

# A STORY OF SUCCESS AT SALESIAN HIGH SCHOOL, MANZINI, SWAZILAND



My name is Pave Roison and I am an 18 year old student in Form V, at Salesian high school in Swaziland.

Presently I am preparing for Final exams at the end of this school year and after that I hope to go to university. My journey thus far has been marked with struggle and hardship but with the help of Fr Larry McDonnell SDB and his Salesian project, the *Manzini Youth Care*, I am where I am now.

I was born at Simunye village and my parents had seven children. I am the fourth child of the family.

When I was 13 years old, my father developed a mental illness and abused my mother physically. My mother left him and took us with her to her brother, my uncle.

When I was in grade three my mother couldn't afford to pay my school fees and so I was chased away by the school. My mother told me I could carry on with my studies when my older brothers had completed their primary education.

I couldn't stand the pain of seeing my peers going to school and me staying behind. I heard rumours about an organization helping poor children in Manzini. I knew my mother wouldn't let me go away

from home so I ran away and lived on the streets. I wandered the streets for two months until one day a person from "*Manzini Youth Care*" found me. It was the start of a new life for me; a new dream began to come true.

I returned to school in 2001 and felt I was a little bit too old to repeat what I had missed. I managed to skip through three grades, and got admitted into grade six at the Salesian Primary School.

Having been given a place at the Salesian Home and Shelter run by *Manzini Youth Care*, I decided to visit home for the first time in a long time. I told my mother that I was schooling in Manzini, and she was angry with me at first. But the love she had for me helped her forgive me.

When I finished my primary grades I managed to get a place at Salesian High, where my achievements began. In form one I was elected as a prefect, and after three years of supervising pupils at school I was awarded a certificate of leadership. In form 4, I was elected as a chief executive officer of a mini company aimed at educating students who were business minded.

The company worked hand in hand with the national newspaper, the Times of Swaziland. We published articles affecting youth in Swaziland, especially those in schools.

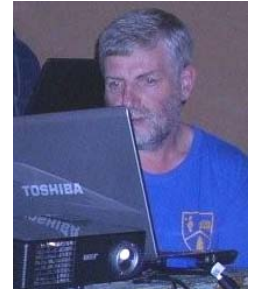
At the end of my form 4 in 2008 I was again awarded a certificate (SAYE) School Aged Youth Entrepreneurship. This was presented to me for being the best manager, the best overall performer in this competition.

In 2009 a Salesian priest from Ireland, Fr McCormack joined the school staff. He introduced a very challenging course in youth leadership skills with lots of practical ideas for life. In August I will receive my Diploma in leadership skills and aim to be the number one leader in the programme.

I am at present the head boy in Salesian High School. I hope to further my studies

in South Africa when I finish here. I want to study economics. When I graduate, I want to give something back of what I have learnt, to others.

I am working hard at my studies, having difficulty with Maths, but hope to be able to follow extra classes in this subject. I want to do well in my life. Fr McCormack (pictured above) says to us, attitude is very important in success in life. I have myself very focused and know that nothing is impossible once I apply myself to a task. As I have learnt in the leadership programme, the word "impossible" is made up mainly of "possible"! My life in the last number of years proves this.



*In loving memory of GORDON HEYNES, 28 May 2009, husband of Esme, who works in the Repository at the Salesian Institute. Our sympathy and prayers go to all the family. Also to all those whose anniversaries occur at this time. May their dear souls rest in peace.*

*Attitude is everything. Be kinder than necessary, for everyone you meet is fighting some kind of battle. Live simply, Love generously, Care deeply, Speak kindly... Leave the rest to God. Life isn't about waiting for the storm to pass... It's about learning to dance in the rain.*

## SALESIAN MISSIONS

PO Box 1884, Southdale 2135 • Tel.: (011) 476-8315  
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