



# ZAMBIA CLUSTER

MARCH 2017  
No. 4

## Editors Note

The Cluster is in the process of becoming part of the South Central District of the African Province. The whole District, including the Cluster is meeting in the lead-up to Easter at an Assembly with the theme: Choose to Live Life in Brotherhood at a Deeper Level. Some communities in the District have had to close recently so there is grieving involved there; those in the Cluster have left the familiar to ensure the dream of the Congregation comes to reality; so these latter days of Lent give us all something to learn from Jesus, our role model, as to what it means to be his followers in journeying to Jerusalem.

-Samuel Munyua

## FIRST CLUSTER COMMUNITY LEADERS MEETING

Today marks the historic day for the Brothers in the first cluster as they finish one year in the new Communities. The day was marked by a gathering of Community leaders to share some of their joys and challenges as a leader's in this changing times .Day was meaningful, good exchange of experiences and hopes and a lot of ideas and thinking was shared. Leaders felt that hub had played a vital role in supporting communities and helping leaders become Community animators.

-Rohan



Mission Community leaders sharing meal with Hub Members

## UPDATES FROM SENANGA

This month we have been gathering as a community each week to plan various weekly activities and sharing of various responsibilities. As you are aware we have been doing our own house chores and at the same time trying to gather as much information from community as possible from community to help us shape our project.

We are trying to support each other in our daily activities. At the beginning of this year we assisted 60 extremely materially poor with farm inputs so I usually visit those people to see how they are doing and how the maize is growing. I'm also involved actively in my local church, which entails going out



Philip 3<sup>rd</sup> left with Senanga team

to outstations to lead Eucharistic service. This opportunity is helping me in building my confidence of standing in front of people. I learn a lot by interacting with them during and after service, as they want to know more about who Brothers are and why Brothers are so concerned about them to the extent of facilitating church service for them. Some young men who come to service are so attracted with us Brothers that they are willing to become Brothers too and help their people.-



# Journeying Together

During the service I get to learn what they go through by inviting them to share how they have survived throughout the week. There is deeper searching as we share our faith. I'm so careful not to use cosmological terms but I bring the awareness of God who is everywhere and not restricted to structures or buildings, At the beginning when I started working with this people they reminded of my catechism and the Image of God I had then and this is what moved me to share my Spiritual search with them. They are so generous even to extent of inviting me to their homes. This experience is an opportunity for me to gather as much data as possible as we prepare to come up with major project.

-Phillip

## EXPERIENCE OF 30-DAY RETREAT

Time flies fast. It took me years to plan for my thirty-day's retreat and at last it happened. It was an opportunity to journey back as I look back at who I have been and come to an appreciation on how God treasures me. I initially thought it would have been a good break to read some of the books which I had not finished reading due to various activities happening on the ground but I never had time to read. There was a lot of reflections and prayers. I had to get used to midnight prayers. Coming back to Mongu I feel energised and a bit out of touch with a lot of reality that took place while I was away. Ignatian Spirituality is okay but for the first two weeks I had to reconcile my current image of God with an Image of god who is very masculine, judgemental and always threatening me with Hell. Which was a tough job! I got reminded as to why I joined religious life, to save my life and life of others. !!!!Thanks to you all for support in prayers.



This table was part of my home during my 30-Desert Day's

## NEWS IN SNAP SHOTS.

- George Massay member of DLT East Africa visited Cluster as part of his discernment process.
- The Hub met with the CLT, PLT and DLT's to talk about full-time study for the Brothers in the Cluster. There was general agreement that five brothers would go for long term studies each year.
- John Holden is gathering information to help in the decision-making of suitable study programmes for the Brothers in the Cluster. We hope to have a good general idea of that by the end of May.
- We welcomed diamond jubilarian, Michael, back from his time in Australia.



Michael left posing for a photo ,below Michael and Michael Tatenda meet at Luampa Community



- Tatenda leaves next week to visit schools in Ireland talking about the South Central District and the Cluster.
- We are awaiting funding so that we can start the ambitious programmes we have planned.
- Community animators meeting will be taking place in Mongu Hub community on 22<sup>nd</sup> March.
- Vocation animators from all mission communities will be having meeting at Hub house on 4<sup>th</sup> April.
- Mark on your diaries 9<sup>th</sup> April South Central District Assembly in Lusaka Zambia.



# Journeying Together

Most Brothers joined the rest of the religious and priests of the Mongu Diocese to have a really enjoyable St Patrick's Day celebration. This is the only such social gathering for the group and, as has been the custom, was organized by the Presentation Sisters and the Christian Brothers.



Religious men and women dancing Zambian/Irish dance.

Probably the premier cultural celebration in Zambia, the Kuamboka, is going to be held on 8<sup>th</sup> April after a gap of several years due to the Litunga, the Paramount Chief, losing his wife and also a lack of water. The Litunga travels in a black and white covered canoe from his palace on the plains along the canal to his dry-land palace at Limulunga. There will be thousands at this occasion, including our Brothers.



Scene of Zambezi river flood plain as the sun sets

## GEARING UP FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Having engaged various stakeholders, primarily communities, government departments and NGOs, in identifying priority needs, the Western Cluster awaits approval of project proposals submitted. The interventions proposed, have a focus on building knowledge to enable positive behavior and practices in key areas of concern identified- for example, Nutrition; Reproductive Health among adult women and adolescent girls; Risky behavior among youths that potentiate escalation of HIV infection among youths. Another area of intervention proposed for the 12-month project relates to empowering the youth with skills in vegetable, poultry and fisheries production. It is anticipated that once they acquire the relevant skills, they will productively be involved in improving livelihoods in their households. Some communities are targeted for enhanced capacity to provide quality care to the elderly, physically challenged based on the context analysis. The Zambia Western Cluster team recognises the importance of working closely with relevant government departments, NGOs and other relevant stakeholders. To this effect, a preliminary work-plan has been developed to prepare for possible commencement of the planned project. Key activities include:

- Hold briefing meetings with stakeholders to introduce up-coming programme and inspire commitment.
- Mapping of existing Care groups/community Care-givers.
- Secure agreement/s for sector-technical support for nutrition education, agriculture/livestock and fisheries-production.



Members of Luampa Community reflecting during Hub Visit



# Journeying Together

- Secure agreement/s for sector-technical support for nutrition education, agriculture/livestock and fisheries-production.
- Identify consultant/s for baseline
- Establish basic reporting and accountability systems.
- Train Brothers and Volunteers in basic financial management.
- Train Brothers and Volunteers on basic project monitoring.
- Establish financial and procurement procedures (including commodity distribution standards)
- Establish performance agreements with LPM (Local Project Management)

## ***Brothers are Productive & Serving While Waiting...***

In all three Mission Communities, Brothers have taken up voluntary work to enhance their skills, supporting especially the enhancement of the quality of education. The engagement includes teaching various subjects in schools where teachers are fewer than the required staffing levels, and offering support to vulnerable youths who have not been able to pass their GCE in previous years.

**(Martin Silutongwe, Project Manager)**



Steve left having a chart with Martin in his office.

## **LOCAL PROJECT MANAGERS AND BURSER'S**



Dominic-Limulunga Local Project Manager



Edward-Limulunga Local Project Burser



John-Luampa Local Project Burser



Con-Luampa Local Project Manager



Nic-Senanga Local Project Burser



Steve-Senanga Local Project Manager