

TST BULLETIN

No. 9, August 2015



TST at Chapter, Nairobi

It is a relatively short distance from Salvelberg, where we completed our TST Training Course, to our new residence in South 'C' but the journey to get here was anything but simple. For all of us there was significant uprooting, packing, goodbyes and travelling.

Our first stop was a visit to Rome to spend time with the CLT and other partners. We had a wonderful week there where we addressed many aspects of what is involved in AWITF. Philip began by engaging with us on the spirituality underpinning the whole en-

deavor. He spoke of a journey of faith similar to Abraham where he set out not knowing where he was going. It was a very unpredictable journey and when he finally arrived at the planned destination he had to move on to Egypt as that land was in a state of famine. A second image presented to us by Philip was from Tolkien's 'Lord of the Rings' where Prodo agrees to take the ring to a place the way to which was unknown to him. So as we set out on this journey together as a TST into the future the stakes are high and there are risks for sure, but the rewards are great too as we seek to fly free with Edmund to places of the heart beyond our wildest imaginings. It is time to remove the plant from the pot where it has been stagnant for too long while the roots go round in circles looking for fertile ground and the opportunity to live its life to the full.



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As we met with the CLT, representatives from Edmund Rice Development, Edmund Rice Foundation Australia and some members of the newly formed Mission Sustainability Council, it soon became very clear that they were hugely enthusiastic partners with us in this new venture. In fact the more we reflected, prayed and dialogued together by ourselves and with the other groups the clearer it became to us that 'partnership' is key to the whole process. The TST cannot achieve anything by itself but needs the full cooperation of leadership at all levels within the Congregation.

We also took the opportunity to visit Vianney Brown who is quite ill in a nursing home in Cassino. We are most grateful for the warm welcome and generous hospitality which we experienced from our brothers in Rome.

By February 20th we were all

together here at our new residence in South C. The East Africa DLT are our close neighbours from whom we have enjoyed great support and much practical help as we settled into our new home. We must acknowledge Declan and all the work he did in January as he set about making the house fit for human habitation. As the days go by and we are putting our personal stamp on the place and it is becoming more of a home. There are good smells coming from the kitchen, prayerful sounds from the prayer room and enthusiastic conversations from the work space. We have enjoyed visits from various delegates who have arrived recently for the Chapter.

Our main task at the moment is to clarify a vision for ourselves as a TST and to identify some core values out of which we wish to operate. After much soul searching we came up with the following ex-

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pression of our commitment:

DREAM FOR TST

Through our shared God quest, intimate community living and engaging in ministry with people made poor we live our brotherhood as radical disciples of Jesus and followers of Edmund, seeking to unleash the energies of love.

Drawing up a budget for the remainder of the year is also high on the agenda. We continue to share stories and build community. We are very aware of the need for us to be authentic and live AWITF ourselves in our daily lives. We intend to avail of supervision and spiritual direction. We are committed to doing our own cooking, washing and house-keeping.....we will see how things go!

The Congregation Chapter is just days away so we have been giving plenty of thought to how

best we may engage with the delegates. As noted earlier, partnership with leadership teams is crucial if AWIFT is to make any progress. So we intend to engage with leadership as much as possible in the weeks to come.

We have set aside the month of April to digest and reflect over the message from the Chapter and to do some strategic planning. In May some of us will return to our Provinces for Province Chapters. In June we hope to avail of an opportunity in Lusaka to gain some knowledge of Training for Transformation. These are just some of the plans we have for the immediate future.

We will keep you informed of our plans and stories as they unfold in the weeks and months ahead.

