

TST BULLETIN

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www.journeying2gether.org

Sunil Britto reports

So, a community is not simply a group of people who live together and love each other. It is a current of life, a heart, a soul, a spirit. – Jean Vanier

In June we said goodbye to Shillong which was our home for over a year. Ruvan and I then travelled to Capetown to join the rest of the TST. After the meetings with the CLT and African Leadership there, the TST travelled to Nairobi for our month together.

The TST month of July will remain as a highlight in my TST life. We have been together for over four years and I feel we are continually growing as an intimate community. A metaphor that inspired us was that of Organic Farming as against Industrial Farming. We explored together what living this way would mean and tried to use the skills of Generative Listening and Responding.



An adventurous trek through Hell's Gate park

Apart from the planning meetings and the community holiday, we spent considerable time on deep personal sharings. We shared on how we work with each other and the gifts and gaps of each other's style of communication. On another day, we shared with deep honesty aspects of psycho-sexual vulnerabilities. After my sharing I felt listened to and affirmed by the group. I heard others also feeling listened to and affirmed. This is how I would like to live community.

ORIENTATION PROGRAM

The next Orientation Program (OP) in Nairobi is only five weeks away and we have twenty-two brothers who have expressed a desire to be part of it. They are:

Cornel Mwiru, Simon Kaswahili, Paul Mutuku, Vincent Mallya (East Africa District), Denis Vaughan, James Catterson (European Province), Cedric Andrade, Jerry Ekka, Mark DaCosta, Rollingstone Basaiawmoit, Samuel Liana, Vinod Topno (India), Phillip Grundy, Sean McManus, (Oceania), Bruce Hakalembe, Clive Hanjalika, Dominic Sykes, Brian Chipango, Kephass Ndalama, Smart Mwangala (South Central District), Paschal Gibba, Melvin Lebby (West Africa District)

Sr Alba Rodrigues, a Presentation Sister, will join David Gibson, Donal Kirk and me to form the OP team. We are extremely grateful to Sr. Miriam Attel, Provincial of the Presentation Sisters, (North India Province) for their generosity.

The OP participants are expected to arrive by 7th September and the Ceremony of Welcome will take place on 9th September. Please do remember them in prayer as they embark on a journey of personal transformation. We will have daily reports of the OP on our website *journeying2gether.org*.

Ruvan Rebello reports

“Your visions will become clear only when you can look into your own heart. Who looks outside, dreams; who looks inside, awakes.” C.G. Jung

For me the coming together of TST here in Nairobi as a whole team gave me a great sense of connection. We have been carrying out our responsibilities in three different countries: India, Zambia and Kenya. To be together face to face was indeed a blessing. A conscious effort on everyone’s part to live community life at a deeper level was the highlight of our time together. Through Michael Burke’s facilitation skills, clarity emerged around our plans and processes for 2018 and 2019.



At the Walkathon organized by Mary Rice Centre

INDIAN CLUSTER

The last time I visited the Indian cluster was in the month of May. Since then, there are a number of things happening in the lives of our Brothers and in the lives of the wider local communities where our Brothers are immersed.

In the recent days, the Brothers of Patharlyndan and Umtyrkhang mission communities have been having meetings with the village elders and leaders around their presence and their approach to ministry. With the community engagement approach at the heart of all interactions, the Brothers are working in collaboration at all levels with the local village people to come up with what would bring life to its fullness (Jn 10:10). A mission committee is being formed with members from within each local village,

The Brothers are slowly journeying with the people to identify their needs so as to see how best could those short-term and long-term needs be met through collective efforts. Some of our Brothers are attending short trainings organized by NGOs in the field of development to build their capacities, while others are familiarizing themselves with people from government departments to improve ongoing networking.

The challenges our Brothers face include: the sheer physical isolation of the places, (especially of Umtyrkhang community), and the allied difficulties of communication; adjusting to the newness of an uncertain ministry which is different from the predictability of the school ministry; making the leap from an old mindset & heart-set of prayer, community & ministry to a new one.

The group of 16 Social Justice Animators from across the Christian Brothers' schools in India gathered in Shillong for a Social Justice program and visited both the mission communities. Their visit brought great joy and delight to both the Brothers and to the teachers themselves. The teachers were astounded with what they saw. They were impressed by the radical initiative taken by the Christian Brothers to respond to the needs of the times, and to live religious life simply and joyously.

Chris Meehl reports

Over the past few weeks much has happened and I have been in a number of different situations which has challenged me in my way of being Brother. My image of being Brother changes when I interact with my Brothers. Recently I was privileged to be with the Brothers from the Zambian Cluster both in their communities as well as at the Community Growth Workshop. My experience is that our Brotherhood is alive even though it is fragile. The farewell, appreciation and effect Joe Lauren had on the Brothers was acknowledged by them all.

Then being with the Brothers in Johannesburg, at Boksburg and Marian House, brought a different way of being Brother. The meeting in Stellenbosch with the Congregation Leadership Team, African Leadership Teams – Province and District brought many openings with new possibilities of being together. The joy of being with my fellow TST Brothers over the past weeks has developed a sense of oneness and togetherness. These different and varied experiences have provided life to me in my Brotherhood.

WESTERN ZAMBIAN CLUSTER

The Brothers have been involved in a number of activities recently.

Each mission community has been engaged with their local community in listening anew to the needs of the people so as to enable them to develop a strategic plan for 2019/2020.

This planning process involved being with and listening to the people as well as meeting with key stakeholders. Once the three communities of Limulunga, Luampa and Senanga

each identified the key needs of the community, the Cluster came together to develop a Cluster Strategic Plan for 2019/2020.



Chris with Br. Nicholas and Josephine (a volunteer)

Another recent happening in the Cluster was the Personal Growth Workshop. During the workshop the Brothers explored Simplicity, Beauty, Gentleness, Compassion, Love and Intimacy. They were challenged on how they live these elements in their lives and their community. *How can we become alive in our living of these elements ourselves and in our community?*

On the last evening of the Cluster gathering, the brothers farewelled Joe Lauren who has

been a vital member of the Cluster for three years. Joe is returning to Oceania for health reasons. He has made a huge contribution to the Cluster especially as Cluster Leader in developing and supporting the Cluster in mission and ministry. Thank you Joe and many blessings for the future.

Donal Kirk reports

CLG MEETING IN ROME

It was clear from the outset that this CLG Meeting was going to be different. There was no theme, no overall focus. We were making the path by walking. Our facilitator, Matthew Daum, used Theory U as the tool with which to focus our attention on the Congregation and the various issues we are grappling with at the moment.

The first four days were spent on getting a sense of the Body (the Congregation) and only after deepening that understanding of where we are as a Congregation did we move towards any talk of solutions or ways forward. The mistake we frequently make is to proceed too quickly from present reality to solutions without deepening our understandings of the present situation. Theory U invited us into a deeper inner journey and only after that to seek solutions. 'What are the main issues that the Body (the Congregation) is grappling with in various parts of the world from which we come?' This question engaged us for several days.

Then we moved on to naming possible directions where healing and new life were to be found. There was a strong sense that the way forward would not be charted by leadership alone but would be co-created by leadership and membership working together. The journey towards the next Congregation Chapter and beyond will be interesting indeed.

LEADERS AND FORMATORS PROGRAM

In response to a request from Leadership at the joint meeting of CLT, Africa PLT and DLTS held in Tamale last November, TST has created a month long Program for Leaders and Formators which will be held in South Africa next January/February. Already we have seventeen participants signed up for this program.

We have engaged the services of Michael McGuire a formation consultant from the Philippines, and Karen Pratt a TA analyst from South Africa. Karen will explore how our individual scripts influence us in our roles as leaders and formators. We also expect to explore Creative Leadership and Emerging Spiritualities. We look forward to welcoming all participants to South Africa and to some interesting and robust conversations.



Sharing memories of my close friend Joe Moseley

Francis Hall reports

MEETINGS WITH CLT AND AFRICAN LEADERSHIP

This year the meeting between the African Leadership teams, the CLT and the TST was held in Stellenbosch near Capetown. We were warmly welcomed by the resident community of Terry Dowling, Gerald Ross and volunteer, Warren Pillay. Our two days were full of engaging conversations. Issues included keeping the focus all the time on Religious Brotherhood, seeing our education ministry in its broadest sense and ensuring accountability in ministry. The Province Leadership Team reaffirmed its commitment to all active Brothers participating in an Orientation Programme before the end of 2019.

Each evening we enjoyed each other's company, as we supported various different teams at the FIFA World Cup. It was a great time of deepening Brotherhood and getting to know one another better.

Then the CLT met with the TST. We discussed preparing Brothers for ministry in Africa. The "Advanced Skills Training" programme (now called *Skills Training*) run twice by TST was discussed. We also agreed that the two Clusters now in existence need to be seen as part of the whole Congregation's journey. We stressed the crucial importance of the Hub community to the Cluster and of respecting the culture and sensitivities of the local people in the area of the mission communities.

A VISIT TO SIERRA LEONE

My visit in May to Sierra Leone was memorable. In Freetown I joined the African PLT for two sessions in Freetown where we talked freely about the upcoming TST programme designs and our ongoing collaboration in support of the Zambia Cluster.

I was happy to call into the Calaba Town community to share an evening with the Brothers. Then I headed up country to Bo where I spent a happy week with Augustine Williams, staying at the Brothers Formation Centre. We did much planning and local contacting of personnel for the program to be run this August in Bo for eleven Brothers. The program is called "Ndei liwa". In Mende *nde* means 'brother' and *liwa* means "getting to the core". So together the phrase means "brothers getting to the core, so as to bond together". Ruvan and I look forward to working with Augustine and Jojo Karima on this programme. I also enjoyed visiting the Brothers in Blama and at the Emmanuel Marrah community in Bo, as well as a number of old former-brother friends. It was good to be back in Sierra Leone.



Francis during his stay in Bo, Sierra Leone

David Gibson reports

OUR TST COMMUNITY

Our month together in July is well under way. Each year we attempt to come together for

a month as a way of deepening our sense of community. Because of the various jobs each of us is engaged in, we find ourselves often separated geographically and connected mainly through Skype. The first week of our time together saw us taking a well-earned break in Naivasha, north-west of Nairobi, in the great Rift Valley. There we enjoyed some rest and relaxation after a hectic few months for most of the team (David was on home leave). This time together was truly enriching.

Then it was back to Nairobi and to the Mary Ward centre, where we did our planning sessions under the guidance of Michael Burke. Michael was with us for two weeks and was an enormous help in the planning and evaluation of our work. This was an intense period as we outlined our activities for the next year and beyond.

Then for the final week, we engaged in further deepening our community living and sharing the learnings gathered through on-going formation courses and experiences that each one had over the last year. Now we are moving to various parts of the globe ... Zambia, Sierra Leone, Ireland as well as Nairobi. We treasure our weekly Skype calls for our check-ins and business sessions. These keep us connected. Our sense of community grows despite our distance apart.

MY HOME LEAVE

In the last bulletin, I shared some reflection on the Camino from Dublin to Santiago (1,938 km). Now that I have completed the pilgrimage, I want to express my gratitude to the rest of the team for their support as I took the three-months break to undertake the adventure of the Camino. The team generously encouraged me and so I was able to entrust the work of the TST to the remaining five members.

Indeed, it was an adventure especially since I struggled with sore feet for most of the time. Each day when my feet would protest at the eight to ten hours' trek, I often wondered if I would be able to complete the walk at all. Even with this difficulty, I found the experience truly wonderful.

Each day I set off with enthusiasm and as I concluded the walk, often exhausted, I was filled with gratitude for yet another step along the way. Looking through my journal that I kept each day, I now remember with affection the many people I met and interacted with at each stage of the Camino. The conversations with fellow pilgrims contributed in no small way to the richness of the experience.

Now that I am back with the TST, I still remember the experience with joy and I look forward to the next opportunity to embark again on this wondrous pilgrim path.



On the pilgrim way of Santiago

