FOUR NEW CHRISTIAN BROTHER COMMUNITIES

The eighteen Brothers in Western Zambia finished the language school during Holy Week and arrived at their new community locations on 23rd March. It was a historic day for the Congregation as four new communities were born: Limulunga, Luampa, Mongu and Senanga. The Brothers are now on a journey to share their spiritual search and to work with people made poor in their respective areas.

The challenge facing the Brothers is to form vibrant and cohesive communities characterised by gentleness, intimacy, compassion and love. After living together in a big group for the last few months, they will now be living as small communities of four or five. They will be putting most of their energy into living brotherhood in a deeper way even in the doing of unpretentious things like homemaking and cooking for each other. This will truly be a call to develop a new way of being community.

We rejoice in the gift that these Brothers are to each other, to the Congregation and to the people among whom they will live and work. We wish them well as they journey forth.

MIND YOUR LANGUAGE!

The task of learning Silozi, the language of Western Zambia, has been a challenge to most. Some Brothers have made good progress while others are more at the tortoise pace. However, as the Brothers gain confidence in using whatever they have learnt, it will greatly help in engaging with the local people.

THE HUB COMMUNITY

The Hub Community has been very much up and running even before moving to their house in Mongu. They are working closely with David and Donal in a pastoral role and busy setting up fi-
financial systems and the mission structures with Mr. Chisomo Phiri, the Cluster Mission Co-ordinator. They are missing John Holden of course. John’s illness has finally been diagnosed in Canada and everyone is delighted that he is making a good recovery.

WE HAVE CHANGED SOME NAMES

We have decided to create a new name to describe the project of establishing twenty communities in the developing world: *Journeying Together!* This is to distinguish this project from the wider *Our Way into the Future* which is the Chapter call to every Brother. *Journeying Together!* captures the spirit of togetherness of the Brothers of the Cluster with each other and the people among whom they will live.

We have also changed the name of the new communities in the Cluster from ‘frontline communities’ to ‘mission communities’. It was pointed out to us that ‘frontline’ is associated with a war situation which we hope will not be the case in Western Zambia!

MEANWHILE IN DUBLIN

In February, TST with Joe Lauren and Mouvin Fernandes from the Hub community, along with Chisomo Phiri, participated in a series of planning meetings at Edmund Rice House, Dublin. These meetings were expertly arranged by Dean McGloughlin, Congregation Executive Director of Resources and Planning and Fiona Dowling of the Edmund Rice Development Office.

They did a great job in bringing us together and providing expert consultants to work with us in developing two documents:

- The TST Strategy document, including the Theory of Change
- The TST business plan, including the operational plan.
We were given a basic overview of Project Cycle Management by Eamonn Casey, a professional consultant in the development field.

**THE KEY DOCUMENTS**

The Strategy document and the business plan are two key documents in implementing *Journeying Together!* A project so radical and complex as *Journeying Together!* requires a lot of thinking, planning and reflection. Furthermore, the first thing the donors ask for is sight of these two documents to see if the requests for funding are realistic and well thought out.

The Strategy document, including the Theory of Change, which we crafted through the expert facilitation of Ian Williams of Caplor Horizons, exceeded all our hopes and will be circulated soon once the consultation phase has finished.

The business plan, including the operational plan entails a detailed outline of what we will be doing in ministry, what the outcomes will be, and what it is going to cost. When applying to funding agencies, we need to be very clear as to what we hope to achieve with the funds we receive.

The task of creating the business plan proved more difficult than we first imagined and so we were disappointed when it was not finished by the end of the week. So work continues to complete the business and operational plans.

**THANK YOU!**

We take this opportunity to express our sincere thanks to the European PLT for financially supporting our time in Ireland. They generously funded the whole project and made us so welcome into the Province. We could not have done the work without their help.

We want also to thank the commu-
nities in Synge Street and Edmund Rice House for their warm and generous hospitality. We were made to feel totally at home.

We also had the lovely experience of a reception hosted by the European Province to which Brothers came from across the city. Edmund Garvey gave the guests from Zambia a warm welcome, expressing his support. Francis replied expressing the appreciation of the TST for the brotherly support for Journeying Together!

**AND THEN IN ROME!**

TST went to Rome to report to the CLT on progress to date. This was a rich time of sharing with many questions surfacing. Both teams were able to articulate more clearly how Journeying Together! fits into the overall Our Way Into The Future embraced at the Nairobi Chapter. TST shared with CLT the planning done so far for the next Cluster in India.

Declan, Sunil and Ruvan stayed on to work with Dean McGlaughlin to complete the operational plan for TST. Others returned to Zambia to support the Hub Community in final preparations for the moves into the four new communities.

**VISIT TO PAPUA NEW GUINEA**

In January, Sunil and Ruvan ran an ‘OWITF familiarisation’ workshop in Papua New Guinea. TST took the opportunity to connect with the Brothers personally and to encourage them to join future Clusters. The TST also met with Oceania Province Leadership Team members to update them and to strengthen the partnership with them. The TST were happy to share OWITF resources with the brothers which was greatly appreciated. Overall, there was openness, enthusiasm and energy to embrace the new. The spirit of brother-
hood, the honesty about their present situation and the courage to dream big were the highlights of this assembly.

LOCATION SEARCH IN INDIA

The search for locations for the second Cluster got underway in the month of January. At the Indian Assembly in Goa, the TST represented by Francis and Sunil explained the criteria for the locations and the search process. All the brothers in the Province were asked to answer a Questionnaire on suitable States for the new communities.

On the basis of the feedback from the Indian brothers, three zones (groups of States) were shortlisted. The three zones are:

- Jharkhand and bordering areas of Chhattisgarh and Odisha
- Assam and bordering areas of Meghalaya and Arunachal Pradesh
- Bihar and West Bengal

The brothers were again asked for their views about these zones. The Indian Social Institute, a reputed research consultancy is also studying these zones against the agreed criteria.

BACK IN ZAMBIA!

After Easter, the first phase of ministry for the members of the new Cluster is a four month community engagement project. This will include familiarization, listening and mapping surveys of their new locations, as well as some low profile engagement with marginalized youth. This work will be planned, monitored and supervised by Chisomo Phiri. There are further workshops in community engagement during this time which in effect is an in-service training in Community Engagement and Project Management.