

## NEWSLETTER 3

### Reporting on our Christmas Play and the Feast of Don Bosco

Dear Friends, donors and supporters of Learn to Live,

Our third newsletter has important news about 2 important spiritual experiences that we had recently: one at the end of 2010 and the other at the beginning of this year. In December we had our annual Christmas play and in January we celebrated the Feast of Don Bosco.

Both experiences are very important to our youth as we feel the need to fill the spiritual gap they have in their lives. The best way to do this is to involve them in different activities we have throughout the year, especially during religious feasts and celebrations.

However, these events cannot happen if people with generous hearts do not help us. Without you, donors and teachers we are not able to help the children and youth that enter our premises to become “good believers and honest citizens” as Don Bosco wanted all his children and youth to be

**Fr. Alberto Villalba sdb.**



The cast of our Christmas play

We chose a representative team of learners and trainees to report on our Christmas play and the Feast of Don Bosco. On 14 February they received basic training on how to do an interview. They were excited and proud about having been chosen to do this job. Most of them started the next day and I saw them

walking around with their clip boards on their way to do their interviews. Bevan Koopman and Leslie Frans from the Welding Workshop were the first to hand in their completed questionnaires.



Members of the interview team

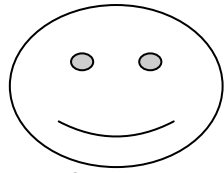
For the Christmas play staff were asked to comment on their achievements, what they especially enjoyed, their challenges, what they would do differently next time and what they would like to change.

### What we achieved



- Working together as a team
- We managed to overcome many of our challenges
- We were able to find talented people from outside to assist us
- With everybody's cooperation (staff, learners and trainees) everything went off smoothly
- Our hall looked impressive
- It felt good to be so involved

## What we particularly enjoyed



- The play was beautiful
- The portrayal of certain roles (the Samaritan woman, Zacchaeus)
- The important lesson that we learnt from the play
- The journey of Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem,
- The donkey brought a smile to my face
- Finding the right people for a particular responsibility
- The music
- The creativity of staff

## Our challenges



- Finding new people to act in a particular role because of absenteeism
- Finding people to assist with the music who were free at the time of our concert
- Arranging the props
- This was my first ever involvement in organising a play
- Calculating the cost for different items
- Finding sufficient funding
- Fitting the lighting
- Getting the creative juices flowing

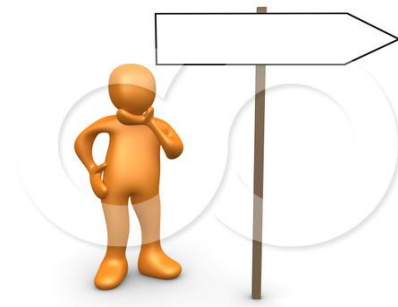
## Overcoming our challenges



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- Networked with others and asked for advice
- Asked for assistance from a colleague
- Did research
- Looked for donors
- Training others for a particular role

## What we will do differently next time



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- Communicate closer with parents and homes to keep youth motivated to stay in play
- Meet with everybody before the play and have their input

## What we would like to change

- Become involved in a different activity
- Find more outside people to become involved
- Add a few class items to the program

### Feast of Don Bosco

On 31 January we celebrated the Festival of Don Bosco, founder of the Salesian order. Father Alberto suggested that we organise a competition for that day. Margaret researched the story of Don Bosco's life. Every teacher and trainer received a copy of the story that they had to use to prepare the participants.

Every class/workshop chose someone to represent them. After several rounds of questions 2 competitors remained, Raldon de Vries from the Wood Work Workshop and Yazeed Hendricks from the Panel Beating Workshop. Yazeed emerged as the winner! At our assembly on 7 February every trainee from the winning workshop received a beautiful peak cap, sporting the FIFA emblem:



Yazeed and his instructor, Rodney Abrahamse, were treated to a delicious KFC meal. At lunchtime all our youth gathered in the dining hall where everyone received a scrumptious meal sponsored by KFC in Somerset Road Green Point.



Margaret Simons asked the questions and Jacoba Kleinsmith did the scoring.

We obtained the following information from the interviews:

<p><b>1. <i>How did you prepare your learners/trainees for the competition?</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• They worked in groups</li> <li>• Read the story to them and explained the content</li> <li>• Worked through the story every morning</li> <li>• I learnt a lot when I watched the video about Don Bosco's life</li> <li>• I simplified the story to suit the level of my class</li> <li>• Prepared a list of possible questions</li> </ul>
<p><b>2. <i>How did you feel when your group chose you to represent them?</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I felt very proud</li> <li>• I was excited</li> <li>• I was honoured to represent my class</li> <li>• I was happy</li> <li>• I was nervous, but went through with it because I did not want to disappoint my class mates and teacher</li> </ul>
<p><b>3. <i>Share your experience of the competition.</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It was good to take part</li> <li>• I learnt a lot about the life of Don Bosco</li> <li>• This competition taught me that every person is different and can achieve in different areas</li> <li>• I was nervous and scared</li> </ul>
<p><b>4. <i>What was your greatest challenge? What did you do to overcome it?</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Absenteeism</li> <li>• To be chosen as the representative of our workshop</li> <li>• I really felt for Don Bosco when he struggled to improve the lives of those boys</li> <li>• I learnt that it is important to be patient when we want to achieve something</li> <li>• Competing against the older competitors</li> </ul>

5. *What would you do differently next time? (focus on yourself)*

- Prepare more youth for the competition
- To remain calm throughout
- Listen to the questions more carefully

6. *Tell us how you felt when you were announced as the winner of the competition.*

- It was great!

7. *Share the experience in the hall when you received the FIFA caps/sweater.*

- I was excited when I received my prize as runner up
- I was very proud when my name was announced
- It boosted my self-esteem
- We really deserved those caps after working so hard!