

# In Deo

## Henry Anthony Ibrahim



bood aan een niertransplantatie te regelen in het buurland waar dat beschikbaar was. Helaas was daar geen tijd meer voor en Henry overleed in het ziekenhuis op 16 december.

De begrafenis werd een mooie ceremonie onder leiding van de Aartsbisschop van Blantyre en de bisschoppen van Mangochi en Chikwawa.

*Hij leek een veelbelovend iemand*

*He seemed a promising man*

Henry is geboren op 26 november 1966. Hij deed zijn eerste professie op 15 september 1993. Hij overleed op 16 december 2016 in het ziekenhuis in Maryview.

Henry begon zijn broederleven in 1993 en werd onderwijzer in Mzedi. Na een aantal jaren formatie in Ghana en een studieperiode in Rome kwam hij terug in zijn vaderland Malawi om weer les te geven. Later kreeg hij het beheer over de schoolgebouwen van de FIC. Hij werd ook verantwoordelijk voor sponsorwerving. Hij leek een veelbelovend iemand in de provincie Malawi. Maar het mocht niet zo zijn.

Provinciaal overste Martin Dariyo vertelt over Henry's laatste dagen. Begin 2016 was ontdekt dat Henry een nierkwaal had die in de familie van zijn moeder voorkwam. Hij moest het rustiger aan gaan doen en regelmatig voor controle naar het ziekenhuis. Maar Henry was een gedreven mens en toen hij begin december zich niet zo goed voelde, wilde hij toch zijn werk doen en zijn familie bezoeken. Toen hij daarna zieker werd moest hij met spoed naar het ziekenhuis. De behandelend arts heeft zijn best gedaan en



## In Memoriam

### *Br. Martinus Dariyo*

In fact, his health condition was already known at the beginning of 2016. Four months ago it was confirmed that he had kidney problems. Henry told me that he inherited the kidney problem from his mother. I just told him to be very careful by observing the mood of his body and that every time he felt uneasy he should go to the doctor. Regular check-up was very important.

On Tuesday morning, 13 December 2016, at 08.00 before leaving for Mzedi to meet eight teachers of St. Patrick's Secondary School, I phoned him, just to remind him for our meeting on Wednesday. He said that he was sick. I told him that I would come to Maryview after meeting with teachers. It was a long meeting as I have to meet teachers one by one together with the Headmaster. The meeting finished at 12.15. I went home immediately and took lunch. After that, when I was about to leave I got a phone call from a nephew of Bro. Henry, telling me that Bro. Henry was sick. I answered that I was just leaving for Maryview. Upon my arrival, I was told that the relatives of Bro. Henry Ibrahim brought him to Maiwathu hospital. I rushed to hospital and met him personally. He narrated that in fact he did not feel well on eight December, but he did not tell anybody. However, the next day he went to Lilongwe up and down by car on 9 December, to have a meeting with relatives there on 10 December. He came back Sunday evening. He and his relatives apologized for choosing the expensive hospital and that they would go home the next day. I told them that it was a right decision, as the room was excellent and also got a very qualified doctor who was available anytime, and that he should stay until he recovered.

That Tuesday afternoon he was brought to the theatre. The doctor told me that he would do everything he could to help him. It is the rule of the hospital that each patient is only allowed to be guarded by one person. Tuesday evening/night he was accompanied by his younger sister.



Wednesday 14 December 2016, he said that it was an improvement. He could breath and rather calm. However in the evening the condition was changed. He called the driver of Maryview to guard him, together with aunty of Bro. Henry who stayed in Mangochi. However in the evening the aunty was sent home as the regulation not allow two people to guard him. The relatives were there all the time. One of them ask as to whether the Church will pay if he should undergo kidney transplant, most probably in the neighboring country. I told them, he is under the care of a qualified doctor. As such we should hear what he said to us.

Thursday 15 December 2016 I was there from morning until afternoon when he was taken to the "theatre". I had a long talk with his father, Mr. Anthony Ibrahim. The doctor said that it would take four hours to do the work. At seven in the evening I came back to hospital and saw him brought to his room. I met him face to face. He told me that it was very painful and I replied that the pain would disappear sooner or later. I told him that I would tell Bro. Stanslao Finye and Bro. Lawrence Nkonde to come as they were waiting outside. He told me, one of them should stay with him this night. However he changed his

mind. Bro. Finye should come the next day morning and the driver should stay with him. As the condition was no good, he was allowed to be guarded by two people, the driver and his younger sister, Tina Ibrahim. I went home at 20.00. Fortunately it was light in the evening, so I could open some news up to eleven o'clock. About quarter past twelve I got a phone call from the nephew of Henry, telling me that Bro. Henry has just passed away. I rushed to hospital, met his younger sister, Tina Ibrahim who was crying alone. Others were at the side of hospital. She said that the driver was a holy man, committed himself to be with his brother up to the last breath. We met and made proper arrangement. Action taken: brought the remains to the mortuary at College of medicine. By Friday morning at four o'clock in the morning all was done, and let all went home. Meanwhile the news already spread everywhere.

Friday 16 December 2016: we met and made proper arrangement, assigned brothers to prepare for the events, such as preparation for Mass, preparing Choirs both from Maryview and Mzedi, communication to the office of Archdiocese of Blantyre, as well as Radio Maria, Buying casket, appointing people to prepare food, appointed people for graveyard digging, hiring tents and chairs, hiring bus and lorries to transport people, appointing Master of Ceremony, Compiling and reading the biography of Bro. Henry, speeches, etc. etc.

We decided that the funeral's Mass would take place on Monday 18 December at Mzedi parish. The remains would be transferred from College of Medicine to Mzedi Formation House on Sunday afternoon at. 15.30, official blessing and night vigil, that we prepare a place or accommodation for the relatives of Henry for the night vigil. It was decided, no evening Mass due to weather of rainy season which was raining daily and the road to Mzedi was muddy and slippery. Meeting with the families: We invited the families to come to Bethel House and communicated the programme to them. They accepted and discussed how they get help in organizing themselves during these four-day of mourning from Friday up to Monday. Meeting ended with lunch together. It was a good fraternal meeting that reflected our friendship between brothers and families.



Saturday 17 December 2016: We met the Rev. Archbishop Thomas Luke Susa and the Secretary, Rev. Fr. Mike Chimwala. On Friday we could not meet them as the secretary was free on Fridays and the Archbishop was in Mangochi for certain function. Afternoon, the families came to collect foodstuff enough for about 70 people for Saturday evening, and Sunday. They were very happy. At the same time we also informed them that the casket already bought and was brought to the mortuary. Arrangement for liturgy was ready, the choirs are practicing and Radio Maria already announced on the air about the programme of funeral Mass.

Sunday morning 18 December 2016, it was raining. The village road to Mzedi was not in good condition. We left mortuary of College of Medicine at 15.30 and brought to Formation House Mzedi. We went there through a crowded road of Bangwe township. The Mzedi compound was packed with people. It was a heavy rain in Mzedi, construction of tents were delayed. By five o'clock the ceremony led by some priests was over and continued with night vigil until Monday morning before funeral mass. The families of Henry were accommodated at the empty big house meant for headmaster of St. Patrick's Secondary School. Night vigil went on very well in the sense that the whole night it was prayer and song.

Monday 19 December 2016

At 09.00 we brought the casket to Mzedi parish church. At 10.00 it was final Eucharistic Celebration, presided by the Archbishop of Archdiocese of Blantyre, The Right Rev. Mgr. Thomas Luke Susa, assisted by Rev Bishop of Mangochi Diocese, Mgr. Montfort Stima and Rev Bishop of Chikwawa Diocese Mgr. Musikwa, accompanied by more than thirty priests.

The event was over at about half past two. Thanks so much to: all brothers who involved actively during the time of mourning, -bishops and priests, parish priest, church council and Christian Community of Mzedi parish, friends and relatives of Bro. Henry Ibrahim. May he Rest in Peace.

### SHORT BIOGRAPHY

Henry was born on 26 November 1966. Education: St. Patricks' Secondary School, MSCE 1988. Blantyre Teacher Training College 1990. Religious Formation in Ghana West Africa 1990-1993. First profession 15 September 1993. Final profession 21 December 2002.

Communities and Apostolic work: Mzedi Community: Primary School Teacher at Mphingwe Primary School. From 1993-1997, Formation work/Formator. Formation House Wa Formation, Ghana. Maryview Community: Chairman of Income Generating Activities and maintenance of school buildings and hostels of the Schools run by Brothers FIC. He is also in charge of workshop of Building BIC Maryview. Mitengo Community: Teaching at Mitengo Technical School. Advisory Committee of Website FIC. Bethel Community Blantyre: Local Superior of Bethel community, Lecturer and Principal of John Paul II Academy, Chilomoni Blantyre, 2011-2015.

