



# THE BOSCO-LINK

A monthly publication of the Youth Ministry Team @ Bosco

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I AM NOT YOUNG ENOUGH TO KNOW EVERYTHING.

James M. Barrie

## From the Rector's keyboard:

Greetings once again from a typical winter's day in Gauteng, Now as you are well aware at Bosco Centre we address teen issues, especially in the area of behaviour management. We do not just dole out information, and then leave it at that!

Our work is based on valid research and the best information which we then attempt to morph into something more in tune with the heartbeat of teens. Thus, as any good teacher knows, the challenge is trying to move that information from the head into the heart and the hands...the life and action (behaviour)...of eager young people who want to live life to the full.

To keep in touch with the latest information, I attach here a notice from one of our partners. It is about an important conference on issues affecting the lives of teens today. Schools generally address this through "Life Orientation" ...but is it working in real life? – outside of the classroom environment? Are the outcomes giving the desired effect in the lives of our youth?

So get out your diaries after reading the following and make a note of the following:

South African teenagers have grown up in the shadows of HIV/Aids. The Department of Labour statistics show that more than a third of all teenage girls will have been pregnant by the time they are 19 and most of the new HIV infections in South Africa (annually 60%) affect young people – girls especially – under the age of 25 (National AIDS Programme Department of Health). The department of Psychiatry and Mental Health at UCT has shown that although Life Orientation is supposed to teach 'safe sex', many educators are apprehensive about HIV and sex education because they believe it to be a contradiction of their values and beliefs. We also know that teenagers are tired of hearing about condoms and sexually transmitted infections, so what should parents, teachers and youth mentors be telling teenagers? **Should they be learning about safe-sex, abstinence, dating and sex or changing sexual behaviour?**

**Taking abstinence and promiscuity in teenagers seriously.**

Look out for details of the **Life&Love @ Schools Conference** to be held at Bishop Bavin School, Bedfordview on Heritage Day – **24<sup>th</sup> September, 2009**, brought to you by Just-1-Teenager, the youth wing of FERMASA (Fertility Mastery Association of Southern Africa) and Rotary International.

So parents, teachers, principals, youth leaders, priests, pastors and others involved with youth this is letting you know about it well in advance. I will publish more details as they become available. If you do need a contact person the conference chairman is: Bev Frieslich, bevfrieslich@telkomsa.net (011) 454 0407, 082 825 6053

See you there.  
Peace and Blessings  
Fr Robert  
Fr Robert Gore SDB

If a little knowledge is dangerous, where is the person who has so much as to be out of danger?

Thomas H. Huxley.

### **Some of the Groups through during July:**

**LoveMatters:** St Charles Lwanga; St Clare; St Augustine; Bl Gerard; St Kizito; St Matthias; St Thomas; St Louis; St Theresa; St Mary's' St Thomas More; St Peter; All Saints (250).

Maryvale College (34 - LM 2)

**Just 1 Teenager:** St Benedicts (Gr 7; 100)

**Own Run Programmes:** S.O.S Children village (56)

**Weekend Retreats:** St Peter Claver (45);

**Day Retreats:** Lourdes Primary (Gr 4: 90); St Catherines (Grs 8,9: 117)

**Weekend Camp:** Transfiguration Anglican Church (80)

### COMMENTS AND REFLECTIONS FROM LOVEMATTERS PARTICIPANTS

- \* Starting from now I'm a living testimony. I promise you I'll come back to Bosco...your programme is really convincing and by the grace of the Lord we or I will use all the info to change my life.
- \* That there is a difference between being grown up and being mature.
- \* Don't bow with everyone else, you should take a stand. Marriage isn't only man, woman, love.
- \* The drug abuse talk with Thomas and Stephen. Tommy Jarvis's speech was enlightening.
- \* I learnt more about who I am, and also about what type of person I'll be and also about my sexuality.
- \* When Pam Stenzel said if you don't stand for something you stand for nothing. I learnt the importance of morals.
- \* I learnt a lot this week but the most striking thing was the Leo Buscaglia Motivational talk. That man was funny at the same time inspiring.
- \* That I am miracle and that I shouldn't let any one make me think feel otherwise
- \* Its not all about me and that there are people out there who have life real hard. My understanding of being a Roman Catholic
- \* I learnt that sex is precious gift to us by God and that it should be done within a marriage and both partners should be virgins
- \* With Dr Heinz and Sr Burgie because most of the things they said we had never heard of, or they weren't explained properly before.
- \* That its great to know about your sexuality about love and how God intends us to live life. And how men and woman are different
- \* To never trust a condom, and that most important thing to do stay clear from STI's and pregnancy is by abstaining
- \* I've learned that in life we all have dreams that we can achieve and that we can make our dreams come true. And not by doing drug by keep our self's healthy
- \* That sex is a gift that has to be used only in marriage also that abortions is not any easy thing to overcome

### Community News:

1. Bro Lingoane left for Italy on the 1<sup>st</sup> July to continue his studies. Firstly he has the challenge of learning the romantic language...Italian! From his emails he is settling in, enjoying the sights and smells but also getting to know his new community.
2. A small dog with Jack Russel features, white with brown spots appeared on the Bosco scene. Nobody seems to know where it came from but it was obviously traumatised. Now it is more trusting and marking out territory...taking a dislike to cars, which it herds off the property. Its

relationship with our Alsatian – Jake – is typical! When Jake is free...this dog, which we have named “Titan”...cowers. When Jake is behind the fence then Titan is very brave, and calls Jake nasty names in doggy language. Titan was removed eventually to the SPCA by a nice lady.

3. The Michael Rua school was home for a number of local families during the holidays. These families had been evicted from their shanties and shacks. Before school started again another spot had been found for them by the local municipality.

4. 20<sup>th</sup> July saw the departure of Miriam Staber, our German volunteer on the YMT for the past year.

5. The father of Sr Lidia, FMA( sister who helped from time to time on LoveMatters) died on the 21st . She has returned to Chile for the funeral. Remember her Dad, herself and her family in your prayers at this time of sadness.

6. Ms Eugenia Mar has joined the team for three months experience in sunny RSA. All the way from San Antonio, Texas, Gena has a BS in Community Health. She is part of the Salesian Sisters Vides volunteer programme.

### BOSCO CENTRE NEWS

1. The new fence is up around the Bosco buildings. It looks very imposing with a three metre firebreak on each side of it. Sliding palisade gates have been installed on the farm and swimming pool roads. The front entrance still has to be completed...since we are waiting for a reasonable quote to upgrade the entrance with a brick and palisade fence and sliding palisade gates.

2. Uninvited persons coming onto our property have, of course, necessitated this improvement in security, such as it is. But also “no trespassing” signs have to go up so that people who come without making arrangements for being on our property cannot use the excuse that they did not know it was private land!

### PAST PUPILS

Leonard Leong emailed a couple of weeks back: He writes (letter shortened)...

I was a pupil from 1966 to 1969. I have been back to visit on a number of occasions – the last time though was in 1976. The only persons who remembered me then were Fr. Fosker, and Fr. Heycock (Bro. Anthony).

During my time as a pupil I had some awesome teachers - none better than Fr. “Pepsi” as he was affectionately known. Not only was he a great Science Master but he was a greater Maths teacher, I credit him for giving me my love and passion for Maths. There was also Fr. Stubbings – who could forget him – I am happy to say that I adopted some of the values that he taught us – not least of which – CONFOUND YOU! I also remember very fondly Frs. Melly, Wiseman, McGinty, Grace, Galcius, Ford, McElligott, Mehers, Preston, Ford, Farrelly, Sutherland (I was a Sacristan in 1966 under his guidance together with Matron), also Bros. Felix, John, Maurice, Francis & Brandon. I remember all the Afrikaans teachers who taught us – Miss Farrant (she went on to become a magistrate) Mrs. Sheat (husband was involved in JHB City politics) and Mrs van Dyk. Do you ever hear from any of them?

Frs. Pisacane & Ford were at St John Bosco Parish – Robertsham – where both my daughters made their First Communion. I also recall that Fr. Farrelly was visiting when Cherise made her First Confession. I recall with fondness the many Sunday Evening Masses that we attended at Robertsham. Then in 1994 Fr. Pisacane married our very good friends Corrine and Wingson Long. 1994 was also the year that my family and I immigrated to Canada.

## LIFE ISSUES

### Fathers DO matter: Scientists claim they play crucial role in child's development

*(As if we didn't know this already! - RJG)*

By [David Derbyshire](#) Last updated at 1:51 AM on 23rd July 2009

**I**n a world where advances in cloning and genetics are threatening to make men redundant, scientists finally have some reassuring news. A study has shown that fathers

play a crucial part in family life - and that without a dad present in the crucial first stage of life, offspring grow up to be less sociable.  
(continued next page....)

Although the findings come from a study of animals, it adds to the growing evidence that fathers influence the way children develop.

Previous studies have shown that girls reach puberty younger, become sexually active earlier and are more likely to get pregnant in their teens if their fathers are absent when they were young, New Scientist magazine says.

...fathers play a crucial part in family life...

Other work has suggested that sons of missing dads have lower self-esteem later in life. The latest study looked for biological changes in laboratory mice when they were raised without fathers.

A team at McGill University, Canada, used a strain of mice which, like people, are usually monogamous and tend to rear their young pups together. They removed the fathers from some of the mouse pups three days after birth until they were weaned at 30 to 40 days old. The scientists, led by Dr Gabriella Gobbi, then analysed the behaviour and brain cells of the pups - and compared them to mice brought up with both parents. Brain cells in the 'single parent' mice had a muted response to the 'cuddle hormone' oxytocin, a feel-good chemical released in the brain during sex or moments of intimacy. That meant they were less likely to feel positive when in the company of others. The fatherless mice were also more anti-social.

'Usually if you put two animals in the same cage they investigate and touch each other, but

when we put to animals deprived of a father together they ignored each other,' said Dr Gobbi. The scientists are unsure whether the same biological changes take place in human children raised without a father - and whether the findings are applicable to people.

In the strain of mice used in the experiment, the fathers lick and groom the young pups more than the mothers do. Because grooming affects the development of pups, it could be the lack of physical contact that cause the changes in the brain, the researchers say. The finding follows another study which showed that men experience a huge surge in oxytocin after a child is born.

Dr Ruth Feldman of Bar-Ilan University in Ramat-Gan, Israel tested oxytocin levels of 80 couples before a child was born and six months afterwards. She found that levels of the feel-good chemical rose in mothers and fathers after the arrival of a child. The chemical affected the parents in different ways. Mothers with the highest levels spent much longer gazing at their children, stroking and kissing them and speaking in a "sing song" voice, she found.

Dads with the highest levels played more with their child than fathers with the lowest levels. 'Fathers and mothers contribute in a very specific and different way,' she told the magazine.

She believes fathers may be 'biologically programmed' to help raise children.

Read more: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-1201484/Fathers-DO-matter-Scientists-claim-play-crucial-role-childs-development.html?ITO=1490#ixzz0MFvXvgTW>

**Pope Benedict** has said that being an adult Christian means being pro-life. In an address closing the Catholic Church's Year of St Paul, the Pope said that an example of an adult faith is "to commit to the inviolability of human life from the very beginning, thus radically opposing the principle of violence, in defence of the most defenseless humans." He said that following the trends of the day was, in contrast, childish [[LifeSiteNews.com](http://LifeSiteNews.com), 29 June]

**20,000 people** have staged a pro-life march in the African country of Cameroon. The march was organised in opposition to the Maputo protocol, which seeks to force all 53-member states of the African Union to legalise abortion. A petition against abortion, signed by 30,000 people, was presented to the government. Samuel Kleda, the coadjutor Catholic archbishop of Douala, said, "[W]e cannot pretend to defend women by proposing that they have an abortion and use contraception, which threatens their dignity and nuclear family. No reason can be used to justify abortion or infanticide." [[LifeSiteNews.com](http://LifeSiteNews.com), 17 July] <http://is.gd/1KyOT>

A new study suggests that women who have had more than one abortion are more likely to be involved in abusive relationships. The study, published in the *The Obstetrician and Gynaecologist (TOG)* medical journal, follows similar findings published in March. Jason Waugh, the journal's editor, said: "These findings highlight the need for health professionals to be aware of, and sensitive to, the possibility of violence in the lives of women seeking abortion" [[LifeNews.com](http://LifeNews.com), 17 July] <http://is.gd/1KyT8>

The number of people aged over 65 is on course to overtake the number of infants for the first time in history, a study has found. The trend is most prevalent in the developed world and is now rapidly gaining pace in the developing world. Richard Suzman, from the National Institute of Ageing in Maryland, which commissioned the new study by the US Census Bureau, said: "Global ageing is changing the social and economic nature of the planet." [[Telegraph](http://Telegraph.com), 20 July] <http://is.gd/1Kz8h>

Madrid, Spain, Jul 23, 2009 / 01:00 pm (CNA).- A group of Spanish professionals are using life-sized models of a 13 week-old foetus to respond to statements by the country's Minister of Equality, Bibiana Aido, who said in an interview that foetuses at that stage of development are alive but are not human beings.

...foetuses are alive  
but not human  
beings...

The group is offering replicas of the "Aido Baby" through its website [www.bebe-aido.com](http://www.bebe-aido.com) to help raise awareness about the development of the unborn during the first and second trimesters of pregnancy.

"Its real size is 5-6 centimetres and all of its organs have already been formed. It only needs to mature and grow," the group said.

On May 19, Minister of Equality, Bibiana Aido, said that a 13 week-old foetus is alive "but is not a human being, because there is no scientific basis for such a claim."

However, organizers of the campaign said science has demonstrated that "human life begins at conception. Every manual of human embryology states that the zygote is already an unrepeatable human being, unique in its species, a different being from the mother and the father."

In addition, they said, at 12 weeks a foetus has a full-formed head, eyes, arms, legs, hands, feet and heart. "It can feel as its nervous system is well-developed," said Fatima Navarro-Rubio, a spokeswoman for the campaign.

"We have made thousands of 'Aido Babies' so that people in Spain can determine with their own hands whether or not the 12 week-old baby that some don't want to protect is a human being," she added. The money raised by the campaign will be used to help women in troubled pregnancies

Weasel words are words that suck all the life out of the words next to them, just as a weasel sucks an egg and leaves the shell.

Stewart Chaplin, *Stained-Glass Political Platform*

## Some strange, funny and thought provoking stuff received at BYC

**MOON LANDING** – *were you there? I watched it on TV...as I was in England at the time! Real or hoax it was awe-inspiring. The following piece from TGIF made me reflect....RJG.*

TECHINICAL / MEDICAL ADVANCEMENT Is Not Matched By Moral Or Ethical Advancement.

Marking the 40th anniversary of our first ever moon landing are a good amount of coverage, "live" online recreations of the event, and opportunities to vote on whether it really happened (at time of writing, 4 out of the top ten Google results for "moon landing" are about this question, and News24's poll has 31% of respondents picking the hoax option).

Some might argue that this remarkable achievement has not been paralleled in other (perhaps more important) areas. This is frequently expressed in the common phrase "We can put a man on the moon, but..." followed by some indignation, e.g. "...we can't find a cure for starvation", "...we continue to wage war on earth", or "...we still can't figure out what happened to the other sock".

Theories postulating that humankind's technical progress has far outpaced its moral progress certainly deserve our attention. If they're right, we need to catch up in our thinking about how we handle a wide range of advances from biomedics to the internet to complex financial constructs to energy consumption. To say this does not lessen the ingenuity of our technical progress in any way. But it does heighten our awareness of our accompanying human responsibility. [www.tgif.org.za](http://www.tgif.org.za)

**Whenever a man does a thoroughly stupid thing, it is always from the noblest motives.**

Oscar Wilde, *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, Ch. 6

## In honour of Jake and Titan - RJG

### A Dog's Soul

Every dog must have a soul  
Somewhere deep inside  
Where all his hurts and grievances  
Are buried with his pride

Where he decides the good and bad  
The wrong way from the right,  
And where his judgment carefully  
Is hidden from our sight.

A dog must have a secret place  
Where every thought abides,  
A sort of close acquaintance that  
He trusts in and confides.

And when accused unjustly for  
Himself, He cannot speak,  
Rebuked, He finds within his soul  
The comfort he must seek.

He'll love, tho' he is unloved,  
And he'll serve tho' badly used,  
And one kind word will wipe away  
The times when he's abused.

Altho' his heart may break in two  
His love will still be whole,  
Because God gave to every dog  
An understanding Soul!

Anonymous

## Clever Answers to Stupid Questions!

TEACHER: Maria, go to the map and find North America .

MARIA: Here it is.

TEACHER: Correct. Now class, who discovered America ?

CLASS: Maria.

TEACHER: John, why are you doing your math multiplication on the floor?

JOHN: You told me to do it without using tables.

TEACHER: Glenn, how do you spell 'crocodile'?

GLENN: K-R-O-K-O-D-I-A-L'

TEACHER: No, that's wrong

GLENN: Maybe it is wrong, but you asked me how I spell it.

TEACHER: Donald, what is the chemical formula for water?

DONALD: H I J K L M N O.

TEACHER: What are you talking about?

DONALD: Yesterday you said it's H to O.

TEACHER: Winnie, name one important thing we have today that we didn't have ten years ago.

WINNIE: Me!

TEACHER: Glen, why do you always get so dirty?

GLEN: Well, I'm a lot closer to the ground than you are.

TEACHER: Millie, give me a sentence starting with ' I. '

MILLIE: I is...

TEACHER: No, Millie..... Always say, 'I am.'

MILLIE: All right... 'I am the ninth letter of the alphabet.'

TEACHER: George Washington not only chopped down his father's cherry tree, but also admitted it. Now, Louie, do you know why his father didn't punish him?

LOUIS: Because George still had the axe in his hand.

TEACHER: Now, Simon, tell me frankly, do you say prayers before eating?

SIMON: No sir, I don't have to, my Mom is a good cook.

TEACHER: Clyde, your composition on 'My Dog' is exactly the same as your brother's. Did you copy his?

CLYDE : No, sir. It's the same dog.

TEACHER: Harold, what do you call a person who keeps on talking when people are no longer interested?

HAROLD: A teacher

### **THE POWER OF PRAYER?**

In Mt. Vernon (Texas), Drummond's bar began construction on a new building to increase their business. The local church started a campaign of petitions & prayers to stop the bar from opening. A week before the planned opening, lightning struck the bar and it burned to the ground.

The bar owner sued the church on the grounds that the church was ultimately responsible for the demise of his building, either through direct or indirect means. The church vehemently denied all responsibility or any connection to the building's demise.

As the case made its way into court, the judge commented, "I don't know how I'm going to decide this, but as it appears from the paperwork, we have a bar owner who believes in the power of prayer, and an entire church congregation that does not."

## **CELL PHONE vs. BIBLE**

I wonder what would happen if we treated our Bible like we treat our cell phone?

What if we carried it around in our purses or pockets?

What if we flipped through it several times a day?

What if we turned back to go get it if we forgot it?

What if we used it to receive messages from the text?

What if we treated it like we couldn't live without it?

What if we gave it to Kids as gifts?

What if we used it when we travelled?

What if we used it in case of emergency?

This is something to make you go..hmm. Where is my Bible?

Oh, and one more thing. Unlike our cell phone, we don't have to worry about our Bible being disconnected because Jesus already paid the bill.

Makes you stop and think "where are my priorities?"

NO REJECTED calls!

NO FLAT BATTERY !!!!

NO "pls call me's" coz He will call on you ALL THE TIME!!!!

Many thanks to all who have sent in bits and pieces as well as letting us know how you are getting on. It is really good to hear from you. Keep the news flowing. Until next time! RJG.

## **'Three Kick Rule.'**

A big city lawyer went duck hunting in rural North Cowra. He shot and dropped a bird, but it fell into a farmer's field on the other side of a fence.

As the lawyer climbed over the fence, an elderly farmer drove up on his tractor and asked him what he was doing. The litigator responded, "I shot a duck and it fell in this field, and now I'm going to retrieve it."

The old farmer Peter replied, "This is my property, and you are not coming over here."

The indignant lawyer said, "I am one of the best trial lawyers in Australia and, if you don't let me get that duck, I'll sue you and take everything you own."

The old farmer smiled and said, "Apparently, you don't know how we settle disputes in North Cowra. We settle small disagreements like this with the 'Three Kick Rule.'

The lawyer asked, "What is the 'Three Kick Rule'?"

The Farmer replied, "Well, because the dispute occurs on my land, I get to go first. I kick you three times and then you kick me three times and so on back and forth until someone gives up."

The lawyer quickly thought about the proposed contest and decided that he could easily take the old codger. He agreed to abide by the local custom.

The old farmer slowly climbed down from the tractor and walked up to the attorney. His first kick planted the toe of his heavy steel-toed work boot into the lawyer's groin and dropped him to his knees! His second kick to the midriff sent the lawyer's last meal gushing from his mouth. The lawyer was on all fours when the farmer's third kick to his rear end, sent him face-first into a fresh cow pie.

Summoning every bit of his will and remaining strength the lawyer very slowly managed to get to his feet. Wiping his face with the arm of his jacket, he said, "Okay, you old \*^%\$#! Now it's my turn."

The old farmer smiled and said, "Nah, I give up. You can have the duck."

**When you are educated, you'll believe only half of what you hear.**

**When you're intelligent, you know which half.**