

Congregation of Christian Brothers

West Africa District

(GHANA, THE GAMBIA, LIBERIA AND SIERRA LEONE)

Wan Pot News



Monthly West Africa District News Publication
February, 2017



Liberia 1969



Sierra Leone 1985



The Gambia 1988



Ghana 2001

"Nothing needs to be different for us to be whole. It is not a matter of change as much as it is of merciful acceptance."
Steven Levine

**WEST AFRICAN DISTRICT
NEWSLETTER
"WAN POT"**

EDITORIAL COMMENT

We send you our valuable readers warmest greetings. We the editorial team welcome you to this February edition of our monthly West African District newsletter. We wish to express our sincere gratitude to Leo for executing this district responsibility diligently over the last few years. We wish him a happy stay in South Africa. On behalf of the brothers in the district, we welcome the DLT back to the district from their leadership meeting in Lusaka. The newsletter brings you a wide variety of happenings in the district and conveys a true picture of what is happening on the ground. We hope that as typical of this newsletter, you will find the different news items and issues attention grabbing and useful.

SPECIAL APPEAL

We would like to thank all and sundry who contributed immensely to our publications last month. Now as we are about to commence a new month, we have a lot going on in our communities and ministry sites and other recent developments that we on the editorial team are not aware about. We are kindly craving your indulgence to communicate these developments to us via the email addresses at the bottom of the last page so that we can give them the global flavor that they deserve and help keep our Brothers in other districts, ERN members and other associates abreast with happenings in our district.

In this edition,

- We hear from the DL of West Africa District as they arrive from the recent Leadership meeting in Lusaka.
- Br .Alyisious gives an update on their active participation at St. Pious primary school and the arrival of our friends from stoke.
- The Formation and Vocation Teams welcome nine young men from The Gambia, Liberia and Sierra Leone to the postulancy.
- Br. Anthony share with us the violation of human right in Yengema and the Kono district as a whole.

DISTRICT NEWS, TENGBEH TOWN

Br. Noel Bradshaw

Greetings from Freetown,

We are nearly all back in community at Freetown from our leadership meetings in Lusaka. Tired, jet-lagged etc. but would not wish to miss sending best greetings and good wishes to all friends of the Brothers in West Africa. From a wet, wintry and cold Lusaka to the dry and hot Sierra Leone, yet enjoying the overall experience. It is the one time in the year when all district leadership teams meet to share life at all levels, always ably assisted and supported by congregation and province leadership teams. We are indeed grateful for the experience. Also grateful to the many people who made our stay in Lusaka so enjoyable and comfortable. We had Cornel and Joe doing the airport delivering and collecting, along with Henry and the many members of the household who did all to make life as easy and enjoyable as possible. It is always the same when brothers meet anywhere, the sense of belonging and brotherhood is always apparent.

If one can visualize the African District-Province Leadership, the colors and cultures, the ages,



ances, creeds, from home-countries and mission homelands, along with all the other variables, we get a picture of the totality, all galvanized by the indefinable. Throw into the mix John, Joe and Michael from the hub-community in the west and then the wisdom, spirit and experience becomes enormous. Yet the commonality we all know becomes ever more vibrant. Perhaps we were simply a microcosm of that which forms the congregation of brothers. And so none may feel left out, we are all one, all included and this inclusion encompasses all who will read the wan pot and more.

Apart from all that the district survived, more than survived, flourished in our absence, a humbling experience!! We thank all the brothers in all communities for your cooperating in living the life. Just more or less off the plane, or boat here, the final leg of the journey over this side of the world. Albert still on the way, but we should have the full quorum by nightfall. Andy here all the time on his own holding the fort, doing the final leg of the journey from sea-coach to house. We know St. Joseph's, Stoke are in the country somewhere on their immersion experience, so we hope to catch up with them and Marah Community doing all the facilitating, looking after all their needs from start to finish. We wish you all, teachers and students the best experience possible from your immersion in Bo. Before leaving for Lusaka we had the opportunity of welcoming Katherine and Matthew from St. Ambrose College, Manchester as they did some remote preparations for their visit with the student body later in the year. It is quite amazing for us to experience the commitment and zeal of our lay counterparts who represent parent and student bodies and colleges back in England as they give of their time and energy to this mission. Again we thank Pious, Paul and the Calaba Town community and teachers from our own St. Ambrose here who work tirelessly to ensure the best experience be gleaned from the combined efforts of all. Without the combined cooperation of the various teams at home and abroad over many months, this unique experience of immersion could not happen. We also know that Augustine and Jojo, ably assisted by the brothers in the Bo-Blama axis have opened the Postulancy year. Again we have to play catch-up. We wait to hear how The Gambian Candidates escaped from the then national crisis due to the change-over of presidency and how the Liberian candidates

traveled. We are grateful to The Cluny Sisters in the Gambia and our Community in Gbarnga for their assistance. I am sure we will hear of all these activities and many more as we read the February Wan-pot, now being edited and published by Joseph Gomeh and Jojo Karimu.

Very best wishes to all from Nelson Lane

EMMANUEL MARAH COMMUNITY
Br. Alysious.Y. Sefoi

ACTIVE PARTICIPATION AT MINISTRY SITES

From the disposition of our hearts with exceeding joy we bring you all affectionate greetings from Bo.

As we are striving to be free and open to God's presence at our ministry site – St Pius Primary School Bo, Brs Emmanuel Allieu, Francis N'gauja and I have made ourselves available for God's loving service to the pupils of St Pius, since January 13th, 2017. The presence of Br. Francis has aided us to settle down quickly. This ministry has nothing to offer us in terms of money and other material goods, except evangelical experiences that make us whole.

At a standpoint of solidarity, liberation and corporation, we have introduced some spiritual and psychosocial activities for the development of the children. The following activities are: scripture reading, news updates, wise words quoted from great scholars, poem, reflections, drama, singing and dancing etc. All these activities are presented by the pupils during the assembly on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays based on their duty roster. The tentative name for this group of children is Edmund Rice Kids at St. Pius.

Brs. Francis, Emmanuel, and Alysious in active ministry



This photo shows a cross section of the pupils in the group, a staff member Mrs. Margret Awolleh and us

Our sole aim of carrying out these activities is to build up the pupil's faith, confidence, efficacies, self-discipline, self-control and self-worth. To us, it's helpful to integrate gospel values and daily experiences to uphold the importance of God's presence in our lives and in the lives of the pupils and staff of St Pius Primary School.



The head-mistress Mrs. Mary Lappia and her staff were deeply impressed with the performance of the Pupil during the assembly, thanking us for helping the children to be eloquent and articulate.

This initiative is a wonderful way of strengthening our commitments to each other and a courageous path to follow Christ with our visions that resonates with the Charism of Blessed Edmund Rice ***“Deeply aware of the father's providential presence in his life, Edmund Rice was moved by the Holy Spirit***

to open his whole heart to Christ present and appealing to him in the poor”.

Br. Alysious continues:

STUDENTS AND TEACHERS FROM ST. JOSEPH'S COLLEGE STOKE ENGLAND ARRIVE IN SIERRRA LEONE.



It is worth mentionable that our brothers and sisters from St Joseph's College Stoke arrived safely in Lungi on 18th February 2017. We thank the social and amicable Br Augustine Kamara and Brothers in the community who have been working proficiently to facilitate their visit in Sierra Leone. I wish and hope that our brothers and sisters from St. Joseph's College Stoke will find their immersion program a life giving and a useful research opportunity in Sierra Leone.

I'll give you full update next month on their Immersion Activities in Bo

SENAN KERRIGAN FORMATION HOUSE
Br. Jojo Karimu

Greetings from Senan Kerrigan formation house, Bo.

The Formation Vocation team officially welcomed nine, new men into the formation house in Bo on the 18th of February, 2017. The nine men arrived at the postulancy house on the 15th of February. They are from three different countries; six from Liberia, two from the Gambia and one from Sierra Leone.

THE NINE POSTULANTS



(R to L, Gabriel, (Liberia) Charles, (Liberia) Julius (Liberia), Alex (Liberia), Boniface (The Gambia), Edwin (Sierra Leone), Gabu, (The Gambia) Dominic, (Liberia) Clay, (Liberia).

The occasion was graced by brothers from different communities within the district, a Salesian priest, who celebrated the mass and few, lay people who will be supporting the formation team in some aspect of the formation process.

The presence of these young men in the pre-novitiate is a blessing to the district and the congregation at large. Over the years, our simple, exemplary life style has attracted and encouraged many young men to our way of life. I want to use this opportunity to thank all brothers who have been very active in promoting vocation. We need to constantly remind ourselves that; it is only through vocation that the continuity of our congregation can be assured. We pray and wish them God's blessing as they respond to the call of discipleship.

YENGEMA COMMUNITY

Br. Anthony Bangura

Dear Faithful Readers,

Greetings from The Christian Brother's Community in Yengema (Kono District, Eastern Sierra Leone)

This short article serves to draw your attention to the continuous human rights abuses that are happening within and around Yengema Town.

The police officers are still striving to bring this malaise to a halt but to no avail.

The issues of human rights abuse have become rampant in Kono District especially within and around Yengema.

Within the past four months to date, there have been incidents of parents selling and using their children as rituals.

The first human right abuse incidence happened around Yengema when a man slaughtered his biological son in the bush. The child was mutilated and dissected into different parts. The dissected corpse of the child was discovered in the bush and the man has been arrested and handed to the police for further investigation. The matter is still in the hands of the police authorities. Who knows what the outcome of this matter will be?

The second human right abuse incidence also S school going girl child was raped to death and later discovered in a house after few days. The man who did the act claimed to be insane. The matter is still in the hands of the police for further investigation. Who know what the outcome of this incidence be?

The third human right abuse incidence happened around Yengema Town when a woman slaughtered her mate's daughter and used her as meat in some food she was preparing for some workers who were working for her in the farm. She was later prosecuted by a small girl who was around. She has been arrested and taken to the police station. The

matter is still in the hands in the police for further investigation.

Quite recently (i.e. on Sunday the 19th February, 2017) a young man trafficked a young boy of age 13+ from Freetown to Kono. This young man was making arrangement to sell this child for Le 100,000,000.00 (one hundred million Leones) to the wrong people. He was later arrested for fixing a price of such amount on the child.

He has been arrested and he is under police custody for further investigation.

Cases of child trafficking and using children especially the girl child as rituals is common in this side of the world.

What can we do as Religious to curb this malaise that is eating the fabrics of our society?

PRAYERS REQUESTED

FOR THE SICK: Please continue to remember in prayers Bishop Patrick Daniel Koroma, Bishop of the diocese of Kenema that God will grant him speedy recovery from his illness.

BR. LEO KAMARA OFF TO SOUTH AFRICA:

Our very best wishes go to Br. Leo Kamara who has been very active on the editorial team in making sure that we get our monthly district newsletter. Leo successfully secured his visa in Ghana to travel to South Africa. We wish Leo every success and blessings as he undertakes his studies in South Africa.

COMMUNITY OF THE MONTH

FROM: THE WAN POT EDITORIAL TEAM

TO: ALL OUR READERS

We are pleased to announce to all our readers that **CALABA TOWN COMMUNITY** has been named community of the Month.

THANKS & APPRECIATION

Our thanks and appreciation to all who contributed to Wan Pot with news from in and around the District. We continue to ask our valuable readers and contributors to send their contributions to Brothers Joseph Gomeh and Jojo Karimu.

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