to come to the social worker's office and on arrival I find them huddled around a wee baby.

'Look,' they said, 'The night before a 1 day old baby was abandoned by its mother'. Apparently they could tell the age by the umbilical chord. Yet another fire had broken out in the slums, and as people fled their burning shanty houses the mother asked this other woman to hold her baby for a minute and never returned, sort of just disappeared into a proverbial black hole.

By now we had the baby for more than 12 hours and so the carers attention turned to food and of course the next step in this baby's short life. . (Continues next page)





———— **AND REFLECTIONS ON ORIGINS OF LIFE Cont...** ————

They had found formula (we keep for malnourished cases) and as I watched I was amazed to see her just start drinking as if “programmed to do so by a higher order” the moment the teaspoon of the stuff reached her mouth. Gulping, I guess it is called, and at one stage some went down the wrong way, producing a coughing spate and then a hell of a cry. I said, “that is a good healthy sound”. It was truly a full on bellow.

This may have been no big bang but it sure was more than a whimper and a clear message of her new out of the womb status in this Universe. The social worker told me that she had called an orphanage and they had sent a car to collect the baby but it had broken down and so it was back to me to nurture the next phase in her life.

I looked at the now sleeping baby (milk had done its job) and both marveled at our precarious origins into this life, the fragility of our existence in this world and questioned the unfairness and lack of equality in it all. Life is tough enough but no one deserves to start this far behind scratch.

The women were keen and ready to go to the orphanage and I found a driver and our new recently donated “ambulance come emergency vehicle” flared forth into its life. Even our Ruben world is expanding! I watched them leave and knew afresh what the saying, “left holding the baby meant.”

May this new girl defy all odds and become a super STAR and may Ruben Centre’s finances begin expanding in line with our Universe. *(Please study the face of this girl, and apologize to her for the s...house start in life she has had; take a moment to whisper to her some encouragement that even beyond this Universe there is a God who highly favours the little ones.) And... some day you hope she will own her own clothes that fit her...and one day someone will give her a name and she will know LOVE.)*

Frank O’Shea

———— **APPRECIATION** ————

No words or even action can express the support from Brothers all over the world at the time when the family of Ngalla was going through sadness and grief. We the Ngalla family would like to thank you all for your support and prayers, and we acknowledge the support from the District Leadership, and also from these communities -





Brothers from Embulbul, Otiende, Karen, Eldoret and Yambio for your time, presence and support. Not forgetting Brothers Kevin Griffith, Peter Dowling, Gerard Ellul, Francis Nkwabi. My list can go on and on. Please accept our sincere thanks as a family and we are truly humbled for your moments in prayers as a family. It's through your prayers that we were and are still strengthened. Thanks and be blessed. Peace

Br. Constantine Sunday

ANNUALLY PROFESSED WORKSHOP



L-R Brs Amos Kutwa, Lawrence Agalo, Daniel Kyalo, Elly Sakwa (standing), Silverio Wafula and Martin Khaemba

The annually professed Brothers of year two to four living in Kenya had a wonderful weekend at Mary Ward Centre in Karen. We were six in number and presumed this was half the disciples Jesus had. Perhaps the other six might have gone to the nearby town to drive out 'demons and to cure diseases'.

It was our first weekend for the year 2016 and everything went on well. It was about crucial conversations, a topic we had started in our last annually professed (AP) weekend, sometime in October last year. Some good things emerged as we interacted with one another on this important topic.

We were encouraged through our own facilitation that when we are in any conversation we start with the heart. Through this there is always





a chance to ‘walk the talk.’ When I am involved in a conversation and I focus on winning, there is definitely a problem. I need to focus on a number of reflective questions for myself, such as:

What do I want for myself?
What do I want for others?
What do I want in our relationship?

If these questions are reflected on in a genuine manner and proper action is taken, then our way to healthy communication in our day-to-day life will be achieved.

Amos Kutwa.

———— CELEBRATING VALENTINE IN A SPECIAL WAY ————

“I have never spent my Valentine in such a very special way like this.” These were remarks from Geoffrey Bosire, one of the guests who visited the Education for Life (EFL) family on Sunday 14th February Valentines day 2016.



The EFL choir arrived early morning and welcomed the visitors in song, dance and jubilation to the amazement of the visitors who came to celebrate the day with our children returning to school.

The idea of inviting friends to celebrate Valentine with the EFL families came from my daughter Eugenia, who overheard me challenging one of the teachers who called me to lament that our sponsored children went to schools without the basic requirements. I explained to her about the struggles of the families and that our budget could not meet all the needs. The following day Eugenia told





me she had talked to a few friends who were willing to support by providing some items for the children.

We did invitation cards to make the event official and trusted in God's providence. It was a sigh of relief as the visitors arrived with varied gifts of basic items such as bars of soap/bathing soap, sanitary towels, tissue papers, blankets, toothpaste/brushes, pens, exercise books, underpants, shoe polish, home clothes and shoes.

This was indeed the best Valentine and the first ever in EFL and we truly thank Eugenia and Viola her friend who organized the event.

Angeline Obutu

———— **PROVINCE LEADERSHIP TEAM**
MEETING IN NAIROBI ————



L-R Michael De Klerk, Michael Podbury, Tony Shanahan, Clement Sindazi and Albert Gomez. Missing Chris Nhete

Province leadership Meeting that was to take place in Freetown – Sierra Leone has been hastily changed to take place in Nairobi after some members of the team experienced difficulties in getting entry visa to Sierra Leone.

We welcome them into our District and we are glad that Kenya has readily welcomed them too.





———— BROTHER PATRICK KELLY RIP ————



Br Pat Kelly (smiling) with a friend. (Source Facebook post)

On Friday 12th February we awoke to the sad news of the death of Br Pat Kelly in Perth, Western Australia. Last November Pat was diagnosed with a terminal cancer. Very few African Brothers have met Pat Kelly, but those who met him when they passed through Perth met one of the most outstanding Christian Brothers, a man so loving with a smile that was so welcoming for everyone.

The last two days Facebook has been awash with posts from people mourning Br Pat, here are just few of them:

“The world has lost a wonderful man”.

“Life might be diminished at this moment by his passing, but I can't imagine how many lives were made so much better by having had him in it”

“An amazing, inspiring, gentle soul that made such a difference to my life and I am sure made a difference to so many”

“The man who gave up his life for the service of others. They broke the mould after they created Brother Pat”.

Two of us (Africa Brothers) visited Australia for the first time in 2007, we stopped in Perth and visited the Brothers. That was my first encounter with Br Pat and the memory is still fresh. Pat's generosity, warmth, smile, kindness and brotherliness are just somethings that





makes one admire the life the man was living. He has made many friends within and without the Congregation Truly a brother for all.
RIP Pat.

George Massay

Birthdays

None in February!

Calendar

February

10 DLT Meeting. Ash Wednesday
11-12 District Financial Audit
12-14 Annually Professed workshop
15-19 PLT Meeting (Freetown)
24 DLT Meeting

March

13-15 Gone Fishing
11 Formation Committee Meeting
13-15 ERMEA meeting
18-20 Child Protection Training Workshop
25 Good Friday
27 Easter Sunday

April

2 Cluster Meeting Nairobi
9 Cluster Meeting Arusha
29 ERN celebration for Edmund Rice Day
29-30 Community Leaders Meeting

Many blessings

George Massay

