



COLLINS CONNECTION

March 2007

Hello The Salesian Family

The Collins Takkies have very vague memories of Atlantic Ocean beaches and the feel of cold seawater trickling over them. However they feel that the experience was a bit of ancient history! They have again encountered rugged roads and a few unwelcome potholes.

First Pothole: Business Partners duly issued the eviction application notice to the Pastor occupying the building on the site we are buying. We raced along in a spell of euphoria only to find that the Pastor had lodged a notice of objection and would contest the eviction. The due date for his objection affidavit came and went and the court hearing was held on 23 March. Euphoria reigned again! The Pastor, on the hearing date, appealed for more time to lodge his objection and the judge in spite of Business Partners opposing this, was granted until 30 March. We suffered from depressed soles and stubbed toes.

Second Pothole: The latest information we have is that the courts are now in recess until 16th April and the earliest we will be able to have a hearing is on 26th April. We are quick learners and have not resumed our euphoric disposition and expectations of resolution. We have realised it is Lent and are walking the hard road of patience and faith. Please walk with us. Mind the potholes!

Third Pothole: These events will delay all the other processes we have to go through before we can actually start building. We are also hoping that the Pastor will not again request an extension of time to lodge his objection. If we had opportunity to find some other site we would have gone that route a long time ago. There isn't any other privately owned property in Ennerdale that is suitable for our needs.

You will be pleased to know that there are smoother patches of road. Green verges of permaculture gardens line the rough areas. Victor Qhadi returned from his accredited training course in permaculture garden design, full of enthusiasm and energy to get one established in the Lawley church grounds. This will be happening over the weekend of 21/22 April. The garden will serve as a teaching tool for the local community and will also help feed those who are now dependent on St Vincent de Paul Society for food. Hopefully, those who are trained through this effort will be able to grow food at home. We once again thank Liza Rossi of Ekukhanyeni for her network partnership in this project. She works very hard with us and for us.

We are still awaiting a result from donors we applied to for the employment of a permanent permaculture trainer. Patience is a hard lesson. Mind the potholes!

To compliment the permaculture we have acquired three sewing machines and will make haybox cookery insulators to distribute after the cookery workshops so that people actually practise the methods learned at home. I have been begging for flour sacks from manufacturers and for polystyrene grist to get this project going. We are in the process of identifying two ladies who will do the sewing. The one lady we had asked agreed to do this but unfortunately has since died. May she rest in peace.

We are pleased to report that the Sisters' Computer Centre has a full compliment of students and that processes are underway to up-grade the centre for accreditation with City and Guilds who have taken over Pittmans. Sr Margaret Sweeney and Val Drift are also working hard to get the Centre registered with the Department of Education so this project is running very well. Sandy Dowling at the Salesian Planning and Development Office in Cape Town has applied for funding for the replacement of old computers so the partnership between the FMA and SDB is very much in evidence. We are proud of and grateful for all the efforts being made!

I had a very pleasant afternoon with the Jacksonsdraft teachers assisting them with defining and understating the concepts of leadership, direction and management. We looked at the rainbow of gifts among them and found that we all have to some extent complimentary gifts that can be well used for the needs of those we teach, those we work for and with and for our own benefit. We hope that the mobile school will soon have a new principal and deputy principal.

The accredited First Aid course was to have taken place during the last week of March but we had to send the trainer home. He arrived with a raging temperature from tick bite fever. Andrew will be back on 12/13 April to do the training. Twelve enthusiasts await the experience and pride of receiving their certificates.

The University of South Africa has accepted the three staff members of the Laura Vicuña Centre in Finetown who applied to study for a diploma in HIV AIDS counselling. The Catholic Relief Services have sponsored them. We are very happy and wish them well in their studies!

Our Steering Committee is expanding in order to prepare for the adoption of the new Don Bosco Educational Projects Constitution. We have invited Anthony Reeves of the All Saints Parish community and Ennerdale Chamber of Commerce to join us. Anthony has been involved in the development of sport among the youth in Ennerdale and surrounding areas for years and has proved that much can be achieved with large quantities of enthusiasm and an astute understanding of potholes. We thank Anthony for his service. We will supply you with a full list of Committee members in the next edition. Hold your breath!

We once again thank all our benefactors and supporters for their interest and hard work on our behalf. We are doing our very best with the pothole repairs and feel sure that when we do get off the ground there will be no stopping us!

Overheard from my window: "Did you know Bernie has told God that if she has to sit next to a certain pastor when she gets to heaven, she will ask for a transfer? You would think Easter is just another rumour!" Yes, I had forgotten that Lent does end and potholes can be helpful. They slow you down for thinking time! No doubt I too will rise above such flat-footed and tacky attitudes. After all, the Lord is risen and so we rise in hope, with him.

May your Easter be very special and your joy deep.



Bernie Mullen

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