



COLLINS CONNECTION

August 2008

Hello the Salesian Family

August, in spite of the winds of unpredictable change, has been a month of progress and we have not had a minute to rest our soles! This is not a complaint but an encouraging sign that the project is on the move and that we can look forward to more obvious action. We can at least imagine reaching the summit of red tape one day! The view, we believe, is spectacular!

We have also reached new heights in the fashion designing world. Our young, new friend in Lawley, Anna Ntja wanted to join our crafts group but we have limited our number to ten. However, after some enthusiastic discussion we have become a network partner with Anna of Thopza Designs. We found ourselves visiting Daleview School in Ennerdale. Daleview is changing from a primary to a secondary school in 2009. Thopse (Anna's nick name) has designed a new school uniform for the students and we took photos of her excellent work. Take a peek:

Full uniform for girls...we are proud!



We hope to impress!



We were very pleased to be able to help Thope to write a funding proposal to Lesedi Trust for starter funding for her new venture. Lesedi Trust has decided to sponsor her...what a celebration. We will help with her progress reporting and financial spreadsheets. Bernie has roped in her husband to do that! We wish Thope well and

feel sure she will be successful. Meet Thope: She is the second from the left in the photo. She designed her own outfit. We are pleased to tell you that she will also help our craft group with ideas for products that will sell well. We once again thank Lesedi Trust for supporting us.

Speaking of Lesedi Trust we were very happy to receive a generous donation for sixteen brand new computers from them. August really is a windfall month! We are busy unpacking them and cannot wait to start our training on them. We, Val Drift, our very efficient trainer and the students very sincerely thank Lesedi Trust for their wonderful generosity. They have been interested in our projects for a few years now. We intend putting our best foot forward always!

Here are the mannequins again with Thope and Daleview's Deputy Principal.



Now let me see what's in this box...?



Our new computers! Thanks to Lesedi!



There is another person we need to thank for the very reasonable price of the computers and that is Mr Joe Gore who negotiated with a computer supplier for us. Thank you! We do appreciate all the support and care we experience.

We are very proud to announce that on the 26th September six of our Permaculture Trainees will celebrate their graduation day. They will all receive national accreditation and three of them have already been asked to do some project training with Ekukhanyeni. They will be training a group from another organisation. We wish them well and hope their new Permaculture expertise will prove prosperous for them. We thank our partners Liza Rossi and Ryan Dickey for their continued excellent work with us. It is a joy to experience our first graduation day with you. We hope we will work together for many years to come and that the next Permaculture project will happen on our new site next year.

Is that all the good news? No! We have at last got the Title Deeds for Erf 4623 in our hands. We open the drawer to admire them every now and again...just to make sure you know! I think we are actually missing our journey of note with Business Partners and thank them once again for their long support and patience in the struggle to get the land secured. We have noticed too, that the rubbish being dumped around along the roads to the site is being regularly cleared. We hope that when we move onto the site people will grace us with some consideration in this matter.



Money! Money! Money! You see... it does grow on trees. At least ours is growing into more than just a spring twig! During our constant windfall month we have received a very substantial donation for the building of our centre. We are unable to tell you who the donor is as they wish to remain anonymous. Our soles are magnifying the Lord...and the Donor. Thank you! We will not need too much more to reach our first phase target. This will entail the hall and 8 workrooms or classrooms. We have been very busy submitting proposals to a good few organisations. Please pray while holding thumbs for positive results! A lot of Rand make cents...sorry, sense!

During September we will accompany Bernie and Etienne van der Scyff to the Head Office of the Johannesburg City Council to discuss how we can possibly speed up the zoning process. Our local building inspector has given us the names of appropriate people to see. We will of course be taking the interceding team with us; our ever faithful, Don Bosco, Maria Mazzarello and Fr Declan Collins who we hope will give us courage for the onward journey to success.

Overheard from my window: 'Money is definitely not the root of all evil...it is the roof of all buildings especially those that will rise on Erf 4623! Got any change? We have a large piggy bank for deposits!

Until next issue, we your tacky pair, wish you well.



Bernie Mullen
Phone: 011 211 4373 or 082 7811 879
Email: declancentre@mweb.co.za

