



ZIMELE– AUGUST NEWSLETTER – 2018 – CELEBRATING 10 YEARS



From the Chairman, Michael McGirr.

Throughout my life, there are many gifts that have fallen my way and becoming the chair of Zimele is surely one of those. Since Tom Purcell began Zimele ten years ago, it has been a constant source of challenge and inspiration in my life. It has asked me time and again to think bigger than my own backyard. I have been grateful for this because the day to day demands of working and being a dad can sometimes be demanding enough on their own. But Zimele has constantly asked me to relate to people who have far less than I do, especially in Africa. It has made real the fact, as it says in the charter of Edmund Rice education Australia, that the Gospel is never convenient.

There is an image that comes into my head at least a couple of times every week. It has been with me since I visited northern Kenya with Zimele in 2014 and we visited some very simple schools near Eldoret where many of the young students have parents who are suffering with HIV/AIDS. I don't so much think of these little schools, however basic their facilities and crowded the classrooms that most of us would not use as garden sheds. The image that stays with me is of the kids who line up every day at the gate, hoping that one of the students might be away and they might be able to take the place and have a single day of education. The Gospel tells us that these kids at the gate are part of our own family too.

I am in awe of what Tom Purcell, with help from such wonderful people as John Mount, has achieved over ten years. I hope that I might be able to do what I can to build on the vision and energy they have created. The poor of the world need Zimele. And we need it too to keep our feet on the ground.

In the next few months, please do what you can to support our activities

- The Zimele Dinner on September 8.
- The Zimele 24 hour challenge on Sept 15 -16.
- The opportunity to sponsor a child at school for a year for an extremely modest cost.

We are the hands with which God wants to heal a broken and divided world. Let us respond in love to God's invitation to build the kingdom of justice and peace.

CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF ZIMELE - HAVE YOU BOOKED YOUR TICKET FOR THE 10TH ZIMELE DINNER?

SEE PAGE 2 FOR BOOKING DETAILS.

MAIN FUNDRAISING EVENTS IN 2018:

The following three events are Zimele's main fundraisers for 2018. We urge all Zimele supporters to get behind our attempts to raise funds to support our key ministries, the 'Education for Life' Centre in Eldoret, Kenya, and the Star Support Group in Yambio, South Sudan. (see 'Key Ministries' in this newsletter).

- Zimele Community Walk:** The inaugural Community Walk on the 18th of March was a great success. Thank you to the organisers who did a great job of structuring the day so that participants were free to have fun and socialize. Our cause was consecrated at the mass which began at 9am in the St. Kevin's College chapel. Thank you to Fr. Pat Moroney who was generous with his time and words. Those joining the walk or run were set off their marks at 10am. The weather was pretty wild but everyone braved the elements to travel the streets of Toorak. Thank you to those standing at street corners in the cold who kept us on track. The finish line was set up at Glendalough where a BBQ was ready and manned. Thank you to all those responsible for the food and drinks. It was lovely to walk and talk, to re-connect with past friends and meet new people. The morning was a wonderful community event. All money raised will go towards the key Zimele ministries. Thank you to all participants for your generosity. See you next year and bring a friend!



Participants outside the college chapel preparing for the walk/run.

- UPCOMING: The 10th Annual Zimele Dinner:** Don't miss our **major** fundraiser for the year. Join us in the Smith Hall at the senior campus of the College at 6:30PM on Saturday, **September 8th**. Early bird tickets at \$75pp are on sale until 13th August midnight. Tickets will then cost \$85 for adults and \$60 for concessions. Some details of the night: Three course buffet, BYO alcohol (all glassware supplied), live and silent auctions and dress code is Smart Casual. Bookings are available at www.trybooking.com/392847 or through the Zimele website – www.zimele.org. If you have any enquires or auctions items you may wish to donate please email Jessica Mount at zimeledinner2018@hotmail.com. Help us celebrate the 10 year journey of Zimele with a group of old and new friends! Book your ticket/ table today before they sell out!
- UPCOMING: The Twenty Four Hour Challenge:** This is our third year running this event thanks mainly to Nick Baff's organizational skills, assisted by fellow staff members, Peter Mitchell, Michael McGirr and Sarah Maple, who have managed to galvanize the energies of the boys at the College. The event takes place at the senior campus on **Saturday/Sunday 15/16th September**. There are two options this year: the full 24 Hour Challenge that will run as in the past, as a team based relay, but there is now also a 3 Hour Challenge, also starting at 9am on the Saturday, that gives younger participants the chance to run in a team, as a pair, or for the most crazy-brave, solo. Email baffn@stkevins.vic.edu.au to enquire or register.

NEWS FROM KEY MINISTRIES

Funds raised this year will go to our two main ministries, the 'Education for Life' Centre in Eldoret Kenya and the Star Support Group in Yambio, South Sudan. The following explains the aims and activities of these ministries:

1. **The 'Education for Life' Centre – Eldoret, Kenya**

The 'Education for Life' Centre in Eldoret, Kenya, is a diocesan ministry administered by its Director, Angie Obutu, and the Christian Brothers. It caters for 300 beneficiaries who all suffer from HIV/AIDS. The following are extracts from Angie's latest report on the programmes at the centre. "The Holiday Mentorship Programme is an academic follow-up programme for sponsored students and their parents. They share resources and help each other with the academic and emotional challenges that the beneficiaries face on a daily basis. The Chicken Project is making steady progress despite significant problems with rats! The Centre now has 160 chickens producing eggs daily, so useful in the Centre's provision of food, essential for offsetting the potentially harmful side-effects of the beneficiaries' anti-retroviral drug regimen. Other on-going programmes at the Centre are: Conflict Management and Mentoring skills training for youth, Back to School shopping packages for boarding students, and, of course the very successful microfinancing program.' Here are some photos from the latest EFL newsletter. Note the quote of Mother Teresa which featured on the front cover of their newsletter: "Joy is a net of love by which you can catch souls." The beneficiaries of EFL express this joy to all their visitors through dance and music. Like them on Facebook – "Education for Life – Eldoret Centre"



"JOY IS A NET OF LOVE BY WHICH YOU CAN CATCH SOULS" (MOTHER TERESA)



Students enjoying the lunch during academic follow-up



A Child enjoying herself during Monday programme

2. *Star Support Group (SSG), Yambio, South Sudan*

The Mission of SSG is to help people suffering from HIV/AIDS to live with dignity. It aims to build the capacity of the community to be aware of, support and encourage PLWHA (People Living with HIV/AIDS) through home-based care programmes and workshops. SSG gives medical support to 1500 members. Programmes include Tailoring, English classes, Microfinancing, and Nutritional Support for those on anti-retroviral drugs. The Director of SSG, Br Gerald Ellul, wrote this tribute to Zimele earlier this year: 'The home-based care component of the service is very important. Members are visited at home and helped with basic food items, as well as visits from nurses. The Edmund Rice Foundation (ERFA) provides funding for all this. The main group that raises funds for ERFA is the Zimele Foundation and we are very grateful to these supporters who raise funds through their self-sacrifice.'



*These are some of the Star Support Group Staff:
Back: Tereza, Raphael; Front; Deborah, Elizabeth,
Mary Rose, Johnstone*

SPONSORSHIP NEWS

This year Zimele managed to sponsor children of the mothers at EFL in Eldoret, Kenya, to the tune of \$6,820. At A\$200 per year for a primary child this amounts to the educational support of 34 children. We are so grateful to the Zimele supporters who have made this sacrifice and encourage more of you to do the same. All sponsorship money goes directly to the Edmund Rice Foundation, who send it directly to Angie Obutu who ensures the most needy children get the education they so urgently need. If you would like to sponsor a child, contact John Mount (Zimele Council Secretary and eight-time Zimele East African immersion participant) at johnmount44@gmail.com or by mail at 1 Brewster St., Essendon 3040. John will send you a sponsorship form which we ask you to send back to him. John will forward it to the Edmund Rice Foundation who will send out an official receipt for tax deduction purposes.



Photos of mothers and children at the EFL Centre (sourced from the EFL Facebook page).