

# Congregation of Christian Brothers

## West Africa District

(GHANA, THE GAMBIA, LIBERIA AND SIERRA LEONE)

# Wan Pot News



Monthly District News Publication

Oct, 2012

### *ECOLOGY SMALL, SMALL*



“About 11,000 years ago, the Earth's temperature began to rise naturally, causing the progressive melting of the last ice age. Much of the water, going from solid to liquid, raised the sea levels, separated the lands of the continents, formed islands, encouraged the formation of forests and other environments; scientists called this Holocene.

In the last 11,000 years, of the Hominids, only Homo sapiens remains, who became king over the entire planet; with a well-developed brain, he was challenged by the new climatic conditions and domesticated plants and animals, invented farming, created technology to polish stone, and invented the wheel, weaving and metallurgy. Then he created cities, empires, dams, drainage systems and irrigation. Several civilizations went beyond the limits of the ecosystems in which they arose, generating environmental crises that contributed to their end.”

Arthur Soffiati, best known environmentalist of the State of Rio.

# **WEST AFRICA DISTRICT NEWS**

## **EDITORIAL NOTE**

Warm greetings to our esteemed readers and welcome to our October, 2012 issue of the West Africa District News – Wan Pot; our tenth. I'm compiling and editing from Senan Kerrigan Formation Centre in Bo where I'm attending the District bursars' workshop.

The political tension around the country continues to mount as we count down to the November 17<sup>th</sup> 2012 Presidential, Parliamentary and Local Government elections. All the politicians are out on the roads, to cities, towns and even the remotest villages around the country in their bid to galvanize votes for their respective political parties. So far, the electioneering process has been peaceful; the rallies and other political processions have been quiet and calm, but not without some isolated incidences of violence around the country. The police however, have been robust and pro-active in ensuring that the elections happen in an atmosphere of peace and tranquility.

However, the presidential debate that was supposed to feature the two main political parties' presidential candidates in the country has been cancelled to the disappointment of many.

We kindly employ all and sundry to pray for Sierra Leone as the countdown leading to the November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2012 elections continues and draws to a very critical stage for a peaceful, free and fair elections and for tranquility before, during and after the electioneering process.

Our DLT members returned from their meeting in Nairobi electrified by whatever was discussed on the "A way into the future" document. Plans are already underway for cluster meetings in the District, so that they can begin to unpack some of the 'goodies' in anticipation of the December 2012 District Assembly.

We wish our Brothers – Jeremiah and Sylvester well, as they prepare for the perpetual vows down in Lusaka and also for our Brothers in the Novitiates – Green Point and Tamale – David, Francis, Tony and Hazaley as they prepare for the profession of first vows.

The bursars' workshop ends today at the Senan Kerrigan Formation Centre in Bo. The training was helpful all the participants stated. Thanks to the facilitator – Brs. Sam Yankuba and Augustine Williams and thanks as well to the formation house community for hosting us.

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## **NOVICES – TAMALE AND GREEN POINT**

We wish you men all the best as you draw closer and closer to a very crucial stage of initial formation – profession of first vows. We pray for every blessing and grace on you from the sacred mystery we call God. You can rely on our moral and spiritual support on every step of the way.

## **NOVICES – LUSAKA**

Good news all the way men, make us proud; you are always in our prayers. Enjoy your time in the Novitiate; you might not have that same opportunity again once you profess vows as a Brother.

## **Br. VICTOR ALPHA**

Thanks for investing so much in your studies; we can't wait to have you back in the district. How we wish you could be sharing your experiences with us by contributing to Wan Pot, it's never late yet. Keep up the good work.

## **Br. Prince Tarawallie**

Men of substance will hardly or never make noise about their achievements; that is exemplified in you. News of your studies has finally got to the hearing of the Wan – Pot Editorial Team; thumbs up for you

and we wish you all the grace and blessing you need. It will be wise intermittently to keep us abreast with developments regarding your studies.

#### DISTRICT PERSONAL GROWTH PROGRAMME



By John Holden

#### ANNUALLY PROFESSED WORKSHOP

**PHOTO: Annually Professed Workshop at the National Pastoral Centre, Kenema, October 4, 5, 6, 2012, with its 28 participants including the facilitators.**

The workshop went off very well indeed and echoed in a new era for the District in that our newly appointed PGP Team members, Charles Belmoh, Martin Vamboi and Andrew Koroma, did all the facilitation for it and did it most effectively.

The theme of the workshop was 'Relationships', which the Team had decided upon earlier, following some discussion around issues arising from our District Assembly in August past. It was also a topic that the young men themselves indicated at an earlier workshop that they would like to get into at a future workshop.

The workshop focused chiefly on relationship with oneself, with brothers in community and within the District. Charles, Martin and Andrew shared some personal experiences along the way which made it real. Martin had prepared a power point that he used very effectively, inviting further reflection from the men. Their facilitation throughout the workshop was sensitive but challenging to the men and it evoked an enthusiastic involvement and input from everyone. As one young brother expressed it, *"What I found helpful about the workshop was the interaction, communication, true brotherhood, honesty, and sharing*

*from the gut. The facilitators were eloquent and peaceful and encouraged brothers to feel free."* There was a great spirit throughout the workshop. It is certainly the way forward for the future and I am so happy that this new development with the Personal Growth Programme has begun so well.

On Saturday morning the facilitators had invited Sylvester Lahai from our Gbarnga community and Jeremiah Kargbo from our Makeni community, as they leave us for the preparation program in Lusaka toward making their final profession, and thus soon hopefully to join our FP workshops, to share their vocation stories and any significant points along their journey to date in the Congregation. It was a good move and their presentations provided some rich food for thought and included a few good learnings for the young men.

Andrew ended the workshop later Saturday morning by drawing from the men some practical ways, based on the issues they had discussed at the workshop and that they could see as a way forward for themselves when they return to their communities.

Thanks to Francis George Salia and to Cyril Dauda, our new secretariats for these workshops, for recording and typing up the minutes, a task that is much appreciated. Many thanks also to Emmanuel Brima who faithfully recorded and composed our minutes over the past two years. The October Workshop Minutes and Evaluation have been forwarded to all AP Brothers and to the DLT members. Also, as requested at the workshop, a Contact List containing the phone numbers and e-mail addresses of the workshop participants has also been forwarded.

It was decided at the workshop, that since there is an Assembly with CLT members planned for December, our next AP workshop will take place during Easter Week, April 4,5,6, 2013. Brothers expressed the hope that we could hold this Easter Week workshop in Makeni at the Pastoral Centre there, so Charles is looking into the suitability and availability of that venue. Hopefully this can happen.

At our final meal of the workshop on Saturday Jeremiah Kargbo, our residing SP (Senior Prefect) of the AP's, and preparing now to join the FP's, ceremoniously passed on this 'exalted and distinguished, title on to Emmanuel Brima as the new SP.

## EDMUND RICE NETWORK

### EDMUND RICE NETWORK ON THE ENVIRONMENT TO SAVE LIVES

By Basil Bassie Samura and Emmanuel Buakai -Tongai, on  
behalf of Edmund Rice Network



**CARE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT: Kandeh street/Tikonko  
Road junction, Ngagboima Section, Bo, Sierra Leone**

During our last monthly meeting hosted by Bassie Basil Samura on the 6<sup>th</sup> October, 2012, Marie Lisa Buakai-Tongai reminded the group of the ERN'S commitment and need not only to care for others but holistically care for our community and its environment since it is one of our core values. Her challenge was enthusiastically and warmly embraced by the group. It was there and then decided that we do some feasibility study, see and access the need, report findings to the group. Without delay, it was promptly done.

Earlier, schools, prisons, hospitals, clinics were identified for pastoral ministry. Two areas were identified for immediate attention: one was the junction of Musa Street along the Bo-Kenema highway and the other was the Kandeh street/Tikonko road junction close by the Bo Kenema Power Services TRANSFORMER.

Traffic from Musa Street intending to join the Bo-Kenema highway and those travelling on the highway from Shellmingo were greatly hindered by a bank of grass on one side of the highway that obstructed visibility to both motorists and pedestrians alike. To avoid accidents, save lives and enhance the environment; we saw it fit to address the problem.

On the morning of 10<sup>th</sup> October, 2012 at 10:30 A.M, the group converged at the junction of Musa Street and the highway spearheaded by Marie Lisa Buakai-Tongai and Emmanuel Buakai-Tongai, with gusto, the job was speedily and promptly taken care of

The group once again rendezvous at the junction of Kandeh street/Tikonko road junction by Ngagboima by the BKPS TRANSFORMER. Prior to the cleaning exercise, Emmanuel interviewed residents in the area about the state of affairs at the junction and their neighborhood that was thoroughly covered by Elephant grass(lalang) grass. They reported that because of the poor visibility caused by the grass, serious accidents had occurred in the past where lives were lost and people maimed for life.

Before the cleaning exercises on these roads, Emmanuel contacted Mr.Mamoud of Road transport Authority for clearance. Similarly, The Commercial Manager of BKPS-Mr. Jeremy Murray, and the Distribution Manager-Mr. Augustine Tucker were contacted for clearance and indeed they were able to give us one of the BKPS Technicians (Chinese man) who was with us at the start and finish of the work for technical help and safety precautions around the transformer. This exercise was once again carried out with joy by the group.

**THE EFFECTS OF THIS EXERCISE:** the positive effects of these exercises are many: the place now looks very clean because the tall grass had been cut very low. It is no longer used as dustbin because there was plenty of evidence of deposited 'black original bags (garbage bag) which contained garbage. Furthermore, the entrance and exits of these points are so clear that vehicles and pedestrians can see each other from afar when approaching these junctions. In addition, the place is no longer used by thieves to hide at night. Recognizing the cleanliness of the area, the Headmistress whose school-National Islamic Primary School, Musa Street paid a casual visit to Emmanuel Buakai-Tongai and personally thanked him and the Edmund Rice Network Members for helping clean the environment and that particular point brushed is used by school going children as a crossing point. Furthermore, the Muslim Jamaat in the Musa street area too saw the good work done and as a group recited the 'alfatihah' for the Network members. In addition, some neighbours seeing the good work done imitated us and helped cleaned part of their own road. From Njagboima Section, several phone calls were received saying 'thank you ERN Members' for keeping thieves away and making the place look nice and beautiful. In addition, the Bo-Kenema Power Services ( BKPS) transformer looks more protected. More thank you calls were equally received from some of the staff of Bo-Kenema Power Services praising our efforts on cleaning the environment and making it easier for their children and other people to cross the main road without much hesitation.



**CARE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT: Musa Street/Bo-Kenema Highway, Bo, Sierra Leone.**

**This is a letter that Br. John Holden recently received from Br. Kevin Cawley, whom a number of our brothers in the District will remember.**

October 12, 2012

Dear John,

Thanks for the work your editors do in putting out the bulletin WANPOT and please pass on my compliments to them. I recall with fondness my visit to Sierra Leone some years ago. I was able to be up to Blama and we did a presentation at the Senan Kerrigan Center in Bo as well.

I am delighted to see the Thomas Berry quotation on the most recent post. We have begun work at Iona College on the Thomas Berry Forum for Ecological Dialogue this year. I will subscribe you to the newsletter so that you have some access to what we are working on.

Blessings,  
Kevin

From the Wan-Pot editorial team, we say a big thank you to Br. Cawley for the compliments and your contributions will be highly appreciated in future.

### **WISDOM SHARED – Mr. BASIL SAMURA**

#### **Wishful Thinking**

We have been sleeping with eyes unclosed, seeing but not perceiving, afraid to tear ourselves from a despondent state; our sweat derived drained out of us, dredges self-reliance out of our minds; creating a sense of irresponsibility.

It's time we wake up from our reverie; explore the dawn complete, what our fathers have begun finding what they have lost. Breeding something new, something true; drowning the composition of violence, corruption, ignorance and poverty.

A totality involving oneself for selves, breaking through barriers to Africa's sons and daughters, we'll then sing in one voice, in a dialect we'll all understand, for higher heights and loftier aspirations

### **COMMUNITIES IN BRIEF**

#### **TENGBEH TOWN COMMUNITY**

Greetings from Tengbeh Town, and hoping all brothers in the WAD are well and friends, brothers and sisters around the world. Usual flurry of activity here in TT, comings and goings as is the nature of DLT communities. Our major activity this month was not in WAD but in EAD where we attended the AWITF with all leadership teams in our congregation. It was indeed a privileged experience to be a part of such a historically unique gathering of brothers and friends of the brothers who helped produce this document. I will not go into here all the lead-up of meetings, activities, work and dedication of so many people who helped produce this congregational proposition of AWITF. There were many inspirational people present, presenting and facilitating the whole process over a week. DLT hopes to communicate some flavour of all that happened in some planned community cluster meetings before CLT in the persons of Francis and David complete the process early December at our assembly in Kenema. Mention must be recorded pertaining to the caring hospitality of Gerard Ellul and all brothers in EAD. Also to the Sisters at Demessey Centre in Nairobi. One or two unusual things in that there was no DSTV to watch Man U, but no other LT's except us seemed to know Man U were playing, imagine that!! So what did brothers do? They chatted and played cards, though many were busy in meetings and reading volumes as preparation for the following day. Other unusual items of interest were no siestas, doors locked at 7 pm, dogs prowling, all a bit different from Kenema anyway. One more highlight was our meeting and time with Victor Alpha who is doing so well and contributing so much in his own way. Victor will soon be among us, if carrying a case of books for him to SL is any sign?

Augustine, Albert and Noel returned on the 16<sup>th</sup> while Chris remained behind in Nairobi for a PLT meeting. Chris then continues his travels to England for ERD meetings before returning on Oct 31<sup>st</sup>. No rest then either as we move out on community visitation and cluster meetings, facilitating renewal of vows and preparing the way for David and Francis from CLT. Meanwhile we must thank Ben for looking after house, community and district, delivery to and collection to and from the ferry. We finally got our vehicle back from the police, and it is REALLY our vehicle now.!!

We were happy to have Sylvester and Jerry with us, prior to their departure for Lusaka where they take part with other orders in preparation for Final Vows. They were indeed looking forward to the whole richness of this special experience in their lives. We all wish them well and keep them in our prayers. We also had visits from Titus and Benji giving an update on the N'jala community and mission. There is the usual teething ongoing problems associated with all new ministries, so we decided to focus on forming a supportive brotherly community as priority, just as our constitutions suggest while school-ministries sort themselves out. The brothers are very fortunate to have the full support of Bishop Campbell and Archbishop Eddie Charles. The volume of support from bishops, priests and lay people really show us the esteem in which we Christian Brothers are so widely held and we will surely build on this volume of support in all future ventures in the district. It is a long way from the time of Edmund when State and Clergy alike reviled him from all sides in those early foundations, yet he believed, trusted and persevered, and so we the CB's are here today in West Africa and worldwide. And so we have much to be grateful as we hold the vision of Edmund.

Some helpful news – Cluster meetings:

Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup>: Freetown and Makeni communities.

Nov. 10<sup>th</sup>: Bo, Blama, N'jala, Yengema communities.

These are provisional plans, and details will emerge when Chris returns which will also include our Diaspora brothers in Liberia and Ghana.

### BLAMA COMMUNITY

Not much to write home about for the month of October in the Edmund Rice Community-Blama, notwithstanding that, there was a Child Protection workshop for staff members of

both the primary and secondary schools. Community evaluations are through and Br. Pascal Gibba is off to Bo to attend a workshop for District bursars.

The two Come and See men are doing very well, unfortunately, one lost a relative; our deepest condolence to the bereaved family.

### NJALA COMMUNITY

The struggle continues; the dust has not settled down yet, hopefully soon. But the good news is that the Community of Brothers has settled in well and still understudying the situation at the ministry site, as tough as the ground might be.

In less than two weeks in the Njala community, the Brothers embarked on the rehabilitation of the community well that was in a bad shape for over seven years. Now the locals around the community house are sure of drinking covered and well treated water.

Br. Benjamin moved into the community as the fourth member on 10<sup>th</sup> Of October, 2012 and was accompanied by Brs. Paul and Cornelius from his previous community. His presence in the community made tremendous difference. Thanks to him for accepting the challenge and venturing into the unknown.

Br. Augustine Williams visited on the 25<sup>th</sup> October, 2012, to support the Brothers during their trying times; his visit was very helpful in calming the Brothers down and assuring them of DLT'S continued support and prayers. He slept over and moved on to Bo the following day in preparation for the bursars' workshop.

### EMMANUEL MARRAH COMMUNITY

#### AUGUSTINE KAMARA

Glad to inform our 'Wan Pot' readers that, we are very much well here in the student community. University has reopened though the upcoming November 17<sup>th</sup> Elections have interrupted our full-blown slate of lectures. Never mind this national activity; some of the lecturers are coming to give us course outlines and to give us written assignments. We hope after November 17<sup>th</sup> we will experience full-blown lectures again that will enable us to grasp the concepts of our courses better.

**Sad news:** I regret to announce the death of one of our tutors and Head of Department, Mr. S.R. Sensei, who died on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> in a road accident. Mr. S.R.Sensei is our

Head of Department for both Sociology and Social Work and he has worked assiduously to uplift the standard of education, not only in the department, but in the university as a whole. The students in such departments will surely miss a hardworking and ardent man who over the years has contributed immensely of his time, gifts and talents to the department. He will be buried on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup>. May his soul rest in perfect peace, Amen.

**Good news:** I am pleased to inform our readers that we successfully passed our last set of exams which have seen us move to new stages in our academic pursuit. Br. Anthony has gone to final year, Br. Emmanuel also promoted to final year, Br. Michael promoted to 3<sup>rd</sup> year and me to 2<sup>nd</sup> year. By next year the district will have two gallant guys that will be graduating. I want to humbly thank all of us for the effort we are making in our studies. Keep going guys, you will surely reach there very soon. The future of the district lies on us as social engineers as we will have the know-how to map out strategies to address social issues and the way forward for the district.

**New Wing:** Also the new wing, containing three self-contained bedrooms and a kitchenette, is going on gradually as the contractors are doing the plastering all these days. We hope they will soon finish so that will see an influx of visitors in our community.

**Parish Involvement:** The community has taken a robust step in helping in church/parish activities. We have divided ourselves into two main churches here in Bo. Brs. Michael, John and Emmanuel go to St. Pius Church while Anthony and I go to St. Teresa's Church. At St. Pius, Br Michael is helping out in giving communion in church, John has joined one of the Small Christian Communities in the parish and Emmanuel has joined the choir of the church to help stabilize the group. At St. Teresa's, Anthony and I have joined the youth group and also help to teach the Sunday school children catechism.

**Communal Evaluation Process:** Our sessions involving community evaluations in preparation for renewal of annual vows went on successfully on October 13 and 14, which was as well very much an experience in community building. Thanks to all the community members for their honest sharing and for giving the whole process top priority, never mind the tight schedules that often accompanies us as students and personal growth program coordinator. Special thanks go to Br. Michael, our community leader for initiating this process in a timely

fashion and to Br John for his time in compiling the results of the community evaluations for all five of us and for forwarding them to leadership.

### YENGEMA COMMUNITY

Members of the Yengema community send you all their warmest greetings.

Br. Joseph Obana Turay is keeping Br. Charles Belmoh Company in Makeni while Br. Jeremiah Kargbo is in Lusaka preparing for his perpetual vows. He is also using his time there for his physiotherapy treatments, the primary reason for his stay in Makeni at the moment.

The community evaluation process is over and Brothers in the community have sent through to DLT their application letters for renewal of vows.

The Christian Brothers development office also ran a day's workshop on Child Protection for the two schools the Brothers ministry in Yengema. This was very successful; thanks to the facilitators and organizers.

### FORMATION HOUSE COMMUNITY

The District Vocation Committee hosted four men from around the country for one week at the formation house in Bo and they were later sent out in pairs to two communities (Blama and Yengema) for pastoral/community experience. News reaching the District Vocations Director so far regarding their progress has been encouraging, except for one of them who was bereaved.

They are supposed to return to the formation house in Bo on the 10<sup>th</sup> November for a brief evaluation of the process and they return to their families the following day.

Our two men (Dominic and Martin) are almost drawing to a completion of their Postulancy programme and arrangements for their closing ceremonies are underway. Thanks to the team members for journeying with our two brothers.

### KANVILLI SCHOOL - TAMALE

Br. Andrew Turay

I would like to share some of the recent events that have taken place in the school. The arrival of Br. Paul Yallah has given a new energy to the life and ministry of the Brothers here in Tamale. Paul's present is a unique addition as we

were short of teachers at the beginning of the term. I wish Paul a happy and fulfilled life in Kanvilli School.

## PROJECTS

Some work is presently going on the school hall whose roof was destroyed by heavy rainstorm on June 2<sup>nd</sup> 2012. Funds from Miscean Cara are being used to do the work.

A two classroom block, an Administrative block plus a science lab have been partially approved by ERF and we are waiting in hope and prayer that Miscean Cara will approved its own share of the co-funding project. The project is expected to kick start sometime in November if all goes well.

Mr. Baimba from the development office in Freetown recently visited the school to set up the project contract and some other details which include most significantly setting up the report system. It has been a busy time for me even though Br. Bonaventure has been the busiest of community members staying long into the night working on reporting templates.

## SPELLING BEE COMPETITION



**Amina Bukari and Yakubu**

### Asana

For the first time in the history of the school and Tamale Metropolis, two students from the same school are selected to represent the Region in a National Spelling Bee Competition to be held in Accra. Well this is the case of Kanvilli school where in Amina Bukari of JHS 2 and Yakubu Asana of Primary six will be representing the Northern Region together with four other Student selected from four different schools at the National competition in Accra. The competition will be broadcast live on TV.

### ANTHONY

The boy who scored record examination grade of six aggregate has received support from the novitiate. I would like to thank the Novitiate team for their generosity. They provided Anthony with his year's school fees of GHc 560. Abanga Anthony is from a family of five. His parents are subsistence farmers which is the general occupation of most people in Tamale. Anthony is a hardworking and promising boy and has great potential in the field of academics. He made history by being the first student from Kanvilli School to score an aggregate of six in the Basic Education certificate Examination. This is the highest possible result.

### MUMUNI



### MUMUNI IN SCHOOL

Abukari Mumuni is a student of this school. Mumuni has been ill for the last eight years with a deep sore in the left leg. Several efforts have been made by his parents to have him treated but to no avail. Eventually the parents came to believe that the boy is being bewitched, so no further effort was made to get the boy cured from this serious wound.

Just few months ago, the issue was brought to my notice and the Brothers decided to intervene. I personally sent him to a Bone specialist who told me that the boy need an operation as the bone marrow is seriously affected. I was told he needs Ghc 2000 to do the operation. (This is about 800 Euros).

I am therefore appealing for funds to help save the leg of this poor boy.

### CHILD PROTECTION TRAINING

There will be a two training workshop on Child Protection commencing on the 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2012. We are very grateful for Br. Pious Conteh and Team for this kind of training. This training will go a long way to strengthen our education on child rights and abuses.

### SCHOOL FENCING PROJECT



### **Br. Andrew addressing parents**

On the 28th September a PTA meeting was held where Br. Andrew Turay (Head teacher) briefed parents and teachers about ongoing developments in school. He challenged parents to undertake a project for the school and thereby write their names to the infrastructural development plan of the school. They unanimously agreed to do their bit. It was great to see how willing they were even though their contribution is just a tip of the ice berg. They agreed to contribute the sum of Ghc 5.00 each. Over the years I have been able to save Ghc 2,800 from Development levy charge on newly admitted students. A committee was formed to oversee the project and the money was handed over to them. As I write, fifty bags of cement and six trips of sand has been bought to kick start the project. This is a good beginning. We hope our donor partners will compliment the effort of parents. This is because fencing of the school is a need because it is always being visited by domestic animals of all sorts, goats, cows, chickens, and sheep. We need not to mention the trespassing of vehicles and human beings as well.

I would also want to appeal for any intervention.

### **ST. AMBROSE CORNER**

May I start with this proverb that says "to be silent doesn't mean that one is content or lacks ideas." Yes, the Saint Ambrose Academy Corner in the WAN-POT has been empty since August this year. The good news is that Saint Ambrose Academy still maintains its status as school of learning and or advancement. A lot has happened since August up to present and I want to thank all those who are supporting us in any way, especially the Project Development Office for their tireless effort to seek donor funding for the running of the Academy.

As the school moves into the third year since its establishment, the number of students and staff members has increased. In 2010 we started off with 120 students (JSS 1-3) and in 2011 there was slight increase from 120 to 167 student (JSS 1 – 3) and seven classrooms were utilized out of 9(nine). Presently we have on roll 300 students (JSS 1- 3), 160 are girls (age 11 – 16) and 140 are boys (age 10 – 17); and 20 staff members (four females and sixteen males). So just from that simple arithmetic one will easily sense that the school has the potential to grow in number and possibly in infrastructure. Well, we are still exploring strategies to make this dream of expanding the school come to fruition.



Besides the pupils and staff population that has increased, few activities were undertaken these last two months (September and October 2012). We successfully had a fruitful meeting with parents at the school hall. The said meeting is held every semester between the school, parents and other stakeholders in the community. The attendance was very encouraging as compared to the previous years. We also underwent a two days (9th & 10 October) Child Protection Policy workshop. We thank the Province Mission Officer and his team for facilitating the workshop. All staff members and two elders from the community participated in the said workshop. At the end of the workshop a certificate was given to the school which was received by the acting principal on behalf of the school.

On behalf of the DLT(WAD) and all the Brothers in the District I want to welcome the new teachers who joined us this academic year – Miss. Abigail Sesay, Mrs Mariama Tanu Jalloh, Mr. Mohamed Rogers, Mr. Adamus Kargbo, and Mr. Anthony .P. Kamara. I wish you a happy stay.

With a very sincere heart I want to acknowledge the good work that our Brothers did and continue doing in the field of education around the world. It has dawned on me that educating a person at whatever level is not easy and the educator must be a patient person to handle the situation. I believe that our elder Brothers in faith and we the younger generation approach the education of the young generation

in like manner through faith, knowledge, discipline and morals – an education for life.

We want our numerous readers, friends, Brothers and Sisters to continue praying for Sierra Leone for peaceful elections this November 2012. Until then, blessings!!!

#### Basic Education Certificate Examination (BECE) Results 2013

Twelve pupils attempted the exams. This is the first set of pupils to attempt this national exams.

NAME	No. Of	SUBJECTS	AGGREGATE
IBRAHIM CAMARA		8	13
MOHAMED CAMARA	8		16
VICTORIA LAHAI	8		17
MOHAMED .M. KAMARA	8		18
REBECCA ROBINSON	8		19
MOHAMED SILLAH		8	21
ALHAJI LAMIN KANU	8		22
FODAY BANGURA	8		22
KADIATU BANGURA		8	23
AMINATA SWARAY		8	25
YAYAH BANGURA	8		26
ADAMA .H. CONTEH		8	26

These first batch of pupils from St. Ambrose to attempt a national exams are about to set some high standards for future pupils, with very encouraging results. Congratulations to the staff and pupils of St. Ambrose.

### FORMATION CORNER

#### Formation - Renewal of Vows

Finally, finally all applications for renewal of vows along with all community and self-evaluations have been received on this 31st<sup>th</sup> day of October 2012, a major district miracle, says volumes for our improvement in communications. Not before much effort, so many phone calls that DLT are thinking of cutting expenses for their mobile units from some community budgets!! Also starting a new community competition in wan pot for the worst communications-community and we all know who will win that!! And who will come second!!

Still a lot of progress, and while we do appreciate the constraints of communities in general with regard to internet facilities, nil in some communities, while internet cafes are often not working, no line, generator broken down, no fuel for the generator, some community obsolete

modern-operated computers finally dying etc, and so we give advance notice of 4 weeks. Because we all are mature enough to realize that it is our very lives as Brothers we are talking about, our vowed lives as religious Christian Brothers. So we give it total priority at this one time of the year as being the one thing above all else that gives meaning to this life we lead, is the how, and the where and the why of all that we do and are.

So we have this yearly district discipline, which we all use to focus our minds on this fact of our lives, and your response shows that deep down you has some level of awareness of this. Also deep down you want your DLT to insist on it, or where are we? What is the meaning of it all? The Christian Brothers are busy people, community living alone can take much energy, cooks provisions, collecting wood, charcoal, fuel for the generator, boiling the drinking water, shopping for everything, all the repairs and maintenance etc apart from all the human relations that make up our daily lives in community. And this apart from your ministry in schools, wider community based and community/house projects, parish ministries, groups, youth – the lists are endless for all communities. On a lighter note, we are all contending at present with election fever, all brothers busy campaigning for APC as they too have the same colours as Man U, Arsenal and even Liverpool!!! So where all these shades of Chelsea Blues are, must be Martin Vamboi and his friend Charles Margai of PMDC? Or are that crowd, orange in colour, same as Gerard Ellul's marginalized Wolverhampton Wanderers! Sorry Gerard, about to lose again! Even all the novices from all 3 novitiates have sent me their voting cards, Gbarnga and Choggu contingents etc, to vote for their friend Ernest, hope NEC won't block me, but then Christiana Thorpe is a great friend of the Brothers since Makeni days, so all is well. Some brothers are even releasing Albums. Many of us enjoyed Frank Borboh and his troupe of dancers/athletes as Frank released his first album of songs on the public, buckets of money coming into the district!! The nation-wide tour now moves on to Bo and Makeni. But more about all that from Hamilton Community. Anyway, I mention all this to let you know and realize that we are fully aware all these commitments from community visitation and constant involvement with you, yet we would be failing you totally if we do not insist on these spiritual disciplines/practises. It is precisely because of this same discipline in this and other areas that we have moved on as communities and as a district within our congregation. You will rightfully blame your DLT if we allow standards and procedures to slip, and so regress to the old. We do

appreciate your moving with us on this annual renewal of vows, focussing us all on our community evaluations, and self evaluations inherent in our application letters, following the constitutions format. This is totally in line with the congregation's movement into the realm of the future, as outlined in the Nairobi Documents on AWITF which we are all challenged to embrace. We will see that for ourselves clearly at our coming cluster meetings and CLT assembly, when we will all come to see our vowed life as CB's in line with the spirituality of the document in all its fullness. Our "renewal of vows" at this time is calling us to a deep reflection on the word "Renewal" itself as it reflects the overall congregational renewal challenge to all of us as individual brothers and as district here in West Africa. The type of renewal, our CLT after months of deep reflection with others are requesting of us at this same time. We do not want to see "renewal of vows" as just applications and evaluations that we have to do each year at this time and then forget about till next year. AWITF when taken seriously will not allow us to continue in that "business as usual" mode if we are now ready to be Christian Brothers, district and congregational people.

So where from here? DLT are now reading/reflecting on all, as all DLT are informed as to each brother's wishes, and will do pastoral dialogue with brothers and communities as we soon embark on community visitations. Some learnings: It is noticeable that some FP brothers are very pro-active in the community evaluations, going so far as to submit in brotherly collaboration with the JP brothers, their own community evaluation. Maybe all of us FP brothers can learn from this, enhancing the inclusive nature of community living as simply brothers. Also from just a cursory reading, it is rather obvious that some few brothers need to stop using some out-moded formula of application/self evaluation, used in novitiate for first profession with just a change of dates, names or titles. The self evaluations are positive when responsibly and sincerely used, but community evaluations must take precedence, perhaps?

Used rightly, self-evaluation can be a powerful spiritual tool in our hands. It can serve as a vital spiritual inventory or our assets and liabilities on the spiritual journey which is our own responsibility. When honestly and fearlessly taken this inventory will point out to us clearly those parts of us we would want to discard, those we wish to recover and areas needing growth. Taken in conjunction with our workshops, we will see how our self-evaluation/inventory fits right into our community life, perhaps where we

ourselves are to blame, or what we can do to help the other brother or our community. In this light, I would wish here to affirm the positive use and effect brothers are making of self-evaluation. If they are carrying this practise into their accompaniment and communities, they surely have struck a limitless lode for transformation in community and district. It is surely an exercise all brothers (FP and JP) can positively engage in, again enhancing the inclusive nature of community. For this DLT will have to examine situations where no FP brothers are living and working with annually professed brothers on a daily basis. Maybe more pro-active licence and input from accompaniers and spiritual directors might be the way forward, or more final professions? We will engage ourselves in these debates in community and assembly before next year. For now, congratulate yourselves individually and as communities for this year's efforts, looking forward to celebrating our profession, JP or FP for whatever number of years from one to forty!!

**POEM**

THE MYSTERY OF LIFE

By Br. Joseph Abdulai

**We remember each time and day that new life is always given and other lives taken away, WHERE TO? WE DON'T KNOW, WHO TAKES? WE DON'T KNOW, WHO GIVES? WE DON'T KNOW.**

**Mystery life, you make us wonder with great awe of your source, you are with the plants, the animals, the human beings and all on earth.**

**We sleep each day and night, wake up if we are fortunate, some do sleep without you bringing them back to existence, Where are they? We don't know. We imagine them in our dreams and thoughts but we can't see them, we feel them but we can't touch them, Where are they? Oh great life, without you everything is death, the human being with his or her greatness, the sea waters that move, the birds that fly in the sky, the earth that gives good produce to plants and all that exists are because of you, great life.**

**Oh show us your beginning and your ending, your source and your giver that we may know you better and understand you more clearly.**

**Oh .....what.....what a life?**

### UP COMING EVENTS

**PGP TEAM MEETING** .... Will take place on Tuesday, November 6 at Bo Formation House beginning at 9:30 a.m.

**FINALLY PROFESSED WORKSHOP:** Will take place November 30 – December 1 at Bo Formation House, beginning with 7:00 p.m. dinner on the evening of Friday, Nov. 30 and conclude with 7:00 p.m. dinner on the evening of Saturday, December 1. Please bring your own towel.

### BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

Happy birthday wishes to all whose birthdays occur in the month of November. From the Wan Pot editorial team, we wish you all that you wish for yourselves.

### PRAYER REQUESTS

We request prayers for our Brothers preparing for perpetual vows and those preparing for first profession of vows.

### THANK YOU!!!

We express our sincere thanks to all who contributed to our September issue and we encourage community members within the district to send in their nominations for the community of the month competition.

### CONTRIBUTIONS

We continue to ask our valuable readers and contributors to send their contributions to Brs. Joseph Cyril Dauda Jr and Francis Salia George.

[jdaudius@yahoo.com](mailto:jdaudius@yahoo.com)

[francis.george29@yahoo.com](mailto:francis.george29@yahoo.com)

### COMMUNITY OF THE MONTH COMPETITION RESULT FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER, 2012

**FROM: THE WAN POT EDITORIAL TEAM**

**TO: ALL OUR READERS**

We are pleased to announce to all our readers that **CHOGGU COMMUNITY** has been named as the community of the month - June, 2012.