



## Camillian Task Force - Central

Humanitarian Office of the Order

# CROSSOVER



### Quarterly Bulletin

Issue No. 3

April - June 2012

# Eureka! CTF KENYA 1ST PHASE MISSION ACCOMPLISHED

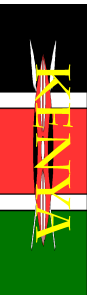
**E**ureka is an expression that comes from ancient Greek *heúrēka* which means "I have found it". This captures the very emotion of the CTF

Kenya team after accomplishing the six-month emergency intervention program in the "Horn of Africa" particularly in seven (7) villages of Wajir East, Northeast Kenya. Wajir is approximately 587 kilometers away from the border of Somalia that hosted to 172,183 Somali refugees for almost 2 decades. Wajir is predominantly an Islamic community.

From November 2011 to April 2012, the CTF Kenya team composed of 2 Camillians (Bro. Joseph, Fr. Thom) and 2 Camillian sisters (Srs. Janette and Catherine) set up a base camp inside the Catholic Mission center of Wajir East led by Bro. Joseph Khiyaniri, MI, a Camillian brother and a clinical officer. The team had initiated four primary intervention programs, namely, health and nutrition for children from 4-5 years old (687) and the aged from 60 years old and above (1,924), food security food production (1), and ac-

cess to potable water supply using renewable energy (1). The team was assisted by 5 local volunteers (Felistas, Prescilla, Barud, John and Patrick).

During the three-day multi-stakeholders' assessment and evaluation facilitated by a member of the CTF Central team from May 3-5, it has been affirmed by everybody the big success of the six-month intervention program. A total of 2,611 individuals had been served and constantly monitored in the health and nutrition program plus over a hundred walk-in beneficiaries who came for medical assistance during the mobile clinic; 30 families (2 farm groups) had received 2 greenhouses and a



*Sr. Janette, a Camillian nurse visiting the sick aged in the village*

training given by experts in semi-arid land farming; and 6,000 individuals and 2,000 animals has been spared from an inefficient water trucking service

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*(EUREKA... from page 1)*

using a cost-efficient and environment friendly borewell.

During the evaluation, the village chiefs, council of elders and their respective constituents have commended the CTF team for the services rendered and appealed to the central office to continue their mission. Most of them expressed their satisfaction in collaborating and working with the CTF. Two village chiefs and a Somalian volunteer echoed their impression in public about the CTF as "the only organization ever so far who worked with us, stayed with us, cared for us and listened to us". Another chief from Hodhan said: "I did not appreciate with what the CTF had given to us but of how it carried its mission and the values that it left to us, i.e., the value of listening and caring."

Eureka! The CTF did not come to Wajir with a well-defined and measurable strategies but only with a basic principle of pastoral care – shepherding God's flock. The team had developed their strategies day by day and confront situations and problems immediately with courage and optimism. The first two months were really tough according to the team since it was the moment of serious dialogue and confrontation with the village chiefs. During this moment injustices such as corruption and marginalization of the marginalized vulnerable sectors (aged, children, women) had been unearthed. Two village chiefs have even wrote a public letter of apology to the team and both of them turned to be the most cooperative leaders. One of them even made a sincere personal pronouncement saying, "I come here before this assembly as a changed man. The CTF has made me realized the loopholes and shortcomings of my leadership."

The team believed then, that this is what it means to be a Camillian – to be with the poor sick at the "bedside" as St. Camillus did, to journey with them and raised their dignity as a human being regardless of creed, culture and ethnic origin. The entire team felt so much the big impact it has on their Camillian vocation. CTF has helped them to deepen their spirituality as messengers of the good news of health and justice.

*By Aris Miranda, MI*

## FROM THE PANGS OF BIRTH TO NEW LIFE

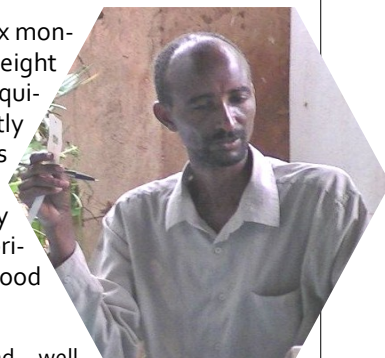
*(The writer is a Somalian CTF volunteer who had been working with the CTF as a community relation in-charged and an interpreter. He has been working for 6 months. He described the CTF as a new baby boy born in the desert with a lot of challenges, joys and pains from the start. Despite of differences in terms of religious beliefs (Islam) and culture, it never became a hindrance to establish a better and harmonious working relation.)*

It is of no doubt that a baby boy known as CTF was born in Wajir that outshined all other humanitarian agencies working in the area bringing relief and aid to the Somalian refugees of Northeast Kenya.

The following had been noticed during the birth of the blessed boy known as CTF in Wajir. CTF has been so caring about the aged especially the bedridden and the malnouri-

shed children during the past six months. An improvement in the weight of both children and aged was quite evident although not perfectly as we are expecting it towards the end of the program. Malnutrition in Wajir Is caused by many different factors; and primarily the lack of nutritious food such as vegetables.

It is an undeniable fact and well-pronounced indeed, in the central communities (9) of Wajir the great appreciation and gratitude that they have to the CTF team. It was not so much for what they have done or



The name CROSSOVER was inspired by the gospel of Mark (4:35-41) when Jesus invited his disciples to cross over to the other side of the lake and their boat was battered by heavy storm that it almost sank. Fear had overshadowed them and Jesus rose from sleep and calmed the sea. Just like St. Camillus in his time who crossed over the confines of the hospitals and came to rescue the victims of floods, war and pestilence. The enormous strength and enduring compassion of the Camillians are demonstrated during these times of war and calamities.

CROSSOVER attempts to bring to you the news and events of the CTF in the world. It envisions to enrich the memory of our past through the present realities and challenges us to propel the steering wheel onwards and actively engage in the signs of the times.

Everybody is invited to contribute their stories, views, reflections and news in the field of humanitarian and pastoral mission. Please send to [ctf@camilliani.org](mailto:ctf@camilliani.org).

given to the people since it was just like a pinch of sugar drop in an ocean as compared to other big organizations but of their incomparable presence, care and listening.

Because of this, in union with the members of the 7 communities that CTF had been serving, I have been recommending and requesting the organization to continue serving us. From my experience, I have never seen a humanitarian agency who had come to our rescue such as the CTF who really worked with us and respect us.

There is still a lot of children and aged who have not fully recovered and even feared that those who are somehow gaining weight will lose it again. There are so many aged who are bedridden, and are longing for your presence and care.

I do hope that in the future, the CTF can help us produce our own food for our security in the future. Help us to ameliorate our small vegetable farm by providing us with water pump generator set. People now are willing to settle in the area and venture on stable food production. This simple initiative could overcome if not end up malnutrition side by side with supplementary food distribution.

People in Wajir knew well how CTF has helped and assisted them. In fact, CTF now has come out in the global field to be in the future a big, strong and known humanitarian body in Wajir.

*By Barud Abdi Asis*

## OPENING A NEW HORIZON OF CAMILLIAN SHARED MISSION: A REFLECTION FROM THE GRASSROOT

*The writer is a Filipino Camillian physician (cardiologist) who is presently assigned at the St. Camillus Hospital, Calbayog City, Philippines as medical director and at the same time a CTF Visayas Regional coordinator. He went to Wajir, Northeast Kenya upon the invitation of the CTF Central for a one month (March 15 - April 15) exposure and experience with our CTF mission in Wajir.*

**A** dream came true. One Camillian priest commented when I shared to him my dream; he said, "that means you have been sleeping all the time, it is only now that you are awake when you had reached Africa." Yes, it was my dream since I was young and studying that one day I will be in Africa for a mission. In every conversation I had with my friends and my confreres, I always mention to them my dream to go to Africa. I kept it in my heart until one day the coordinator of CTF central Fr. Aris, who went to Wajir, had asked me whether I'm now ready and willing to go to Africa. My heart leapt with joy shouting a dream come true.

The CTF in Kenya is still new and has just recently organized to respond to the emergency situation of Somali refugees in Wajir (North Eastern Kenya). There was drought and famine causing death of people and animals and the movement of people from one place to another. The CTF with the mission of responding to emergency situation created a team of Camillian religious and lay who have the heart for the poor and the suffering (Somali Muslim brethren). Thus they started the program in response to the invitation of the CTF central to respond to the emergency. The general program was divided into 4 packages, with a 6 month duration targeting 7 villages (Alimaow, Hodhan, Jogoo, Gotade, Barwaqoo, Makoror and Maalim Salat).

First is the nutrition program for the 4 to 5 years old malnourished children, and the elderly of 60 and above. They have the screening and monitoring. Second is the health services through mobile clinic and dispensary. Third is the establishment of a water system using solar energy. Fourth is the green house development in the community to aid in food production.

I was involved more on the health and nutrition program for my short stay in the area of Wajir. The place is a town in the middle of the desert. My first question is how do people live here and how they survive? The place is so far about 750 km from Nairobi and all desert. However I recalled what God had said in Genesis "God created .. and everything is good". There is still life and a good place to live like Wajir with the Somalis. As I observed in my daily consultation and taking care of their health, there is a need for education in all aspect of life, especially health education. There is a great need to educate them to raise their dignity as a person. They are human beings and should not exist only on

*(Continue to page 4)*



**Fr. James Roa, MI, MD, a Filipino Camillian, has spent one month in Wajir working with the CTF Kenya**

(OPENING A ... cont. from p. 3)

their own. They are isolated. There are still others in this world who can share to them their love. Love is the most important value or virtue that will bring unity and lift up the dignity of the people. They have already with them God through the gifts and resources that are entrusted to them. What they need is a change of heart to share what belongs to this poor brethren of ours. What is needed is to let them be aware of their dignity and importance as created in the image and likeness of God. Through the programs, I can see that these are great instruments to show to them the love of God through us in our dedication and perseverance to be with them. I don't know their language. I had always with me an interpreter and yet, with the language of love we understand each other. The bottom line of my experience is to love and to give all as Jesus loves us. We need more people to be with them with a heart like St. Camillus and willing to sacrifice and offer oneself to help our brothers and sisters restore their dignity as children of God.

My exposure gives me courage and inspiration to continue the work of love like Annalena who started a good and inspiring work for the Somalis. Annalena remain in the heart of the people. There is life in the desert and there is God who sustain life. There is water and there are a lot of resources. It is a challenge and a lot of work for the people to find their own place to live. There is water for the people and the plants for the animals. God provides.

Our hearts and mind and prayer to make this place a better place to live peacefully and with joy. Let them live on their own as they discover and find meaning in their life in this place given to them by God. Let us be a witness to them as true Christian living with dignity through love.

by Fr. James Roa, MI, MD

## REPAIRING HOMES, RE-STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS, RECOVERING FARMS

**A**t the onset of the second phase, the project aided 183 families in Mandulog and 25 families in Kalilangan in repairing their homes destroyed by TS Washi by handing over shelter repair kits on 6-10 March 2012.

Integrating rights-based approach in the rehabilitation efforts, the second phase of the project ensured the strengthening of community based organizations in the four villages to ensure stakeholders' participation and local ownership. It has re-strengthened formations of the Suara Bangsamoro (Voice of Bangsamoro), an existing community organization with chapters in each of the villages.

In the village of Mandulog, the village chapter was able to convene its General Assembly on 26-27 May 2012 and elected new sets of officers. Earlier, under the village chapter, seven sub-village formations were able to hold their respective assemblies and participated in adjusting the project components that would tailor-fit every community's needs. The General Assembly, with representatives from various sub-village chapters, then finalized the project components, including the over-all policies that will govern its implementation. The General Assembly decided to pursue the seeds and farm tools dispersal among members on 9-10 June 2012 to start planting and recover their farms.

In the villages of Lanipao, Dulag and Kalilangan, the social preparation is in progress. Each of the village has formed their village-wide Suara Bangsamoro Council of Leaders to facilitate the eventual reestablishment of the village chapters, and plan and execute the project components. In the coming months, once seeds and farm tools dispersal have been completed, the communities will be further organized into clusters to manage farm animals and fowls that will be dispersed for collective ownership, and to run the multi-purpose cooperatives.

By RMP-NMR



# Healing the hurt: Community Theatre Arts Workshops snowballing

An integral part of the program is the launching of mental health project to reduce cases of trauma and aid the children-survivors walk towards sustained mental health recovery by engaging themselves in artistic endeavors. Thus, the series of Community Theatre Arts Workshops (CTAW) for children.

RMP-NMR organized a 3-day training for trainers and facilitators of the Community Theatre Arts Workshop (CTAW) attended by 25 youth participants from the Liga ng Kabataang Moro, Youth of Iglesia Filipina Independiente, Anakbayan, and the Media and Communication Studies (COMSTUD) of the Mindanao State University. The training, which was held on 16-19 April 2012, was facilitated by renowned theatre actor and director Rommel Linatoc, PhD, head of Christian Unity and Ecumenical Relations (CUER) of the National Council of Churches in the Philippines (NCCP). CTAW is a part of the 'Rebuilding Lives: Emergency Assistance for the Survivors of TS Washi (Phase II)' funded by the Camillian Task Force (CTF). The trainees are expected to do community-based theatre arts workshops in the Moro villages of Mandulog, Lanipao, Kalilangan and Dulag in Iligan City to aid in the mental health recuperation of the children-survivors. After the training, participants showcased their performances in the April 20 Earth Day Concert in Iligan City Plaza, and in the Earth Day Caravan Rally to Cagayan de Oro City joined by around 6,000 marchers.

On 9-12 May 2012, the first CTAW was held in Mandulog participated in by 22 children. Trainers from the COMSTUD facilitated the activity. As an offshoot of the workshop, an LKM chapter in Mandulog was established, with a theatre arts collective under its wings. At the end of the workshop, they have showcased what they have learned in a community cultural gathering attended by almost a hundred elders of the village.

By RMP-NMR

## CTF CHILE: A Memory that lingers on

Each CTF mission, regardless of its duration leaves always some fruits if it is done out of love. In every act of love accomplished in the name of Christ becomes a "stone" for the building up of the Kingdom of God. The first Chilean CTF mission (as a response to an 8.8 magnitude earthquake that hit the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> regions of Chile) has lasted for nine months (March - November 2009), a mission that still remains in the hearts of the survivors. A living proof to this mission are the two pre-fabricated hospital wards constructed by the CTF, and entrusted to the administration of the two hospitals in Cauquenes and Parral under a formal agreement renewable every year. Mr. Sebastián Maldonado, a social worker and former coordinator of the CTF in Chile and I, went to see the project.

The two prefabricated wards have 20 beds each with bathrooms and stations. The first unit was given to the hospital of Cauquenes which was utilized as a medical ward and was later transformed into a pediatric

ward. During our visit, the ward was packed with 40 children complaining of respiratory diseases. The staff welcomed us cordially and showed us all the improvements done in order to make it more functional and welcoming. Refurbishing has been done to protect it from bad weather.

The second unit was given to the hospital of Parral (a pediatric hospital) which was completely destroyed by the earthquake. This pediatric ward has been reconstructed and transformed into an out-patient mental health service unit with 1 psychiatrist, 3 psychologists and 3 social workers as staff. This ward remains functional ever since.

While the mission continues, the Camillian community in Chile is growing as well and if God wills, we will have the first final profession of vows and an apostolic work of Chilean Camillian religious between 2014 and 2015. By this time, the delegation plans to take over the two units and to make it as a true expression of a Camillian ministry in Chile. This will give the Camillians an opportunity to demonstrate the charism of divine mercy which is person-

(Continue on page 6)



"We starved. Our corn and bananas were washed away by flood. Most of our community members' houses were destroyed, and we can't sleep at night when it's raining because our roofs were destroyed. We did not receive enough help from our government. Thanks to various NGOs who were there to assist us in times very challenging."

"We thank RMP-NMR and CTF for believing in the organized capacities of community organizations such as ours, the Suara Bangsamoro. Their interventions never corrupted our minds, and were very careful so as not to make us dependent on aids. Along with their interventions is empowerment."

Mona L. Pamanay

Beneficiary

Chairperson of Suara Bangsamoro, Purok 21





by Fr. Peter Magliozzi M.I.

The Misericordie have mobilized 30 volunteer staffs taking turns every week for the next 90 days. According to Marco, one of the CTF staff the basic services and logistics in the camp are well-provided, however, less attention is noted to the psycho-emotional needs of the victims. Thus, it has been requested to the CTF to provide forms of psychological support to families and children and to take supervision on the professional staff who have been involved in this particular intervention.

# SOS-DRS the Mission Continues



**SOS DRS** continues to work in the US and Haiti and is also financially supporting the rest of the CTF Network including CTF Central and the disaster relief efforts in Thailand and the Horn of Africa. SOS DRS also recently financed much of the CTF capacity-building conference held in the Philippines in February. The conference was intended to build up the presence of the CTF in Asia.

SOS DRS is a nonprofit organization in the US since 2008. It is a work of the Order under the authority of the Fr. General and the Consulta. Its president is Fr. Scott Binet MD, MI. Incorporated in 2008, SOS DRS established an office/community in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Then in February 2012 the US office/community of SOS DRS moved to Miramar, Florida.

The office coordinates the fundraising efforts of SOS DRS. This year members of the organization and associates including Camillians will make fundraising ap-

peals in some 45 parishes in the US. Priests and lay people speak during mass and take up a collection for disaster relief. Camillians involved this year in addition to Fr. Scott include Fr. Aristelo Miranda, Fr. Evan and Fr. Shukrani..

The Development office of SOS DRS located in Nashville continues to be quite active. SOS DRS was recently awarded 2 grants - one for its work in Haiti and another to assist in the development of the Missionaries of Mercy (MoM).

MoM is the nascent ecclesial family that the Consulta and the Fr. General gave Fr. Scott permission to found in 2011. The Archbishop of Miami has agreed to let Fr. Scott found MoM in the Archdiocese. MoM and SOS are collaborating closely in both Miami and Haiti.

By Fr. Scott Binet, MI

**Camillians are powerful agents of humanization. They have unique knowledge and skills that could be crucial when addressing the victims of disasters, caring and sharing with them.**

**13 OCTOBER 2012**  
**INTERNATIONAL DAY**  
**OF THE VICTIMS OF DISASTER**

**What can YOU do?**

- ⇒ Organize an event in your community
- ⇒ Promote the celebration through internet (mailing list, banner, web site,...)
- ⇒ Produce multimedia tools to accompany our reflections (video, powerpoint,...)
- ⇒ Create formative tools for learning and formation
- ⇒ Insert this flyer in any Camillian publications to inform and raise funds for the Camillian Task Force

- To promote global awareness on disasters with special attention to the issues of social justice and health;
- To awaken and inform the Camillians and our partners about disasters as "signs of the times";
- To raise funds for emergency purposes as well as for ongoing emergency interventions worldwide;
- To sensitize and mobilize volunteers
- To share the Camillian charism according to the original spirit of Saint Camillus;
- To accompany our Confreres working in disaster areas.

**Cross Over as Saint Camillus did - "carrying the victims of disaster on his back", & show us how we can face together the new challenges.**

**LET US KNOW what you're doing... and SHARE your actions and ideas with us!**

**Camillian Task Force**

## CAMILLIAN TASK FORCE

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*Witnessing the merciful love of Christ to the victims of  
natural and man-made disasters.*



Camillian Task Force



# ANNOUNCEMENT

## CTF WORKSHOP FOR LATIN AMERICA



Your instructors: Daniel Buckles and Debjeet Saranji  
[www.participatoryactionresearch.net](http://www.participatoryactionresearch.net)

SAS² is a new approach to participatory action research, planning and evaluation. It is designed for people in the voluntary, academic, private, and government sectors who are involved in:

- Community-based development
- Project planning and evaluation
- Workplace and organizational learning
- Public engagement.

Our Vision is to create dialogue that is thoughtful and action-oriented. We combine flexible tools and skilful means to effectively engage people and mobilize evidence in a complex world. Initiated at Carleton University, SAS² is now used by practitioners around the world from villages to boardrooms.

Disaster relief and post-disaster community engagement are very complex tasks. The workshop will provide members of the Camillians Task Force and other participants with tools and ideas for planning and implementing relief work during and immediately after a disaster. Importantly, it will also support efforts to engage people in the longer term work of recovery and rebuilding thriving communities.

COMUNIDAD P. PEDRO MARIELUZ GARCES  
Casa de Retiros Espirituales Sllce  
San Alberto de Chacasana CHOSICA, LIMA  
AUGUST 13-17, 2012

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