



ZAMBIA CLUSTER BULLETIN

May 2016
No. 1

Welcome to our first bulletin which I'm compiling on the feast of Edmund Rice. I am struck by the realisation how powerfully the spirit of Edmund is alive in the brothers of the Cluster. As I was going through the articles submitted by the communities, I remembered the words of the journalist who attended the funeral of Edmund: "He lives! He lives on in the noble ones to whom he has bequeathed his spirit and his work".

Sammy Munyua, Editor

SENANGA

Our first month in our new community has been a challenging time in many ways and there is much to celebrate – definitely where I prefer to put my energy!

Over the past month we have been engaged in observation and listening surveys. The observation



People in Senanga gathering for a meeting

surveys have been conducted around the area of Senanga and the local villages. This has allowed us to observe the local people and to gather information without asking the local people any questions. So far we have largely spoken to people from Government Institutions. The Brothers have visited the different villages though. They have noticed worrying levels of poverty in the region.

We will be meeting the local people in different villages in the weeks to come to really understand the ground reality in depth. It has also given us help



into what type of Government offices are in town and the different ways in which people earn money. It has also given us an insight into how people live and work and what issues might affect their daily life. At the heart of what we are about is also coming together as Brothers of different parts of the world and trying to live authentic community living where there is place for trust, love, understanding and joy.

Rohan D'souza

LUAMPA

What excitement there was when the group reassembled for the first time since March 22nd! It was fascinating too to see how, in that short time, the Luampa community had set down their roots and made their mark both with the people and in their compound – Tatenda's hands in the kitchen, John's in the garden, chickens and goats knowing this was their home.

The celebrations were embarrassingly fine. We certainly were

honoured by those guests invited - the Presentation Sisters, Hospital and school representatives, the Minister for Development, and elders from the community. Mr and Mrs Lamata were very attentive to the formalities of the occasion and we were exposed to the hierarchical formalities of the culture in which we have set up our abodes. Thank you to the Luampa community for welcoming us and to the Lamatas for the sincerity of their welcome.

Michael Tatenda Chimbima



Doing chores around the house

MONGU

It seems that the last week has been one of meeting important people in the country and the Province. Last Thursday Sammy, Michael and I had the opportunity to shake hands with the President, Mr Lungu, as he visited St John's College.



The next day Mouvin, David and Donal joined us as we went to visit with the Bishop. Then we all had the opportunity to talk on Saturday with the Chief of the Luampa district and the local MP and Minister, Mrs Josephine Lamata.

Today Sammy, Mouvin and I had the chance to talk for 30 minutes to the principals of the Edmund Rice schools in Zambia about OWITF. That meeting had an historic significance on this eve of Edmund's Feast Day – five of these principals will travel later this year to an ER Education Beyond Borders conference in India. EREBB shows the close collaboration that has developed between lay and Christian Brother members of the Edmund rice network in further developing the global Edmund Rice mission of education.

Joe Lauren

LIMULUNGA

For the last month we have been engaged with community building work

as well as carrying out mapping and listening survey in the area. This is exciting and it also has its challenges. What keeps me going is the support I experience from my own community.

The major challenge I face is when locals don't feel free to share with me - they seem to be suspicious. I think I need to spend more time in building rapport so that they can slowly begin to trust me.

The scorching sun in the afternoon is another challenge as we walk on the hot sand but with time we will learn how to manage as the people do. We are hopeful everything will work out well according to our vision and mission.

Fredrick Ochwalo

SAVE THE DATES

Visits to Communities: Members of the Hub Community will visit Luampa (10th May), Limulunga (12th May) and Senanga (17th May).



Brothers of the Cluster with the Lamatas and other guests in Luampa