ORIENTATION PROGRAMME (OP)

The Orientation programme opened on Sunday, 6th September, and has been running for five weeks. It has been a blessed time for many of the Brothers, as well as being both challenging and stretching.

You may be able to access the website for the day-to-day accounts of the OP. But for those who have not access to ourwayintothefuture.org, we hope that the brief account of each week will help.

Week One

The opening week began with various ways of getting the Brothers to know one another. This was an important time for everyone where Brothers began to form a group spirit. In a sense, the first week was laying down the foundations for what we hope will grow into a dynamic yet solid structure – the cluster of communities. Another significant aspect of the first week was the input given by Mrs Pulcheria Mumba, who explained the various aspects of Zambian culture, and showed how important it was to recognise the significance of such simple things as greetings and family mores.

Week Two

Much of week two comprised an introduction to Transactional Analysis, given by David Gibson. During this week, the Brothers had an opportunity to get to know themselves at a deeper level. They also began to understand the dynamics that go on in any group that is formed. The sessions offered some valuable insights into how people interact, and from what psychological

David Gibson on creating joyful communities
position they express themselves. It was pointed out that in the formation process of yesteryear, there was very little attention to the psychological interactions that take place on a daily basis. As a result, the tendency was to solve all interpersonal issues by invoking some spiritual principle in the hope that this would resolve the interpersonal impasses. Needless to say, the result of such an approach was often very inadequate.

**Week Three**

Br Philip Pinto came from India to present a week-long series of talks and discussions on the contemporary understanding of Jesus. These were inspiring sessions, where Brothers came to understand the connection between the new universe story and the way we need to view the person of Jesus of Nazareth. Philip offered a very inspiring portrayal of the mission of Jesus in his world, and how this same mission of working to establish the Reign of God in calling us to be disciples of the Nazarene. Part of being a disciple is the challenge of being subversive in the face of unjust structures and social inequity.

**Week Four**

Sunil Britto opened the week with a two-day workshop on the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator. These two days proved very enlightening for the Brothers, as they discovered more about their own personality type. The workshop involved great group interaction and by the end of the second day, the Brothers had clearly identified their personality type.

These two days were followed by a morning’s immersion experience in one of four local compounds. This was a challenging time for many of the Broth-
Edmund Rice Mission. There were representatives from all leadership teams throughout the Congregation, as well as some key people from ERD, ERFA, ERI and EREBB. The symposium was very ably facilitated by Ian Williams and Lorna Perry of Caplor Horizons.

INTO THE WEST

While the orientation programme continues apace, Ruvan Rebello and Donal Kirk are working away in Western Province, making the community houses ready for the establishment of the five communities in the first cluster: Mongu, Luampa, Limalunga, Moyo and Senanga. At present there are painters, plumbers, electricians and carpenters all working to ensure that the deadline for completion of their construction work is met.

MEANWHILE IN ROME

Declan and Donal joined a group of key people from across the Edmund Rice Mission in Rome from 28th to 30th Sept 2015 to develop a framework for

ers. They had gone to the compounds with a home-based care volunteer to visit some sick people in their homes.

What struck many was the level of poverty that many people experience on a daily basis, and how a very sizeable number of people are suffering from HIV.

The final days of week four were devoted to the process of attempting to understand the dynamics of the group. This time spent in analysing the way the group functions was very valuable for the Brothers who will eventually form the new communities.

The local community in Senanga with Ruvan
Because of the wonderful response to the invitation to write an article on one of the Chapter calls, a second volume will be coming shortly with yet another selection of articles. There may even be enough for a third volume as the deadline for the articles is still a month away. So, should others feel tempted to put pen to paper, do it now!

The book of articles on the ‘calls’ of the Nairobi Chapter is just out, and can be purchased on Amazon. The contributors to the first volume are: Michael Murray, Gerard Alvarrez, Martin Byrne, Tony Hempenstall, Peter Harney, Martin O’Flaherty, Dominic Sassi, and the TST.

The cost of the book has been kept to the lowest possible price allowed by Amazon, to ensure that Brothers can purchase it ($7.50).