



COLLINS CONNECTION

February 2008

Hello the Salesian Family

New Year... When and what was that? We, the Collins Takkie Twins, seem to have missed that bus and have been very much on the trot since our first day back from the Christmas break. However, the trotting has begun to pay off and we are very excited with the progress made.

First stop on our travels was the site in Ennerdale...we were shocked to find all sorts of builder's rubble and other undesirable stuff dumped all over the road and on the site. We contacted the municipality and they responded very promptly and accompanied us to site to see for themselves what has been happening. We were fortunate enough to catch two gentlemen hard at work off loading rubble near our very large project notice. We graced these unfortunates with a very articulate lecture on respect for mother earth, other people's property and our burning desire to serve the community. Our Municipal companions took the offenders' photos and rewarded them with a pending fine.



Clearing of Erf 4623: Oh happy day!

Today is 3rd March 2008 and what a happy day it has been! As you can see from the photo above we have, at last, begun to clear the site boundary in preparation for the erection of the palisade walling. This happens on Monday 10 March. We will delay the distribution of this newsletter so that you can have a peek at that procedure.

So...what lies ahead for us this month? We are in the process of the building or zoning consent process. This is being handled by our architect, Glen Brydges as his assistant knows the ropes very well and so will be able to do the job in much less time than we takkies will. Thereafter the technical building plans will get drawn up so that we can ask for tenders. Watch this space! We are also going to write an article on the project and submit that to the local newspaper so that the communities around are fully aware of us and can support the work we have in mind. The

Chamber of Commerce in Ennerdale have already adopted us as a priority project and have consulted the provincial government with a view to establishing an industrial hive on the land opposite our site so that those we train have a venue to practise their skills. We love it when a plan comes together...who said that?



Speaking of support... We had a very positive meeting with Councillor Sotshantsha from Finetown and Councillor Nyambe from Ennerdale regarding our projects. They have given us their committed cooperation and so we hope they will be pleased to keep track of our happenings with renewed interest. We invited them and the Councillor (Mr Molutsi) from Lawley, to the permaculture project. Councillor Nyambe and Councillor Molutsi can be

seen in the photograph planting an olive tree, which, many years ago were indigenous to this area and that have great nutritional value. The councillors and other guests were then taken on a lecture tour by Ryan Dickey and the trainees who will be receiving their accreditation certificates from the Agriculture Sector of Education and Training (Agri-Seta) in August and who will then be able to use their skills and make a career out of permaculture. We once again thank Ekukhanyeni for their excellent training and service to us and to the local community. We are proud to partner them. We hope to be able to extend the garden soon and to begin a new training course for others in the community.

Hot off the press! Today's photograph of the boundary walling going up! We are thrilled and hope very much that this will be completed before the end of March. The contractor has had to bring his own supply of water as the municipality has not as yet, installed the promised water meter. Just another little hill to climb! Things will cool down when we get there.

10 March 2008!
Celebrate! Our walling is going up!



The company, C.M.P. Concrete Products, who are doing the wall, gave us an excellent price and we have checked their credentials with clients who have had very pleasing work from them in the past. We also have a two year guarantee from them.



Another peek?

Do not be disturbed! This structure is only the frame for the palisade. Concrete stands are bolted and then cemented onto the frame when the frame is stable enough after it has been cemented into the ground. We will keep you posted of the progress made.

Glen Brydges assured me today that he is about to commence working on the technical plans for the hall and adjoining classrooms that will constitute 'phase one' of the project. However, we have thus far only enough funding to complete the hall. We have several proposals submitted to various organisations and await with baited breath their responses. The Collins Trust has worked very hard to raise funds for us and I have had more good news of a donation of two thousand Punts, today. Thank you Diarmuid Halpin, Barbara Mullan and team. We appreciate your efforts very much. In fact Diarmuid has been invited to give a presentation to the Rotary club in his area. I have sent him material with which to work. He is hoping that this will result in another donation and that it will also put us in touch with rotary International. Pray hard please!

We continue to receive food and clothing donations from Veronica Bergstrom and her parish members. We are most appreciative. Thank you!

We are hoping to get the sewing of haybox insulators going soon. We have also identified women who are interested in beading and we have met Franscina who makes shoes out of recycled plastic. We are looking for a viable market for these and then will train some youth and women who are keen to learn and earn!

Franscina and her new shoes!

Overheard from my window:

Lent is a time of assessment and stock taking... does that mean somebody has lent us something...money perhaps? No harm in hoping! We wish all our readers a very holy, Holy Week and a very joyous Easter. We are hoping to have Easter Tuesday and Holy Thursday off to assess where we are going. We will be drunk with success by then!



Bernie Mullen



Don Bosco Educational Projects: Telephone and Fax: 27 (11) 211 4373
E-mail: declancentre@mweb.co.za Website: www.salesians.org

