

# MISSIONARIES OF ST FRANCIS DE SALES

## Fransalians - Province of East Africa

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Provincial Circular MSFS - EAP- JK.36

October 15, 2015

Beloved Confreres,

### St. Theresa of Avila: A Call to know who we are!

Today we remember St. Saint Teresa of Avila, the 16th century Saint, Reformer and Doctor of the Church.

Here is one of her candid sharing: ***I had many friends to help me to fall; but as to rising again, I was so much left to myself.***

My dear confreres, this is the normal, ordinary human experience, be it in the world, church or even in religious life. Before we ask ourselves who my friends and associates are or what and how they do to me, let us ask ourselves this question: What kind of a friend or brother am I to the other. Is there a silent joy in us at the fall of the other ? Let us always tell ourselves the "the fall of my brother or sister is my own fall."

Remember : The hands that we have are not for clapping when others fall, but for clasping that others do not fall; besides to lift up the fallen ones!

St. Theresa wrote further: ***In spite of my falls, I wonder now I was not always on the ground. I praise God for His mercy; for it was He only Who stretched out His hand to me. May He be blessed forever! Amen.***

Beloved confreres, in the moments of our trials and falls, let us allow God to hold us and raise us. He is a faithful God.

### A day with the Archbishop of Tabora Most Rev. Paul Ruzoka

On September 19, 2015 the Apostolic Community of Tabora - Kahama hosted a reception to **His Grace Archbishop Paul Runangaza Ruzoka** the Archbishop of Tabora to celebrate the Silver Jubilee of his Episcopal consecration. It was a family gathering with homely atmosphere. All the confreres of the Apostolic community, our collaborates and the Foster Inmates and staff participated in the celebration at SFS Boys Home Ipuli. During the thanksgiving Eucharistic celebration, sacrament of confirmation was administered to over fifty children of SFS Home, and Hostels.

The history of the Fransalian Family of East Africa, is very much connected to His Grace Archbishop Paul Ruzoka. On January 2, 1988 when our pioneers landed in Tabora it was the then Fr. Paul Ruzoka who received them at the Tabora Airport. At that time he was the Rector of the Itaga Seminary. Ever since we are in very close contact with the person of the Archbishop. We were also honoured to take care of him for a few days in our Mission House in Angamaly as he was in India early this year. We thank His Grace for the fatherly care and concern to all of us.

We wish His Grace all the blessings and graces needed in the years to come in his mission of being a good shepherd.

### **News from Iyolwa**

#### A DAY OF THANKSGIVING AND WELCOMING MSFS IN IYOLWA, Uganda

Sunday September 6, 2015 was a long awaited day for all the faithful of Iyolwa Parish. The parishioners spent long hours of the weeks prior to this day preparing for the official welcome of their pastors in the person of Fr. Thomas Chozhithara and Fr. Antony George.

The Holy Eucharistic Celebration began exactly at 10:00am presided over by the Parish Priest Fr. Thomas and concelebrated by Fr. George Fr. Richard Owor of the Archdiocese of Tororo and Fr. Emmanuel a Mill-hill Priest also a native of Iyolwa Parish. In Preparation to this day, 100 children were baptized in different Sub-stations of the Parish and therefore making them ready to receive their first Holy Communion. During the Holy Eucharistic Celebration 400 young Children received their first Holy Communion together with 70 elderly people who decided to come back to Catholic Faith from other denominations. In his Homily, Fr. Thomas advised the children to have Jesus as their personal friend. The Mass was also attended by people from different denominations specifically from Anglican Church. There were also many politicians who are contesting for different posts in the Sub-county of Iyolwa, the Bank Manager Centenary Bank and friends from Germany.

Since it was a day of Thanksgiving and Fundraising, the faithful started bringing their gifts to the Parish Priest and his Assistant (kushika mkono). Among the gifts brought were 17 live goats, a cow and cash at hand.

The Chief Guest Hon. General Aronda Nyakairima Minister of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Uganda together with the Guest of Honor Hon. Jacob Oboth Oboth the area Member of Parliament West Budama South Constituency arrived at around 4pm amidst tight Security. In his speech, the Minister Congratulated Fr. Thomas and Fr. George for accepting to serve in the humble Parish of Iyolwa, he also Congratulated them for initiating different Social Programmes in the Parish especially Education of the Youth. The Minister concluded by donating 5 Million Uganda Shillings towards the Construction of the Church. The area MP was also very appreciative for the different developments undertaken by the MSFS in Iyolwa Parish, he also donated 1 Million Uganda shillings for the same purpose.

The function ended at around 5pm with Agape.

*Reported by Bro Ssekelembe Gerald MSFS and Bro. Ruthitical Ssentamu MSFS*

### **Theology in Cameroon - Our New Venture**

Bro. Ndumuli Francis Aloo and Bro. Gitono Richard Tamaro who were designated to do their Theological studies and formation in Cameroon landed in Yaoundé, Cameroon on September 29, 2015. It is a new venture challenging and demanding. We thank the MSFS Mission in Chad - Cameroon and the South West India Province for accepting our request and facilitating the stay and the formation of our seminarians. We wish our brothers all the best in the task of learning a new language ie French and to peruse the studies in Theology.

Bros. Francis and Richard greet all of us: They are already thinking in French! Our good wishes for you is this message:

***“Petit à petit, l’oiseau fait son nid.”*** “Little by little, the bird makes its nest.”

***Bénédiction de Dieu!*** Blessings of God be up on you!

Their contact numbers: Bro. Francis - +237 698 057 610 Bro. Richard - +237 699 167 157

## **Hija in Lububu**

On September 12, 2015 there was the Hija Takatifu (Holy Pilgrimage) in the parish of Lububu. It was silver jubilee of the devotion of the pilgrimage to the salvation hill in Lububu. Started in the year 1990, the practice continues every year on the occasion of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. This year the occasion was graced by the presence of his Grace Most Rev. Paul Ruzoka the Archbishop of Tabora who presided over the Eucharistic celebration on the Salvation Hill and also administered the sacrament of confirmation to many. Being the year of Consecrated Life, the occasion was also marked by the presence of many women religious from Tabora and other places who prayerfully joined the pilgrimage and gave witness to the joy of consecrated life. The vibrant presence and melodious singing of the Sacred Heart of Jesus' Choir from our parish in Mlolongo, Kenya gave lot of joy and excitement to the faithful.

The feast of the parish was celebrated on the following day, with a very vibrant faith procession around the village in Lububu. There was novena for nine days in preparation for the Pilgrimage and the Parish Feast. There were over many baptisms (mainly adults and students) and the reception of first communion on the novena days. Our sincere congratulations to our confreres who took the pain of organizing the events, contributing very much to the revival of faith.

## **Kenyan Melody in Tanzania**

Under the leadership of Fr. Sijo Pendarath MSFS the "Sacred Heart of Jesus choir" from our St. Joseph's Parish in Mlolongo, Kenya made the pilgrimage to Lububu, Tanzania. It was a pilgrimage as well as a journey of evangelisation. The group with 36 members visited all our communities in Kahama and Tabora from September 9 to 14, 2015. They also sang on the occasion of Hija in Lububu and Confirmation in Bukene. Their disciplined and prayerful presence; readiness to put up with all inconveniences; joyful service etc were really inspiring and motivating to the faithful in Tanzania. We thank the entire parish of Mlolongo and our confreres for this initiative. Welcome again. *Karibuni tena!*

## **Hija in Kashishi**

The *Hija Takatifu* in Kashishi that was initiated by our confreres a decade ago continues to draw the faithful from far and wide. In many ways, the pilgrimage station in Kashishi is awe-inspiring. The distance from the outstation to the top of the hill is around 4 kms. With the altitude of 1550 meters above sea level there is constant breeze. There is a simple structure built on the top of the hill providing facility for the administration of the sacraments. The vast flat area on the top of the hill can contain thousands of pilgrims. Every year the hija is conducted here in honour of Our Lady of Rosary. This year the Hija was preceded by nine days of novena and other spiritual preparations. Fr. Joseph Kayanja camped in Kashishi for ten days and visited all the houses. Fr. Sebastian Palakudy who in fact initiated the Hija was also there giving Seminar on family life. The faithful were really prepared for the Hija. This year on October 6, on the day of Hija at the hill top many received baptism, first communion and a few got their marriage blessed.

## **St. Francis de Sales' Designated Parish Kashishi, Tabora - (Parokia teule)**

St. Antony's Parish Itaga was entrusted to the MSFS on January 13, 1991. Fr. Sebastian Kuzhupil MSFS was the first parish priest. Now it is the second largest parish in the Archdiocese of Tabora. The parish has at present 53 outstations - the farthest one being kms135 from the parish centre. It was a long felt need to bifurcate the parish for more effective pastoral work and the feasibility of administration. The distance from Itaga to Kashishi is 91 kms ( via Mambali in summer season) and 132 kms (via Uliyangulu in rainy season). From Kashishi to Kahama town it is only 55 kms.

On October 7, 2015 on the feast of our Lady of Holy Rosary the newly built spacious church in Kashishi was blessed by His Grace Most Rev. Paul Ruzoka the Archbishop of Tabora. He appreciated the Missionaries and the faithful for the great contribution made to the local church by way of building the church and bringing up the community of faith. Despite the poor economic conditions and lack of infrastructure, the faithful contributed very much to the construction of the church.

The outstation of Kashishi together with the adjacent centres and outstations, was announced to be designated parish under the patronage of St. Francis de Sales. This was a great moment of jubilation for the entire community. It is foreseen that next year as the term of contract between the Archdiocese and our Congregation regarding Itaga Parish is getting over, we hand over the Itaga parish back to Archdiocese and we would be entrusted with the new parish of Kashishi.

### **Kashishi Mission - a quick glance**

To a dedicated missionary Kashishi is a very fertile land. There are almost 1000 Catholics in Kashishi proper and over 5000 Catholics altogether in the adjacent centres and outstations. Many are the things we can do and we have to do in this new mission. We need to get more land for the mission, build infrastructure such as: house for the MSFS community, proper parish offices, health care facilities, means of transport, educational institutions, empowerment programs for the socially and economically disadvantaged etc. We need to seek services of dedicated women religious who are ready to work in remote areas. In summer Kashishi is very dry. In rainy season the area is cut off from the Itaga parish as the roads would be flooded. At present there is no electricity and water. This is a glance at our new Mission Kashishi!

It would be a challenging new beginning. But what is encouraging is the love, care and support we have from the faithful. Let us tell ourselves, Yes with the grace of God, all of us together we can. The Archbishop has entrusted our confreres in Itaga with the task of presenting the holistic report of the mission at the earliest in order to be able to prepare the Decree of the erection of the new Parish.

As a Province family we need to prepare ourselves for this new mission. May I conclude this session with some reflections from **Pope Francis**.

*"A Church which "goes forth" is a Church whose doors are open. We need to go to the fringes of humanity... Let us go forth, then, let us go forth to offer everyone the life of Jesus Christ. Here I repeat for the entire Church what I have often said to the priests and laity of Buenos Aires: I prefer a Church which is bruised, hurting and dirty because it has been out on the streets, rather than a Church which is unhealthy from being confined and from clinging to its own security. I do not want a Church concerned with being at the center and which then ends by being caught up in a web of obsessions and procedures. If something should rightly disturb us and trouble our consciences, it is the fact that so many of our brothers and sisters are living without the strength, light and consolation born of friendship with Jesus Christ, without a community of faith to support them, without meaning and a goal in life. More than by fear of going astray, my hope is that we will be moved by the fear of remaining shut up within structures which give us a false sense of security, within rules which make us harsh judges, within habits which make us feel safe, while at our door people are starving and Jesus does not tire of saying to us: "Give them something to eat" (Mk 6:37)"*

(Pope Francis, *Evangelii Gaudium* 46, 49)

## **MSFS East Africa Province - Provincial Statutes**

My dear Confreres,

We are entrusted with the work of preparing our Statutes. In some of the areas drafts are already ready and some not yet. Now it is the time for intensive preparations. The provincial administration is now entrusting the tasks to different committees for the elaborate work on the statutes.

On those matters where there is no draft at all, the committee would meet at the earliest and prepare the preliminary draft. All the drafts are to be sent to the individuals for their study in the community and later in the apostolic communities.

### **Time Schedule**

1. The first draft to be sent to the individuals and communities: December 1, 2015
2. The Apostolic communities are to give feedback (1) : February 1, 2016
3. The second draft to be sent to the individuals and communities April 1, 2016
4. The Apostolic communities are to give feedback (2) : May 1, 2016
5. The third draft to be sent to the individuals and communities August 1, 2016
6. The Apostolic communities are to give feedback (3) : October 1, 2016
7. The final draft to be sent to the individuals and communities : December 1, 2016
8. Feedback, if any from Apostolic Communities to be given before January 1, 2017
9. Final text to be presented in the Provincial Congress in September 2017

My dear confreres,

I humbly and earnestly urge you to work on this obligation of ours to prepare our statutes. Let us keep up the time. As we progress with our work, we also need to consult others who are experts in these matters.

### **The Committees for the preparation of Statutes**

#### **On Religious Life**

Fr. Pius Kochuparambil (leader)  
Fr. Santhosh Prakashbhavan  
Fr. Jacob Thekkekara  
Fr. Joseph Poikunnel

#### **On Mission / Pastoral**

Fr. Chinnappan Arockiasamy (leader)  
Fr. Sebastian Nirappel  
Fr. Jose Eriyanickal  
Fr. Innocent Ngowi

#### **On Formation**

Fr. Thomas Kochuparambil (leader)  
Fr. Thomas Kochalamchuvattil  
Fr. Sheejan Kallarakkal  
Fr. Antonysamy Sebastian

### **On Education**

Fr. Sunny Vettikal (leader)  
Fr. David Soosai  
Fr. Mathew Thazhathukunnel  
Fr. Jomat Kollapallil

### **On Social Ministry**

Fr. Thomas Chozhithara (leader)  
Fr. Clement Sudhakar  
Fr. Sebastian Palakudy  
Fr. Charles Ouma

### **On Stewardship**

Fr. Robert Soosai Raj (leader)  
Fr. Reji Pendarath  
Fr. Tomychan Perumanoor  
Fr. Sebastian Williams

### **New Apostolic Communities**

With the recommendations from the Apostolic Community of Uganda-Kenya the Provincial Administration has decided to separate Kenya and Uganda creating two new Apostolic Communities in each country. This was a necessity due to the distance of over 800 kms from one end to the other. The new Apostolic Communities will be: Apostolic Community of Kenya and Apostolic Community of Uganda.

All the confreres in Kenya and Uganda will be the members of the new apostolic communities in their respective countries. Hence I entrust the task of conducting the elections in the Apostolic Communities to: Fr. Joby Maruthomayil in Uganda and Fr. Sunny Vettikal in Kenya.

Also in the Apostolic communities of Dar es Salaam, Arusha and Morogoro the office of the Chair person is vacant due to the recent transfers fresh election to those offices are to be conducted. I request the secretaries of these Apostolic communities to convene the meeting and to conduct the elections.

Please hold the meetings and conduct the elections before December 5, 2015.

### **Transfers Appointments**

**Deacon Siljo Aappaden** is transferred from Dumila and is appointed to the MSFS Community Iyolwa with effect from October 25, 2015.

**Bro. Ssentamu Ruthical** is transferred from Iyolwa, Uganda and is appointed to continue his regency at MSFS Community Mwakata, Tanzania with effect from November 5, 2015.

### **Joy of the Gospel - 2016**

Joy of the Gospel The Fransalian Bible Diary for the year 2016 has arrived from India. Congratulations to the IIS/ SFS Publications! Please contact Fr. Robert Soosai Raj for the copies. Let us make every effort to reach the Good News all over the world.

### **Budget 2016**

May I remind you to send the Annual Budget for the year 2016: Every Community, Parish and Institution is to send the budget with without fail before November 30 to the Provincial Bursar.

## **Vocation Promotion in East Africa**

**Fr. Thomas Kochuparampil** the PCIC for Formation will function as the General Coordinator for the Vocation Promotion for the entire Province. He will be assisted by different confreres covering different geographical areas. Fr. Innocent Ngowi will continue to represent MSFS in the RSAT's Forum of Vocation Promoters.

Those who would be assisting in vocation Promotion:

- In Tanzania: Fr. Innocent Ngowi, Fr. Santhosh Prakashbhavan, Fr. Japhet Kirimi
- In Kenya: Fr. Stephen Ubadesi, Fr. Chinnappan Arockiasamy, Fr. Sijo Pendarath
- In Uganda: Fr. Charles Ouma, Fr. Joby Maruthomalayil, Fr. Sunny Mattathil

I sincerely thank you dear Confreres for your readiness to be vocation promoters. Together with these confreres, let us make united efforts to foster and to promote vocations to our congregation and to the universal church.

## **Prayers Requested:**

### **For the departed ones:**

- **Fr. Gerard Van Hooren MSFS** of the Franco-Swiss Province passed away on October 10, 2015 at the age of 89. He was a religious for 65 years and was a priest for 61 years.
- **Fr. A. Antony Savary Raj MSFS** of South East India Province died of brain haemorrhage on October 13, 2015. He was 32 years old. He is the cousin brother of our confrere Fr. David Susai MSFS.
- **Mr. Mathew Vettuvvelil** 65 years old, youngest paternal uncle of Fr. Abraham Vettuvvelil, the Superior General, died on September 19, 2015.
- **Mrs. Anamma Mathew**, 86 years old, the beloved mother of Fr. Thomas Olickal, died on October 13, 2015
- **Mr. Devasia Nirappel**, 86 years old, the beloved father of Fr. Sebastian Nirappel, died on October 14, 2015.

*May the soul of the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace.*

### **Sick and suffering:**

- **Fr. Joseph Kunnapilly** has entered into another stage of treatment. The normal dialysis was no more possible as the veins were getting blocked. Now what is done is **Peritoneal dialysis**. It is a treatment for patients with severe chronic kidney dysfunctions. The process uses the patient's peritoneum ( abdominal lining in the abdomen ) as a membrane across which fluids and dissolved substances (electrolytes, urea, glucose, albumin and other small molecules) are exchanged from the blood. It is done three times a day, each process lasting around 90 minutes. The initial steps were done at MIMS Calicut and now it is being continued at LISSAH Hospital Thiruvampady. He has responded well to this treatment and has improved considerably from the earlier times. Let us continue to pray for him.

## **Dates of Forum Meetings 2016**

FEB 3	WED	Formation Forum
March 2	WED	Stewardship Forum
March 3	THU	Education Forum

March 4	FRI	Social and Innovative Ministry Forum
JUNE 7	TUE	Pastoral Forum
JUNE 8	WED	Superiors Forum

All the Forum Meetings will be held at Provincial House, Kihonda, Morogoro.

### **Dates of Annual Retreats 2016**

There will be two retreats for the Priest-Confreres

- ⊕ Retreat A: from May 31 Tuesday evening to June 6 Monday morning at Lushoto Tanzania (Precious Blood Sisters)
- ⊕ Retreat B: from June 22 Wednesday evening to June 28 Tuesday morning, in Kenya. Exact venue is not finalized.

Let us make sure that we attend one of these retreats. Kindly arrange the holidays and other programs accordingly.

### **Snippets**

- ❖ Bore hole was dug in our school land in Iyolwa and it was successful.
- ❖ A group of volunteers - engineers from Germany are working on the construction of the toilets for the school, in Iyolwa
- ❖ Fr. Jomon Vellachalil is now in Malawi visiting his class mates (Ofm. Cap priests).
- ❖ The newly constructed Hostel for the girls in Mkuza by the FCC Sisters was blessed on October 3, 2015.
- ❖ During the last four months a total of over 1200 faithful have received first communion and confirmation in all our parishes in EA. Over 1000 (including infants) were baptized too.
- ❖ We had visits from the Mother General and Councillor of the Visitation Sisters (Alleppy / Bomba Mbili) and from the Provincial Superior and Councillor of the Holy Family Sisters - Kothamangalam Province.
- ❖ Nine months program of training for the formators and community animators was launched at LCI with 15 participants from different religious congregations /dioceses.
- ❖ CELEBRET for the priest confreres are being prepared and those who have not provided the required materials are requested to do provide them soon.

### **General Elections in Tanzania 2015**

I request your earnest prayers for the fair, free and above all peaceful elections in Tanzania, as scheduled for October 25, 2015. Let us encourage all our faithful, children, staff etc to pray for the peaceful election and to exhort them to participate in the election which is a duty as well as right.

### **New Administrative Region in the North East India Province**

With a decree given by Rev. Superior General a new Region is established under the North East India Province. Region in Northeast India Province comprising of Arunachal Pradesh, Upper Assam, Nagaland and Manipur. The purpose of this division is for the administrative feasibility. The copy of the decree will be sent to you for further details. Let us wish our confreres in the North East India Province that this process will be gracefully accomplished

resulting in the growth of the congregation and for more effective ministry and administration.

### **Visakhapatnam Province - New Provincial Curia**

Hearty congrats and prayerful wishes to all the new members of the Provincial Curia of Visakhapatnam Province, who were elected by the Provincial Congress held from September 23 to 26, 2015. The Curia members are:

- Fr Mandagiri Jojaiah Admonitor and PCIC Mission
- Fr Jonnalagadda Lourdu Ravi Kumar PCIC Innovative and Social Ministry
- Fr Putchakayala Sundar Rao PCIC Formation
- Fr Gundapureddy Sandeep Reddy PCIC Education
- Fr Bellamkonda Anil Bosco, Provincial Bursar

Together with Rev. Fr. Chinnappa Reddy, the Provincial Superior we wish them all the blessings of God in their mission of service.

### **My program**

#### **October**

- 5 Travel to Tabora
- 6 Hija Kashishi, Itaga
- 7 Blessing of the newly constructed Church Kashishi
- 8 Back to Morogoro
- 10 Graduation SFS Junior Seminary Morogoro
- 11 Confirmation in Dumila
- 12-13 RSAT Commissions Meeting in DAR
- 14-15 In Novitiate, Back to Morogoro
- 18 Travel to LCI Arusha
- 19-29 Classes in Arusha for the Formators Course and LCI Staff Meeting
- 25 Morogoro - General Elections
- 30 Travel to Mlolongo, Nairobi
- 31 Travel to India

#### **November**

- 1-4 New Delhi, Noida
- 5-10 Visakhapatnam-Vijayawada
- 12-20 Angamaly/ Home/ Kerala
- 21-30 Belgaum / Bangalore PIF-PEA Meetings

#### **December**

- 1-5 Angamaly/ Home/ Kerala
- 6 Back to Nairobi from Calicut
- 7 In Nairobi
- 8 Travel to Uganda
- 9-10 Visit to Kampala Land and Council Meeting in Agururu
- 11 Meeting with the Archbishop Tororo
- 12 Laying for the Foundation stone - Secondary School / Foster Project Iyolwa
- 13 Travel Back to Nairobi- Dar es Salaam
- 14 In Dar es Salaam

24-25 Christmas Mji Mpya Relini  
28 Travel to Europe

## 2016

### January

- 2-6 Giving retreat for the MSFS Confreres in the Rome Apostolic Community
- 7 Visitation to our Confreres in Rome
- 8-9 Verona, Italy Misericordia Sisters
- 10-14 Geneva, Annecy, Meeting with Fr. Emile Mayoraz MSFS
- 15-17 Wuerzburg, Germany
- 18-19 GAH Community Meeting, Seinsheim Germany
- 21 Travel Back to Dar es Salaam
- 24 Consecration of the newly constructed church in Mkusa

### General Schedules for the Year 2016

I would be sending soon the Calendar of 2016 in Word Format, with the already planned schedule for the year 2016. You are welcome to use it for your personal / community programs. I request you to let me know the major events in your community / parish / institutions so that in the final version those can be included.

### Conclusion

Beloved Confreres,

We live in world of immense and unlimited possibilities. Life offers us possibilities to choose. Each days gives us the opportunity to make choices. **And the way we choose shapes our destiny.** As shared by St. Theresa of Avila, we can choose to make the other to fall or assist the other to get up. The way we try to shape the life of the other, is the way we shape our own lives. What we are to the other is the manifestation of what we in reality are to our own selves.

When we do not demand the best from the other (I do not mean perfectionism. I mean the best efforts and not necessarily the best results), it is an indication to our own mediocrity. To live a life of mediocrity or to live to the fullness, is the choice of each person. Some times in our personal and professional lives, we are far from being excellent. When our priorities become frivolous, our vision is very shallow and limited. When our vision is limited, we cannot envisage taking up a mission adequate enough to address any situation in the most efficacious manner.

***Let us be at our best in the life we live and in the things we do.***

May God bless each one of us.

United in prayers, Yours in the Eucharistic Lord,

Fr. Johnson Kallidukil MSFS (Provincial MSFS East Africa)

**In all toil there is profit, but mere talk tends only to poverty.** Proverbs 14:23