



THE BOSCO-LINK

A monthly publication of the Youth Ministry Team @ Bosco

No.105

Box 1025, Walkerville, 1876.

Tel. BYC – 011 9492361 : House – 011 9492360

GPS: S26° 11.4" E28° 34,5"

Fax. BYC.0866805420 House - 011 9491022

August 2010 in Bosco

E.mail: boscoypt@iafrica.com Website : www.boscoentre.co.za Facebook: [LoveMatters@Bosco](https://www.facebook.com/LoveMatters@Bosco)

Most of us measure our success by what others haven't done

From the Rector's keyboard:

31st August 2010

Greetings from Bosco,

As I write this we do not know where we stand with the strike. Government has made a new offer! Michael Rua school, with its 900 pupils has been severely disrupted these last few weeks. A trickle of pupils attend each day...but the busses run their routes as usual!



Spring is around the corner!

As someone was remarking it was poor education in schools that ignited the revolution against the previous government. The social lessons that tens of thousands of pupils are learning during this strike, not exactly the traditional three "Rs", but rather "revolt", "retaliate" and "wreck" and get your way in the world.... "we don't need no education"! Give us another brick from the wall to hurl at our Constitution. Our bookings these last few weeks have also been affected...with schools cancelling or postponing their visits.

Now I am shaking in my boots! With the freedom of expression, control of the media... censorship once again in the political limelight. Another throw back to the bad old days. Do we learn anything from history, or is time cyclic? Do we face the prospect of lightening the information and entertainment overload with all channels of communication being bugged. At a certain time in our history, so I am told, if you mentioned "ANC" or "bomb" in a telephone conversation, you were likely to have BOSS breaking down your door in the early hours of the morning.

The press does however, on the whole, assist our human morbid curiosity. That is why the news is so popular. It establishes just how much better people we are. 94% of us think we do a "better than average" job in our places of work; 93% think we are "better than average" drivers, and 100% think we are "better than average" in getting along with others. 100% of us believe we deserve a lot more pay for what we are employed at. Obviously, some of these people are seriously deluded. But I, of course, actually do get along really well with others...and deserve more pay!!! The technical term for this is "illusory superiority" or "cognitive bias". In plain English, it's self-deception.¹

Peace and Blessings

Fr Robert

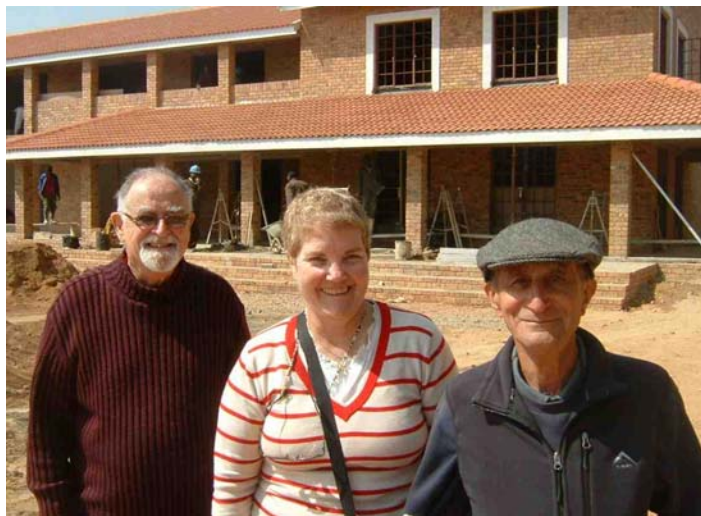
Fr Robert Gore SDB

A bigot agrees that there are two sides to every question - his side and the wrong one.

¹ gleaned from en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Illusory_superiority and experimental.theology.blogspot.com/2010/02/sin-self-deception-and-authenticity.html
Via <http://www.tgif.org.za>

BOSCO CENTRE NEWS.

1. The vegetation is very dry. Veld fires have raged around us so far we have not had any serious fires on our property this year.
2. Thanks to Simon (0845886766) for sending his team out from Bryanston to fix our electric gates.



3. The new double storey building has its roof on. The Chalets are being used, but with borrowed furniture...anyone with good contacts for bed base sets, etc.

COMMUNITY NEWS

1. Camp for local children from surrounding small holdings and farms is being planned.
2. A retreat for eleven Salesians – from Swaziland, Lesotho and RSA is being held at Bosco this week. They are trying out the new chalets.
3. Visitors came from Bonn, Germany, to view our educational projects – especially the development at Ennerdale, the Declan Collins Skills Centre, part of the Bosco Projects.

Above: Fr John Coleman, Gail Wiles, Fr Ivo Pisacane – the building

4. Salesian technical schools visitors from around Africa held a meeting. So we had Italian, French, English spoken at table during meals for a few days.
5. Magdalena Zimmerman arrived from Germany at the beginning of the month for a year's voluntary service here at Bosco on the Youth Ministry Team.
6. Frs Gore and Coleman were in Cape Town for the centenary celebrations of the Salesian Institute and Sacred Heart Church buildings on 31st July.
7. Roberto Rios visited from Ecuador with Fr Bruce SJ.
8. Paula Martin arrives from the USA for a year's voluntary service on the Youth Ministry Team.
9. Manqoba Gumede from Swaziland also joins the Youth Ministry Team for voluntary service.
10. We said our farewells to Roxanne Champion who also left at this time.
11. Gail Wiles, former administrator at Bosco, visited while back in RSA from China.

PAST PUPIL NEWS

1. I met Kevin Cloate who was at school in Bosco from 1957 to 1960, but in the Clonlea buildings, in that time before the face brick buildings went up. Fr Libera was the principal. I met him at Greenpoint on the 1 August at the Centenary celebrations for the Sacred Heart Church and the Salesian Institute. He was born in April 1944 and was living in Orange Grove at the time he attended Bosco. Now he lives in Cape Town.
2. Justin Carey and Craig Nesbitt called out to travel a little down memory lane on Sunday 8th August. On their brightly coloured motor bikes...a past time they have taken too over the past few years. Both still in the Greater Jo'burg area and in contact with some of their 1984 Matric Class.

Some of the Groups through during August 2010:

LoveMatters: St John Berchman (75); McAuley House (64).

Day Retreats/Picnics: Methodist Church (53); Lutheran Community Outreach (30); St Patrick's. (100); Marian College (80); Brescia House (133).

Weekend own Programmes: Dept of Community Safety (200); St Gabriel's Anglican, (30); Archdiocese of Jo'burg (30).

Weekend Confirmation: St Therese, Alberton (24); Blessed Sacrament (15);

Conferences / Retreats: Future of Salesian Technical Schools in Africa (6); Salesian Annual Retreat (20).; Catholic Women's League (40);

School Tours: Holy Rosary, Malamulele (163);

“As I understand it, sport is hard work for which you do not get paid.” I.S. Cobb 1912.
My, my how things have changed since 1912 Editor.

Message from Dianne – volunteer Bosco 2009 to 2010.

(Original edited / shortened for Bosco Link)

I must have seen the Chicago skyline hundreds of times in my life. But Saturday morning, the sky was clear, the plane came in right over the lake, and I glimpsed the most beautiful sight of the city I have seen in my life. Coming home after being gone for nearly a year probably just made it that much more beautiful.



It is good to be home, I have spent the time trying to adjust to life back in the United States, learning about the latest trends such as silly bands and the new fascination in the stores with leggings. I have managed to enter a grocery store without being totally overwhelmed by the selection. I have definitely enjoyed the freedom of being able to drive again, and so far have not driven on the wrong side of the road.

Reflecting on my past year in South Africa has been forefront in my mind. Answering questions like, “How was South Africa?” or “How was the experience?” is extremely difficult. I am still processing everything that happened and figuring out who I am and what a difference this experience has made in my life. I know that I am a changed person, I have learned so much about myself, about the world, about others, and of course about ministry. I have grown a great deal in the past year. But I think that overall it will take me years to fully understand the impact that this experience has had on my life.

I miss South Africa, it's beautiful skies, its diverse cultures and races. I realize now even more than before what a white world I live in. For the first time yesterday, I actually saw a black person here! I catch myself now saying weird things like “half past eight” instead of “eight thirty.” My mom keeps pointing out strange things that I do which seem absolutely normal and logical for my living situation in South Africa, but here seems strange or counter intuitive. It's frustrating to feel at home and yet so lost at the same time. It is like I don't really belong in either world at the moment. It is hard to go from having so much purpose in the lives of the children I worked with at Bosco, to coming home to a transition phase, unsure of what is really happening next and not feeling that strong sense of purpose in my life, at least not the way that I did when I was in South Africa.

People ask if given the opportunity, would I do it again and my answer is absolutely yes. Even though it was a struggle at times, I would do it again in a heartbeat and recommend that others take that chance if it is ever presented. Go, live outside of the country, or at least spend time giving back as a volunteer. It will absolutely change your life.

You can't help but question everything, your race, your religion, your country, your mind, your life. Everything changes, your life changes. But the only thing I don't question is God, and that he loves me the way he says he does. And he is the only thing that doesn't change, Africa or USA, God is the same God. My faith has been deepened so much by this experience, I was transformed and uplifted by this experience and am glad to say that I did it, that I took this risk, that I followed this call and that God helped me pull through it all. I am who I am now because of my experiences in South Africa, because of the people I encountered, the things I saw, and the work I did.

for parents, teachers, youth workers.

Life&Love@Schools Conference: to be held at Bishop Bavin School on Friday 24th September. *Your children whether at school, catechism, youth group or hanging out with their friends are getting a mixed bag of messages about their human sexuality – where do you as a parent fit in? Do church teachings apply in a world of cyberspace, contraceptives and ‘safe sex’?*

*At last, as a responsible parent, your questions can be answered at a conference (the second of its kind) to be held at **Bishop Bavin School on Friday 24th September 2010 (Heritage Day)**. Speakers include Pam Stenzel, a psychologist from the US internationally known for her book and DVD “Sex has a price tag”*

This year's main themes will include adolescent sex exposure and their increased predisposition to sex addiction.

For more details contact Bev Frieslich: bev@telkomsa.net – (011) 454-0407 / 082 825-6053

A youth Jamboree for the learners has been arranged for the same day with special international guest speaker Pam Stenzel (*Sex has a price tag*) and Damon Owens from the Theology of the Body Institute USA addressing: *The meaning of life, love and sex*. For more details of the youth Jamboree please contact Charl Domingo at charldomingo2003@yahoo.com or 083 967-7307

LIFE ISSUES

In South Africa a women's rights group has claimed that pregnant women who are HIV positive are being coerced into accepting sterilisation. The International Community of Women Living With Aids has also reported women claiming to have been sterilised, without their consent, during abortions. [\[Irish Times, 20 July\]](#) <http://bit.ly/cEQdpQ>

IVF children at higher risk of developing cancer

Irish Sun Monday 19th July, 2010

Children born through infertility treatment are 42 percent more likely to develop cancer.

Concerns have been raised that children born after fertility treatment are at greater risk of complications, congenital malformation and infertility problems. The problems are not thought to be linked to the procedure itself but are more likely to be a result of infertility or complications that occur around birth such as prematurity and low birth weight.

Swedish researchers looked at over 26,000 children born after In-vitro Fertilisation (IVF) treatment. They found 53 children developed cancer, ranging from a very young age, up to 19 years, against an expected number of 38. The cancers included leukaemia, cancers of the eye and nervous system, solid tumours and six cases of a condition called Langerhans histiocytosis.

IVF-conceived children were 87 percent more likely to have received a diagnosis of cancer by the age of three than the general population. After this age, the risk of cancer in IVF children reduced. The study found that seven of the 53 children with cancer also had other problems including malformation and Down's Syndrome which are known to have a strong link to cancer.

'We found a moderately increased risk for cancer in children who were conceived by IVF,' telegraph.co.uk quoted lead author Bengt Kallen, of the University of Lund in Sweden, as saying. 'This is probably not attributable to the IVF procedure itself but could be an effect of confounding from unidentified characteristics of women who undergo IVF or could act via the widely known increased risks for neonatal complication.' 'It should be stressed that the individual risk for a child who is born after IVF to develop childhood cancer is low. Additional studies on large populations are needed to permit analysis of such a rare outcome as cancer and notably of specific types,' Kallen added.

The findings are published in the journal Pediatrics.

BISHOPS SPEAK ON THE STRIKE

The Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference wishes to register its horror at the incidences of violence and intimidation perpetrated by participants in the Public Servants Strike. In particular we abhor the inhuman conduct of denying doctors and patients access to hospitals and teachers and pupils access to their schools. We are horrified that care is being denied to the weakest and most vulnerable.

We call on all Educators and Healthcare Workers especially those who are Catholics, to examine their own conscience and action seriously. While we uphold and support your right to strike, we call on you to recognise the rights of others to choose freely what they want to do. In particular we call on you to give serious consideration to the poor, the vulnerable, the sick and the young people who are desperately striving for a better life by completing their education.

Finally we plead with the Public Service Commission and Ministry of Education to ensure that in future negotiations about Educators' remuneration are scheduled for the beginning of the year so as to avoid Educators' strikes at this time when the Matric Students are preparing for their final examinations. 23 Aug 2010

SOME STRANGE, FUNNY AND THOUGHT PROVOKING STUFF RECEIVED

There was a Scottish painter named Smokey MacGregor who was very interested in making a penny where he could, so he often thinned down his paint to make it go a wee bit further.

As it happened, he got away with this for some time, but eventually the Baptist Church decided to do a big restoration job on the outside of one of their biggest buildings. Smokey put in a bid, and, because his price was so low, he got the job.

So he set about erecting the scaffolding and setting up the planks, and buying the paint and, yes, I am sorry to say, thinning it down with water... Well, Smokey was up on the scaffolding, painting away, the job nearly completed, when suddenly there was a horrendous clap of thunder, the sky opened, and the rain poured down washing the thinned paint from all over the church and knocking Smokey clear off the scaffold to land on the lawn among the gravestones, surrounded by telltale puddles of the thinned and useless paint.

Smokey was no fool. He knew this was a judgment from the Almighty, so he got down on his knees and cried: "Oh, God, Oh God, forgive me; what should I do?"

And from the thunder, a mighty voice spoke..

"Repaint! Repaint! And thin no more!"

An elderly couple had dinner at another couple's house, and after eating, the wives left the table and went into the kitchen.

The two gentlemen were talking, and one said, 'Last night we went out to a new restaurant and it was really great... I would recommend it very highly.'

The other man said, 'What's the name of the restaurant?'

The first man thought and thought and finally said, 'What is the name of that flower you give to someone you love?'

You know.... The one that's red and has prickly thorns.'

'Do you mean a rose?'

'Yes, that's the one,' replied the man. He then turned towards the kitchen and yelled, 'Rose, what's the name of that restaurant we went to last night?'

Boyle knelt in a Belfast confessional. "Bless me, father, for I have sinned," he said. "I've blown up three hundred miles of English railroad!" "All right, my son," admonished the Irish priest. "For penance, do the stations!"

An Irishman arrived at J.F.K. Airport and wandered around the terminal with tears streaming down his cheeks. An airline employee asked him if he was already homesick. "No," replied the Irishman. "I've lost all me luggage!" "How'd that happen?" "The cork fell out!" cried the Irishman.

Learning to Get Back Up

[Nhlanhla Lucky Mdlalose](#)

"I want to share a story of a baby giraffe I hope you can learn something from it about life"

Bringing a giraffe into the world is a tall order. A baby giraffe falls 10 feet from its mother's womb and usually lands on its back. Within seconds it rolls over and tucks its legs under its body. From this position it considers the world for the first time and shakes off the last vestiges of the birthing fluid from its eyes and ears. Then the mother giraffe rudely introduces its offspring to the reality of life.

The mother giraffe lowers her head long enough to take a quick look. Then she positions herself directly over her calf. She waits for about a minute, and then she does the most unreasonable thing. She swings her long, pendulous leg outward and kicks her baby, so that it is sent sprawling head over heels.

When it doesn't get up, the violent process is repeated over and over again. The struggle to rise is momentous. As the baby calf grows tired, the mother kicks it again to stimulate its efforts. Finally, the calf stands for the first time on its wobbly legs.

Then the mother giraffe does the most remarkable thing. She kicks it off its feet again. Why? She wants it to remember how it got up. In the wild, baby giraffes must be able to get up as quickly as possible to stay with the herd, where there is safety. Lions, hyenas, leopards, and wild hunting dogs all enjoy young giraffes, and they'd get it too, if the mother didn't teach her calf to get up quickly and get with it.

Something Punny going on!

1. Two antennas met on a roof, fell in love and got married. The ceremony wasn't much, but the reception was excellent.
2. A set of jump leads walk into a bar. The bartender says, 'I'll serve you, but don't start anything.'
3. Two peanuts walk into a bar, and one was a salted.
4. A man walks into a bar with a slab of asphalt under his arm, and says: A beer please,and one for the road.
5. Two cannibals are eating a clown. One says to the other: 'Does this taste funny to you ?'
6. 'Doc, I can't stop singing 'The Green, Green Grass of Home.' 'That sounds like Tom Jones Syndrome.' 'Is it common ?' 'Well..... It's Not Unusual.'
7. I went to buy some camouflage trousers the other day,.... but I couldn't find any.
8. A man woke up in a hospital after a serious accident. He shouted, 'Doctor, doctor, I can't feel my legs !' The doctor replied, 'Of course not..... - I've cut off your arms !'

QUOTATION: *"We have lost respect for each other, for the elderly, for the young, for women. We have lost respect for the moral, while giving in to the material.....We have lost respect for our own future."*

From the Pledge of the 'Lead SA' campaign

MEDITATION: Lead SA is asking us to reflect on what kind of leadership we are creating in our country and what contribution we can make. Whether in politics, in business, in unions, in schools or in the churches, we worry about a 'crisis of leadership'. Can we still tap into the ideals that drove the Struggle? Can the spirit of togetherness that we found during the World Cup continue after the flags have been folded? Whilst it is tempting to blame those who have the title of leader, we should remember that actually we are all leaders: we have the ability to influence those around us and we have the responsibility to challenge those whose leadership is found wanting.

PRAYER: *Jesus, in the title Lord, we acknowledge you as our model of leadership. But people followed you not because of your title or your position but because of who you were and how you behaved. Help us to model our leadership on you. We ask this in your name.AMEN.*

Signup to these reflections by contacting: reflections@jesuitinstitute.org.za

Julius and the Pope:

The Pope and Julius Malema are on the same stage in front of a huge crowd. The Pope leans towards Julius and says, "Do you know that with one little wave of my hand I can make every person in this crowd go wild with joy? This joy will not be a momentary display, like that of your followers, but go deep into their hearts and they'll forever speak of this day and rejoice!" Julius replied, "I seriously doubt that. With one little wave of your hand? Show me."
So the Pope slapped him. ■