The ‘breaking news’ in the last bulletin was the appointment of David Gibson to the TST. He was able to spend ten days in Nairobi and certainly ‘hit the ground running’ as he joined in the work of writing the Strategic Plan and the funding applications for Edmund Rice Foundation Australia. It was good to be a full team of six for a short while. We very much enjoyed celebrating with him his Golden Jubilee. He returns to Nairobi early in the new year and keeps in touch by email and skype.

ADVOCACY SEMINAR

We participated in the Advocacy workshop organized by Brian Bond of Edmund Rice International and Joash Diemo Sigu of ER Advocacy Network, East Africa. The sessions were most engaging and gave us great insights into the complex political and civic environment of Kenya as well as gaining understanding of the UN human rights mechanisms. Other participants were drawn from local Edmund Rice ministries and other Catholic justice organisations. It was a great opportunity for us to network with others committed to justice and advocacy.

MISEAN CARA MEETING

Two of us joined with other Religious at a meeting with the Misean Cara Board and staff. Misean Cara is the Irish Government funding agency for Religious Congrega-
tions and has been most generous to the Christian Brothers over the years. They have agreed to partner with other donor agencies in funding both the training of Brothers and the setting up of the twenty communities within Our Way into the Future.

**STRATEGIC PLANNING**

Work continues apace on the Strategic Plan for setting up the twenty new communities. Each conversation uncovers further elements we need to take into consideration. In an interconnected universe, we know that a shift in one place will affect the whole. This is so true for us at this time. The setting up of the twenty new communities will impact every Brother and Edmund Rice ministry in diverse ways. We openly invite all of you into partnership with us in this exciting and evolving journey!

It has not been all work here. We have found time to join the Brothers of East Africa at their recent cluster, to welcome local communities of Brothers to our house and to involve ourselves out and about in Nairobi. We are enjoying the company and support of our nearest CB neighbours … Amandi, George and Tony. The Missionaries of Africa are also neighbours and we enjoyed hosting them with our top chef on duty!

**PRAYING FOR PEACE**

Some of us joined the staff and a few customers of our local Na-
assist us in deciding to make Nairobi the TST base, after nine months experience of living here.

**CONNECTING WITH CLT/ALT**

Skype technology enabled us to hold two significant conversations ... one with the CLT and one with the African Province Leadership. We plan to hold monthly ‘check-ins’ with CLT from now on. We were delighted to hear Noel Bradshaw’s voice before he headed back to be with his Brothers in ebola-torn Sierra Leone and Liberia.

**EVENING WALKS**

The Ministry of Works sports ground in our neighbourhood is where we regularly go for our evening walks. We delight in seeing how adaptable the bird life is to the city environment with kites, storks and ibis somehow thriving.

**DISCERNMENT WORKSHOP**

Our one day workshop in communal discernment was most effectively facilitated by Margaret Benefiel. She is a Quaker and internationally renowned writer who brings Christian discernment practices into the wider organizational world. She guided us through several discernment practices, including the “Clearness Committee”, to
ENGAGING WITH ERD

We spent three most effective and enjoyable days working with Fiona Dowling from Edmund Rice Development. Fiona has an excellent grasp of OWITF and helped us formulate clearer ‘development goals’ i.e. how the work of the Brothers in the new communities will be of benefit to locals. We examined certain existing CB ministries where some elements of the Community Engagement approach is already operating. Later we met the Misean Cara Mentor for Kenya, Mr. Paul Gichuki, and found his suggestions re our OWITF work most encouraging. We also had some welcome visits from Anthony Ryan of the Edmund Rice Foundation Australia, who are also generously supporting OWITF.

AFTERNOON WITH THE AP’s

An afternoon with fourteen annually professed Brothers provided us with greater understanding of their perspective on our Brotherhood. They spoke of many hopes which match the aims of OWITF and some disappointment where our lifestyle falls short.

Dean McGlaughlin was with us to lead us in further work on our TST Strategic Plan. We then set off in four directions on community visits. More on that in the next bulletin.