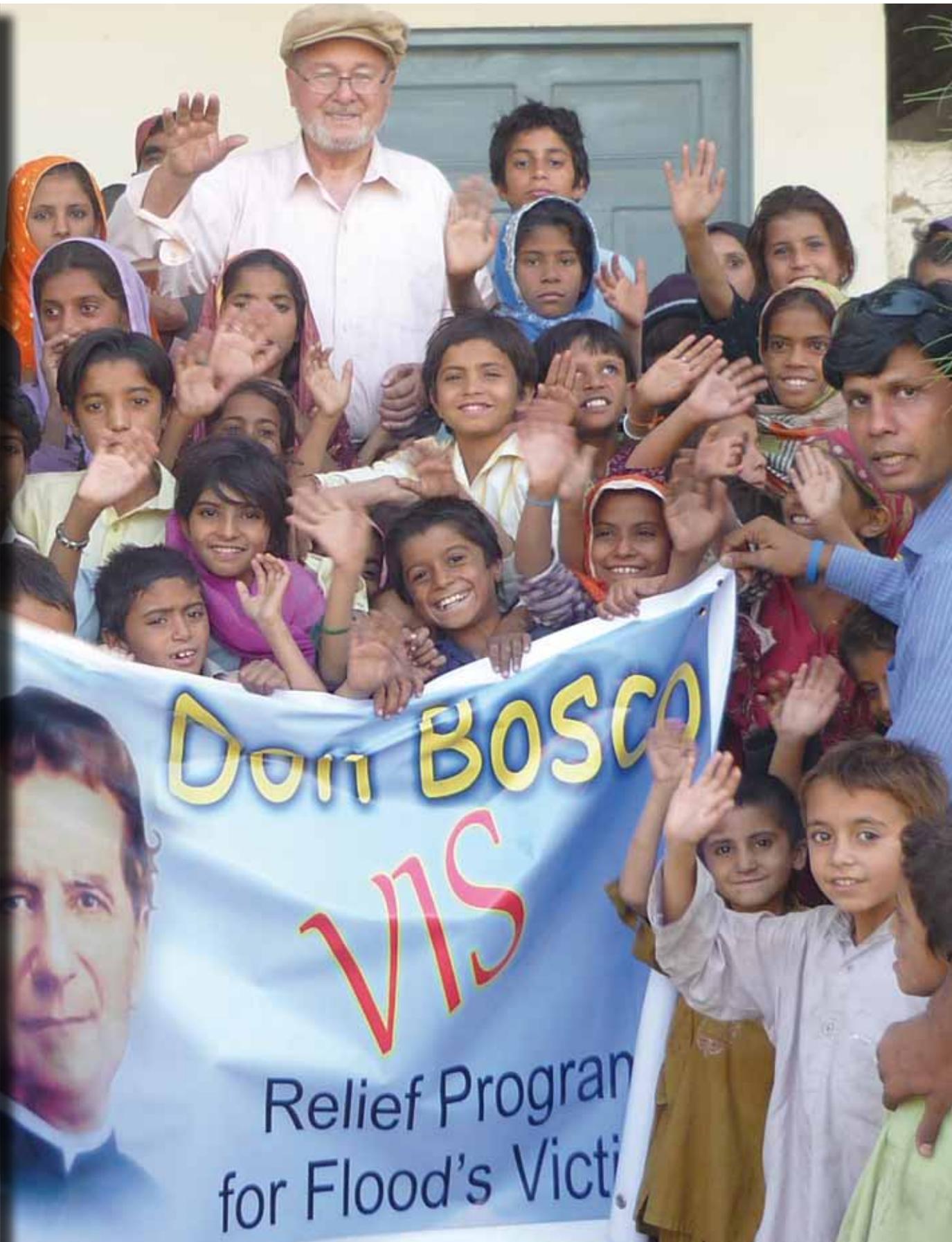


THE MAGAZINE FOR THE SALESIAN FAMILY

DON BOSCO TODAY

Solidarity, Tolerance and Respect



DON BOSCO

THE SALESIAN BULLETIN • YEAR 118 • ISSUE 3 • AUTUMN 2010

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Editorial >>

This issue of *Don Bosco Today* is a story of the triumph of generosity over disaster, of a worldwide response to brothers and sisters in need. In preparing these few words of editorial, I felt I needed to revisit the situation in Haiti, since so many readers had been so generous in donating to the many appeals for Haiti made at the beginning of this year. Through the generosity of so many people, our province was able to send almost £130,000. Usually it is relatively easy to obtain details of disasters but sometimes difficult to find out what has actually happened with donations - where the money has gone. The reason for this is that unfortunately the media look for bad news. For many people good news is not news. When I began to discover what had happened on behalf of our Salesian work for young people in Haiti, I was totally amazed by the scale of the response. I began to lose count of the number of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) involved, of the number of different countries helping, of the ways in which so many Salesian provinces, in so many parts of the world, were involved. As Fr Chávez, our superior in Rome said, *It is very comforting to see so many organizations, a total of 80, seriously committed to this challenging task.*

More recently there has been the terrible disaster of the floods in Pakistan. There are very few Salesians in Pakistan, yet their impact has been considerable. Christians are suffering persecution in Pakistan, involvement in aid work demands bravery as well as

generosity. Perhaps the most moving snippet of news from our Salesians in Pakistan was the way they were invited by the thousands of refugees, in our Salesian houses, to join them in celebrating the feast of *Eid al-Fitr*.

In this country, I think we were all moved by the very warm welcome afforded our Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI. He seemed to win the hearts of even the most cynical commentators, and at Westminster Cathedral, St Mary's, Strawberry Hill and in Scotland the young people seemed to win his heart. We have had so many glowing reports from Salesians and Salesian Cooperators from Scotland and England who were privileged to attend one of the many ceremonies on his exacting tour. The visit of Pope Benedict to Westminster Abbey proved a powerful lesson in ecumenism. We have only been able to include an account from some young people from Farnborough. I'm sure all the others who sent in accounts of the Pope's visit will understand why we have given preference to the young.

There are also two articles on the subject of vocation – the way two people responded to God's call. God's call comes to all of us, if only we listen. Then we have Blessed Alberto Marvelli, a young man who answered God's call to serve his neighbour. Alberto's service was extraordinarily generous.

If I may add an ecumenical postscript, at Don Bosco Publications we were delighted to receive an order of 100 copies of our ever popular prayer resource, *Swatch & Pray* from an Anglican diocese in England. Let's hope prayer will bring us together.

Tony Bailey SDB
a.bailey@salesians.org.uk



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Lord, give me a clear sign of the road I should take



16-17 Blessed Alberto Marvelli

Before teaching the poor person how to save their souls we must enable them to live in such a way as to allow them to be aware of having a soul. (St Vincent de Paul)



18-19 Hooked on Success

The key starting point is to highlight the pupil's strengths, making a difference to how the pupils see themselves.

14-15 Heart Speaks Unto Heart

Every day we should thank God for the love we have already known. Pope Benedict XVI



20 Booklist
Summer 2010



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Haiti must rise again

» The outstanding generosity of

Haiti was once the pearl of the Caribbean, but with the problems caused by the January earthquake and inherited problems, the situation there is still critical. Progress towards any form of normality is slow and often meets unexpected obstacles. »

Officially the state of emergency is supposed to be over; some humanitarian organisations have left the country and many volunteers have gone back home. The shops are re-opening and are filled with customers; the churches, both Catholic and Protestant have begun their pastoral work again.

Fr Václav Klement, General Councillor for Salesian Missions, visited Haiti in August, to meet the Salesians and representatives of the various organisations working to re-establish the Salesian works. A report was sent to Rome detailing the funding required, based on the degree of need. Fr Klement pointed out that the Salesians in Haiti have been the concern of the whole Salesian world throughout 2010, it has been a time of worldwide solidarity, with visits from the Rector Major, and the gift of new missionaries. Fr Klement insisted *This entire project needs the primacy of God, the nourishment of his word and a real appreciation of our Salesian vocations.*

The response to the earthquake in Haiti has highlighted the impressive work of the various Salesian non-governmental organisations. Those working in the front line are fully aware of the need to be careful in administering the funds received and to maintain the trust and responsibility required in such situations. That said, some works have not yet found agencies to help them rebuild, whereas others are beginning to see the results of generosity from all parts of the globe.

Salesian centres are starting up their work again. In **Port-au-Prince**, at ENAM¹, lessons are taking place in prefabricated buildings made available by the National Ministry for Education and Professional Formation. In spite of the precarious situation, the Salesians are able to provide breakfast, (a cup of milk and bread) for about 9000 middle school pupils. A new kitchen should

be installed soon to provide food for the children from the schools in **Cité Soleil** and **La Saline**, the poorest districts in the area.

In the street children reception centre, at **Lakay**, over 300 children are still being cared for on a daily basis, by various international organisations such as Misereor and Austrian Caritas. In **Cité Soleil** and **Fleuriot-Tabarre**, lessons have started up again in tents while they wait to be able to use the prefabricated structures offered by VIS² and Jugendhilfe Lateinamerika³. In **Thorland**: providing accommodation for 12,000 refugees continues. Here the Salesians are engaged in providing material and psychological help for the displaced people as they wait to be relocated. Work with youth groups, which has never been interrupted, continues with cultural, recreational and spiritual activities.

In **Gressier**, as well as providing hospitality, the Salesian students to the priesthood continue their studies under canvas. The non-governmental organisation JDW⁴ has promised to cover the financial costs of the rebuilding of the study centre and a part of the elementary school. In **Pétion-ville**, all activities have started up again. The boundary walls have been rebuilt thanks to the funds provided by VIS⁵. Projects for the Provincial House, for the Centre for Higher Studies and the Postnovitiate are going well; approval for the projects from the National Department for studies in the area is awaited.

At **Cap-Haitien**: part of the teachers' salaries and the school meals are being covered by help from Salesian Missions. The JUHILA organisation⁶ has approved the plans for the refurbishment of the school facilities at **Gonaives**. At **Fort-Liberté**, activities have started again, thanks also to the help from a Sister from Spain engaged in assisting and training the students in the school of nursing. As far as the agricultural activities there are concerned, the Jugend Ein Welt⁷ are looking after them. In general one can see that a lot is happening. The Community of the Mission of Don Bosco (CMB), the 28th group in the Salesian Family, is committed to offering its own support, and three volunteers are working in Haiti and others will be taking their places in the months ahead.

In June, four technical specialists in artificial limbs and orthopaedics from the Don Bosco University in Soyapango, San Salvador, left for **Port-au-Prince**, to help

¹ Ecole Nationale des Arts et Métiers.

² Volontariato Internazionale per lo Sviluppo

³ A German charity for Latin America.

⁴ Jugend Dritte Welt

⁵ Volontariato Internazionale per lo Sviluppo (International Volunteer Service for Development).

⁶ JUHILA is a part of the well organized Don Bosco Jugendhilfe program, dedicated to Latin America.

⁷ A Don Bosco charity based in Austria.

the whole Salesian world is now refounding our work in Haiti.

with the rehabilitation of people who have had amputations following their injuries in the January earthquake. This is the second humanitarian mission from the University. In the first, led by professional technicians, there were about 200 artificial limbs fitted and more than 100 sessions of orthopaedic training given. The team will stay in Haiti until December. At present there are about 10,000 people in need of help, and of these 4,000 have had an amputation. The volunteers will be involved in assessing the condition of the patients and planning and fitting the artificial limbs and providing the orthopaedic support.

In the Antilles Province, on the 17th September, the Development Office launched a campaign, *Solidarity for Haiti*, with the aim of collecting school equipment and other material for the Salesian Schools in Haiti, in preparation for the new school year. The campaign was launched at the Don Bosco Institute in Santo Domingo and is part of the continuing programme of support and solidarity which the Salesian Family in the Antilles has been undertaking on behalf of the neighbouring country following the earthquake in January. With the motto *The future of Haiti is in education, bring your grain of sand* the campaign was aimed at helping the children and young people in Haiti with the things they need to start the new school year and at the same time to promote a spirit of solidarity among the pupils in the Salesian schools in the Antilles Province. Businesses and other institutions were invited to join the project. Fr Julio Soto, Vice Provincial of the Antilles Province, spoke to the hundreds of students who attended the launching ceremony. He said, *Salesian young people this is your challenge, your fellow students of Haiti are waiting for your help*. The campaign continued until the end of October, the organisers were hoping to collect enough material for the 12,500 pupils in the Salesian schools in Haiti.

Last March, when Fr Ducange Sylvian, Superior of the Vice Province of Haiti, was giving his report to the superiors in Rome of the progress made, he began by saying, *In 32 seconds the history of Haiti was changed. From the very beginning the effects of the earthquake became evident: large numbers of the dead, many youngsters made orphans, most of the houses destroyed, a lack of food and drinking water, total despair and anguish in not finding immediate help. There were also many injured in body and spirit. The earthquake destroyed the whole of Port-au-Prince, but it did not destroy our hopes. What we are going through in Haiti is like the passion of Christ which will certainly be completed in the resurrection. As Salesians we are getting ready to celebrate the 75th anniversary of our presence in the country; this is the time for a refoundation.*



Bridges of Solidarity, Tolerance and Respect

The work of the Salesians in Pakistan for the people displaced by the floods has continued over the past few months. The Quetta community completed the first stage of support in the emergency and is now preparing to organise the return of the families to their own homes. »

From Lahore, in fact, the close collaboration between Salesians and the army has made it possible to help a considerable number of needy people and to establish encouraging relationships among the various religious communities.

In the Don Bosco centre at Quetta, the site of a vast reception camp for the many families (refugees from the regions of Sindh and the Punjab we continue to direct the support for the refugees. Our initial aim of reaching 1500 families has been achieved. Now we have to move to the second phase: helping them to return to their lands and recover their homes and *fields*.

The work of collecting and distributing primary necessities has been organised by two young Salesians from Pakistan, who are working to facilitate the aid programme in an atmosphere which remains quite tense. Everything has been organised by our two splendid young Pakistani Salesians, the students Noble Lal and Eric Malik. I am working in the background, guiding, motivating, asking as spokesman, and helping to resolve the stress.

In the places where the Salesians in Lahore are operating the help given is on a larger scale and the atmosphere of collaboration established with the army and the local people is encouraging. Perhaps it will bear fruit in future relationships among the religious communities. Fr Miguel Angel Ruíz, Rector of Lahore, has established a fruitful collaboration with the military forces in the area. In a few days, thanks to international donations and the support of the army, it was possible to distribute survival kits to the many families, helping over 30,000 people.

A Pakistani general said, in gratitude, to Fr Ruíz. *What you are doing today for Pakistan is making a great contribution,*

that can never be forgotten. Fr Ruíz was well rewarded, We have seen so many lovely smiles, which have repaid us for a very busy week. Thirty of our young people have become heroes for the Christian community: They have received lots of praise from the Muslim authorities; but the most important thing is that they have built bridges of solidarity, tolerance and respect among the different faiths: Hindu, Muslim and Christian.

In order to achieve all this, of fundamental importance has been the support of the NGO and the Mission Offices who are active throughout the world. Among the numerous donations which have arrived in recent days for the Salesians in Pakistan, has been a contribution of 10,000 dollars sent by the Japanese Province.

Ramadan concluded with the celebration of the feast of Eid ul-Fitr. For many families in Pakistan the feast was kept this year in an atmosphere full of uncertainty about the future. Eid ul-Fitr is an important celebration in the Islamic world; it is a celebration of sacrifice and the breaking of the great fast of Ramadan. In these days it is the family which comes together with all its members for the celebration. For many it is an occasion to return home, but this year in Pakistan that is difficult: the trains are not running because the lines are still buried in mud, the streets are scarcely passable and not everyone can afford to travel by air.

In Quetta, for the families displaced by the floods, there is great sadness on account of the villages they have had to leave, the people who have died, and uncertainty about the future. Nevertheless, in the reception centres and all around, the celebrations are going ahead with what little they have. Many of the displaced families we are helping are Muslims. Many of them have invited us to join them for the feast of Eid ul-Fitr. In Quetta it is being celebrated with the full moon tomorrow; today just the offices and shops are closed. At this time with the tensions about religious minorities we have reluctantly declined the invitation, so as not to cause problems with the extreme traditionalists. The words of the Pastor Terry Jones in the United States have been heard also in Quetta where there are threats to burn the flags of the Vatican and of the United States as a reprisal. Yesterday in Quetta, a week after the previous attack near the market, a suicide bomber set off an explosion which killed five people. This was the violent response to the Government measures taken by the Police against some minorities agitating for the independence of certain parts of the country. The Salesian solidarity network continues to do its best to respond to the emergency in Pakistan.



Being quite high and not having suffered any flood damage, this area of Quetta has become a refuge for many families fleeing from Sindh and from Punjab, 300 or 400 km away. They have come by trucks to spend two or three months here in safety. Here the Government can do much more than in other areas which are still flooded. Using military vehicles, the Government has been able to organise things. In other areas especially in the north still under water there are places which are cut off because roads and bridges have been destroyed. Very many villages have not yet been reached; the number of the dead could reach twenty to thirty thousand.

In addition to the flooding there is also the violence carried out by Al Qaeda. We have never before seen so many terrible attacks against the Shiites. Al Qaeda have said they are responsible. They have shown no interest in helping the flood victims and now they are taking the opportunity to blame the local authorities. This is happening everywhere: it happened a week ago in

Lahore, with three explosions, it has happened in Quetta and it will happen in other cities.”

We are providing food: flour and oil for them to make chapati – their bread, and sugar. We also bring water with our tanker. The Salesians are well organised: all the Mission Offices are doing their part in the solidarity campaign and everything they collect is sent to us in Quetta and to Fr Miguel in Lahore, who has been responding to the flooding in the Sindh province. So the two communities have been very busy in all this work. The ordinary Muslims people have been very open to us Christians. In fact, when we go there they always shout, *Viva Don Bosco*.

The Salesian Mission Offices in Turin, New Rochelle, Bonn, Madrid have been campaigning to raise funds. Thanks to the coordination by Don Bosco Network, the NGO and the Salesian Mission Offices are planning the work of reconstruction.

Fr Peter Zago SDB

Responsive listening to God

I'm Scottish, 46 years old; and a newly professed Salesian Brother. I suppose I should describe myself as a mature vocation. However, I hope that the message of my journey is that vocation – the responsive listening to God – is a lifelong calling.

When I was 18 years old, I went to study with a missionary order, to test out my possible vocation to the missionary priesthood. It was on the whole a wonderful experience which included much happiness and friendship. However, after four years, it was clear to me that I was not being called to be an overseas missionary. Unfortunately, I also mistakenly concluded that I was not called to be a priest. The order was kind enough to continue to sponsor me at the university so that I could finish my studies. Dad suggested that I study to be a teacher of Religious Education; he had read that there was a shortage of RE teachers. I decided to give it a go. I soon discovered that I enjoyed it, found it very rewarding and was quite good at it. For the following 20 years, I taught in Catholic High Schools. I was Head of Religious Education for 17 years in the same school in Dundee, in the north east of Scotland. It was a typical inner-city school, with the usual challenges that entails; but with a very extraordinary, and dedicated staff. Its values and care of young people reflected very much what I have come to understand as the Salesian spirit. For all those years, I felt that my vocation was to teach and to work with young people. The joy of supporting many hundreds of children to grow into mature, responsible young people always outweighed the challenges. I was quite contented with my life; but I always felt that there was something missing.

Through a long period of prayer and reflection, I felt that God was calling me back to the ordained ministry but

within a religious community. One evening, I found the Salesian website, and things began to fall into place.

One summer, I worked on a Salesian youth project. It gave me the opportunity to see and meet many Salesians involved in different work around England. I found them all friendly and approachable. Sometimes in life you have to take a risk. So, I gave up my job and headed for Chertsey, outside London, where I had some wonderful months working as a chaplain to the Sixth Form in the Salesian school there. Then, it was off to northern Italy for a year's novitiate at Monte Oliveto in Pinerolo, near Turin.

The year finished with a work placement for two weeks in Sicily. We worked in a large district of Catania, called Librino. There were two million people, almost totally controlled by the mafia. In the middle of this, there were three Salesian Sisters bringing hope to the thousands of young people there. We helped in a day camp for youngsters, played football against the local boys, and generally tried to share some optimism and hope with the young people we met. I am not sure what impact we made on them but they definitely made a deep impact on us.

Finally on the 8th September this year, in the Basilica at Colle Don Bosco, the birthplace of John Bosco, I made my first profession with 23 others from Croatia, Slovenia, Ukraine, Germany, Belgium and Italy. My brothers and I wore kilts which caused a real stir. Well, when you're Scottish and in a foreign land you do that kind of thing!

I am in now working as the Chaplain in the large Salesian school here. I am enjoying being back in Britain and back in the hustle and bustle of school life.

By Kevin O'Donnell



» I am in now working as the Chaplain in the large Salesian school here. I am enjoying being back in Britain and back in the hustle and bustle of school life.

The Bear Facts



Hello Children,

My Dad, Frank, used to say that thunder was God tipping some bricks out of a wheelbarrow! I believed him.

Sometimes things happen which humans can't do anything about like hurricanes, tornadoes, earthquakes, tsunamis or volcanoes. Molly is clever and tried to explain to us about volcanic ash; Graham Greyhound asked her if she had to stop flying while the clouds passed by!

Frank Ferret told us he once lived on a hill opposite a builders' yard. One morning, during a thunderstorm, he looked across the road, and saw the water level rising inside the yard. Eventually the water pushed the walls over: bricks, stones and wood went hurtling down the road.

Do you like thunderstorms? Some people hide under a table: others open the doors and watch and marvel at nature. I was on a golf course once and saw a bolt of lightning hit the ground about 50 metres away. If I'd been stood there I'd have been toast!

RIO'S WORLD CUP REVIEW

Do you remember our World Cup predictions?

Bosco thought England and Italy would get to the final so he comes last.

Suzi plumped for an Ivory Coast v Argentina final and for England to reach the Quarter-Finals. Not bad.

Molly picked Holland for the final; so well done Molly.

Only one of us selected Spain to win and that was.... **ME!!**

Does Lionel Messi spill food on his shirt while he's eating? Is David Villa related to Aston Villa?

From the technical area,

Rio Rabbit



Bosco Bear



HURRICANA

CATS AND DOGS

3pm.

The sky was turning black.

Looks like a thunderstorm, frowned Frank Ferret, closing the classroom window.

Large raindrops landed on Suzi Squirrel's head, outside her tree-top house.

Oh no: better get the washing in; quick!

The BBC Weather lady said that Hurricane Henry is heading towards Britain, and flooding is expected in some places.

Cate Cat and Graham Greyhound were running home together.

Golly, I'm soaked. It's raining cats and dogs, spluttered Cate.

It's raining ON cats and dogs, observed Graham!

RAIN STOPS PLAY

3.30pm.

Bosco, Rio, Rustam Rat and lots of others had just started a cricket match after school as the storm arrived.

I'm sorry boys but rain stops play, decided Mr. Owl, the Umpire.

So.....they set off home taking a short-cut over Beavers' Bridge, across the River Snake.

This is a monsoon, said Bosco, as they watched the water start to pour over the top of the river.

I feel like a drowned rat, grumbled Rustam.

You soon will be a drowned rat, if we don't hurry up! chorused the others.

Rustam ran off home.



NE HENRY

BRIDGE OVER TROUBLED WATERS

4pm.

The lightning flashed: the thunder rolled. Suzi was petrified as the water was now half-way up her tree. Suddenly Molly Magpie appeared.

Hang on Suzi, comforted her friend, climb on my back and I'll take you to safety. Suzi clung on for dear life and they flew to Bosco's cave half way up Hunger Hill. From there they looked down into the valley just in time to see Beavers' Bridge get swept away by the raging river which was now crashing through everything in front of it. Then...to their horror... they saw Bosco and Rio in the water, as the bridge collapsed.



A ROLLER-COASTER RIDE!

4-30pm.

Flabbergasting floods, choked Bosco.

Quick, , Grab hold! yelled Rio.

A large tree trunk was floating towards them. They grabbed hold of it and set off on a roller-coaster ride, crashing through the torrent and out towards the coast....ten minutes later they rushed past the beach and, at last, slowed down as the river flowed into the sea.

It's a miracle, said Bosco. I thought we'd had it there, Rio.

Me too, agreed his pal. That was terrifying.

The next day. LBW - Leg before wicket

Rio was batting: Bosco was fielding.

Howzat, appealed Rustam!

Out; lbw, decided Mr. Owl.

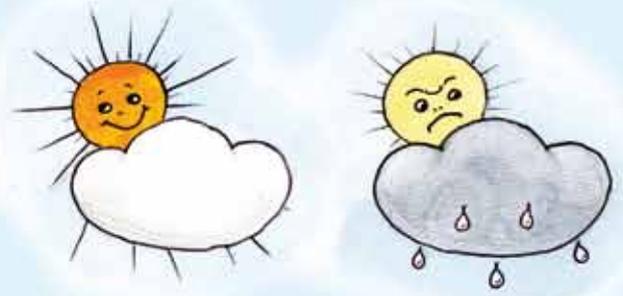
What a difference a day makes thought Molly as she sat in the sun, by the pavilion, sipping a glass of orange.

Suzi was hanging her washing back up and, about teatime, the tide returned a huge log to the shore.



UPS AND DOWNS

Life is full of ups and downs. Sometimes you're happy, sometimes you're sad. Sometimes you win, sometimes you lose. Sometimes the Sun shines, sometimes it pours down. It's normal to feel nervous before (for example) a test or a sports' match, or performing in a show. Grown-ups get just as nervous as children. Afterwards all the nerves have gone and you feel OK again.



Results of the Summer 2010 competition

Many thanks to all those who sent an entry on the subject of *Animal Rights*.

The winners were **Charlotte** and **Mashiha** both from Wednesbury.

CHARLOTTE: When God created the world he made animals for us to appreciate, not to kill them all. They have as much desire to live as we do. Think about it! We live a fantastic free life. Don't we want animals to have the same?

Eating meat is a way of life for many people. I'm not expecting everyone to be a vegetarian. I'm hoping people will bring the number of animals being killed down to a minimum.

Honestly I think it's okay but I also think there's a part of me saying it's not right.

MASHIHA: Kindness is an important thing in life. If you are kind, then you will receive kindness. Kindness comes in many ways e.g. Helping people, caring for others etc.

There was once a boy called Jack. He loved exploring. One day a letter came through the door for a missing cat. Jack started searching for the cat everywhere. Suddenly he just looked up towards the roof and to his amazement he saw the cat sitting there. Immediately he went home and told his parents, they called the fire brigade to get the cat back to its owners. When they got the cat back to its owners, the owners gave something to Jack, for a thank-you. Always help the people around you and you will get something in return.

Autumn Competition: STORM CLOUDS

In no more than 150 words tell us about the worst weather you have ever experienced? Were you at home or were you travelling? Were you frightened or was it exciting?

We will publish the best entries in the next magazine. Please send in your 150 words with your name, age and address. Closing date Dec 14th.

Name _____ Age _____

Address _____

Please send your name, age, and address to
Don Bosco Publications: Thornleigh House, Sharples Park, Bolton BL1 6PQ

Family means a lot to me



I often reflect on the meaning of **family** in my life. My first experience of family was in Northern Ireland. I was born the fifth of my mother's eight children. I started work at the age of 16. My wages were important in the family at that time because my father was out of work. I used to hand over my wage packet to my mother each week and ask her for any money I needed. I prayed the rosary every evening before a picture of Saint Theresa of the Child Jesus. I kept feeling the Lord was calling me, but not, as Saint Theresa, to the life of a Carmelite. I said, Lord, *give me a clear sign of the road I should take, preferably working with young people. Help me!*

It was the 25th March 1961, the feast of the Annunciation. I was out shopping with my mother, she decided to drop in to see a friend of hers. This friend was a Salesian Sister, Sr Catherine McCotter, who happened to be staying with her brother in Belfast. With Sr Catherine was another Sister, Sr Alice Moore who was the superior of a Salesian House in Brosna, Ireland. Out of the blue, Sister Alice asked me if I had ever thought of becoming a religious Sister. I replied that I had been thinking about it quite a lot. She began telling me about Saint Mary Mazzarello, about the Salesian Sisters and about the Salesian Family. Then she looked directly at me and said, *Today is the feast of Our Lady and this morning, at Holy Communion, I prayed that the Lord would not let me go today without finding a vocation, and you are that vocation.* When I had recovered from the shock of this very direct approach I felt this was the sign I was looking for. On the way home I told my mother that I wanted to join the Salesian Sisters. She said, *Why not wait a year?* I said I had made up my mind. So she said, *If that's what you want I am happy, you had better speak to your father first.* When I told him he just said, *If that is what you really want, I will put no obstacle in the way.*

The following August I joined a community of the Salesian Sisters. An unfortunate consequence of my decision was that my family were financially worse off; my father who was an engineer had been out of work for three years, and now my wages were not coming into the family. Soon after I left home my father was called for an interview for a job (on my birthday to be exact). Despite the fact that there were five other well-qualified men interviewed for the job, my father was appointed. It seemed that the Lord was rewarding my family for their generosity.

Having left one loving family I found another. I have learned to appreciate the importance of **family** as a place where I find and share happiness with others. It has been my privilege to witness the way the Salesian Family works with young people in so many parts of the world. I have seen

the smile of belonging on the faces of children in India, the Philippines, Japan, Mexico, Canada, the USA, Poland, Spain, Italy, Switzerland, Israel, Mozambique, Angola and S. Africa, not forgetting those in Ireland, Scotland and here in England: so many children who were welcomed into our Salesian Family and given the education which enabled them to build loving families of their own.

As my vocation evolved, these women have played a special role in my life: Mary Jackson, my own Mother; Mary, God's Mother and Mary Mazzarello.

Sister Valerie Jackson FMA

Heart Speaks Unto Heart



» Reflections upon the visit of Pope Benedict XVI

At 6am on Saturday 18th September, twenty students and five staff from Salesian College Farnborough, gathered at the train station ready to travel to London for the visit of Pope Benedict XVI. »

The group were chosen to represent HCPT¹ following many years of service in Lourdes. Below are a collection of personal reflections from the students who had the opportunity to experience such a historic day. Between each reflection is a quotation from Pope Benedict XVI.

I ask each of you, first and foremost, to look into your own heart. Think of all the love that your heart was made to receive, and all the love it is meant to give. After all, we were made for love.

When walking to Hyde Park, all you can see are the heads and shoulders of people walking down the street, all singing, laughing, smiling and dancing as far as the eye can see. No space is wasted, you realise that this sea of countless people all believe in God, and have travelled miles just to see the Pope. It really makes you feel privileged

to be a part of that. The atmosphere is electric, vibrant and full of energy. It is impossible not to feel caught up in this sense of belonging, of unity and bringing people of all ages and backgrounds together. Each of them is a person, unique and all seeing and believing in God.

Every day we should thank God for the love we have already known, for the love that has made us who we are, the love that has shown us what is truly important in life. We need to thank the Lord for the love we have received from our families, our friends, our teachers, and all those people in our lives who have helped us to realise how precious we are, in their eyes and in the eyes of God.

On the day of the papal visit I was anxious; I was not sure what the atmosphere and the general feeling of the people who had gathered to see Pope Benedict would be. The day got off to a really good start with pilgrims from other dioceses singing songs; myself and my friend Luke began talking to people from Hexham and Newcastle diocese, we got a picture with them. I also got Anne Widdecombe's autograph!

¹ Handicapped Children's Pilgrimage Trust

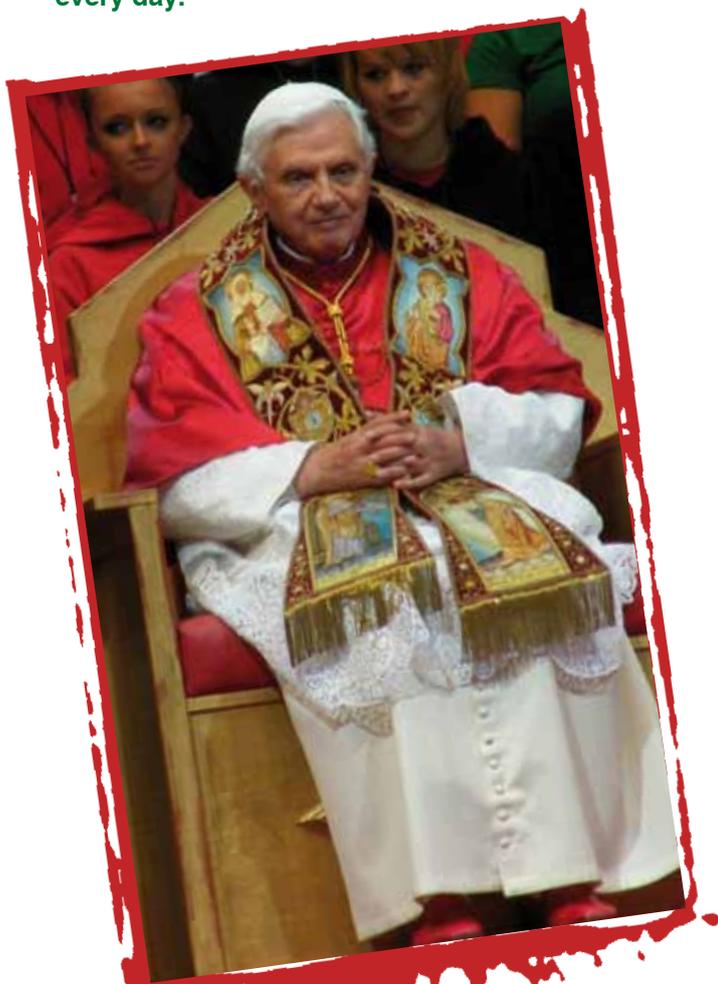


We followed the Westminster Cathedral Mass outside on the big screens outside on the piazza and received communion so we really felt part of the celebration. After Mass, the Pope came out of the Cathedral to greet the young people, the noise levels hit a new high and everyone got a glimpse of the Pope.

Later on at the Vigil, after walking down from the Cathedral to Hyde Park, everyone was buzzing with excitement. We waited there for a few hours to see him again; we were entertained by many acts on stage. People from different dioceses carried their banners as they walked across the stage and were greeted by many bishops from all over the country.

The tension again was rising, everyone wanted to see the Pope as he does not visit England often and it is a once in a life time opportunity. We were the lucky few that were able to get unbelievably close to the Holy Father. The Vigil took place at the end of the day, and I can honestly say it was a really memorable day and one that I will not forget for a long time.

Deep within your heart, he is calling you to spend time with him in prayer. But this kind of prayer, real prayer, requires discipline; it requires making time for moments of silence every day.



My most memorable highlight of the day has to be when Pope Benedict came out to the Cathedral Piazza and spoke to all the young people squeezed into the small space. The problem with this was the fact that everyone was standing up, which didn't help a relatively short person like me. I could not see the Pope, but it didn't matter as that wasn't the important bit, the message he was trying to convey was the most important thing. The most impressive thing that I heard was the almighty cheer from the 2,000 young people in the Piazza when the Holy Father walked out of the doors to greet us; it was a brilliant moment on a brilliant day.

The Vigil at Hyde Park was just as good, this time I actually managed to see the Pope as he drove by. The crowd was very good and even cheered when he spoke about the youth in his homily. The cheering made him smile. It was good to see human emotion on figurehead of Christianity. The Vigil passed quickly and before I knew it, it was time to catch the train and contemplate on the way home just how good the day had been and how lucky I was to play my part in such an important day for Christianity in Britain.

In discovering our true self, we discover the particular vocation which God has given us for the building up of his Church and the redemption of our world.

There is a joy in our Catholic faith and we ought to share that joy, in the words of Cardinal Newman, **to shine as to be a light to others.**

My second reflection was the central message of the papal visit and the motto of Cardinal Newman: **Heart Speaks unto Heart.** For me, the meaning behind this is simple: God's heart will speak to ours and we will have a relationship with him. This may sound strange, but it is the whole point of faith; to forget what is in our minds and having the courage to trust in God. It is a difficult thing to do because to talk to God in prayer is one thing, but for him to respond is quite another. Yet both Benedict XVI and Blessed John Henry Newman call us to it, as indeed does God himself. Let God speak to you. Trust in him.

Heart speaks unto heart. With these words from my heart, dear young friends, I assure you of my prayers for you, that your lives will bear abundant fruit for the growth of the civilisation of life. I ask you also to pray for me, for my ministry as the Successor of Peter, and for the needs of the Church throughout the world. Upon you, your families and your friends, I cordially invoke God's blessings of wisdom, joy and peace.

Blessed Alberto Marvelli, Engineer and Aid

Alberto Marvelli was born at Ferrari, Italy on 21st March 1918, the second of seven brothers. Albert's mother was left a widow with her last-born baby only a few months old, but she brought up her seven boys in a house that was always open to the poor. She taught her children to avoid wasting things so that they could give them to those who were in need. >>

From an early age, Albert learnt this lesson, he was always very generous. Albert was like a second father to his brothers. He attended the Salesian Oratory in Rimini. He was always available; he became a catechist and youth leader - the Salesians' right-hand man. He was particularly good at sport.

His Diary

His diary, which he began to write when he was 15 years old, tells the story of a soul, a young man living in prayer. During this time he was a very active member of the Association of St Vincent of Paul. The example of St Vincent spurred him on to a more and more acts of kindness. He took to heart the words of St Vincent, *We must love our fellow creatures with the sweat of our brow and the work of our hands...and before teaching the poor person how to save their souls we must enable them to live in such a way as to allow them to be aware of having a soul.*

Catholic Action

Albert discovered in the Catholic Action Movement a new home, where his generosity found great scope. In his diary he writes, *What a great deal of work is needed in this world which is so far from Christ; we must do we all we can to make Christ known and loved.* He threw himself into his university studies to realize the aim of *fulfilling my duty to give more and more glory to Our Lord.*

The Second World War

The year 1939 marked the tragic beginning of World War II. Eight months after war began, he complained, *Eight months of war have elapsed, so many lives are being sacrificed, so many young men are shedding their blood.*

In a sort of prophetic intuition, he added: *National and International rights must be founded on a Christian basis. The Gospel and the Pontifical Encyclicals must be the guidance not only for individuals, but for nations, for governments, for the world. The only and deep cause of war is our scarce love of God and our neighbour. Love is so lacking in the world and, because of that, we hate each other like enemies, instead of loving each other like brothers and sisters. Albert prayed, Jesus, protect Italy, preserve it from utter ruin, and grant peace with justice for all peoples, soon; so that war may disappear in the world for ever.*

During the bombing - working for the homeless

In 1943 English and American planes began the bombardment of Italy. It was a period of extreme misery, starvation, plundering, and revenge. The town of Rimini was almost entirely razed to the ground and most of its inhabitants were forced to flee. Albert felt their suffering. After every bombardment he was the first to hurry on his bicycle to the bombed ruins. In the smoking bomb-sites he worked hard to aid the wounded, to encourage the survivors, to assist the dying. Once, after a particularly heavy bombardment, he saw a tabernacle containing the Blessed Sacrament lying in the middle of the ruins of a church. At great risk to himself, he crawled through the ruins and took the tabernacle to another church.

Aiding the Poor

His sister Gede, who was thirteen at that time, said: *During the German occupation he used to go regularly by bike to and fro between Vergiano and Rimini (about five miles) to help those who had lost their belongings in the bombing. During the day he was so busy looking after people that he was home late every night. But when he got home, there were always men and women waiting for him outside our house; yet, I never remember him being annoyed by the demands they made on him. He often*



urged our mother to give away all that was in our house for those he knew were worse off than us. Mattresses, bed covers, pots and pans were freely offered to the poor: he gave everything away. He also gave away all he could find in the presbytery, after asking for the bishop's consent. He gave away his own shoes, coats and woollen bed cover. There was no limit to his giving, because he couldn't help aiding the suffering and the poor. Once our mother saw him come home wearing a pair of old and battered wooden clogs.

After the war

He was given the responsibility to manage large sums of money to be shared among those whose homes had been destroyed. His mother would often say, *When he comes home, he can never get his meal in peace, there was always a queue at the door.* She usually let them in. When there was no queue at his office or at his house he went looking for them.

He became an enthusiastic member of the A.C.L.I. (Catholic Association of Italian Workers), and used their premises to organise free meals for the poor of the town. He used the office of the same association to search for missing persons and to hasten the return home of war prisoners. After the war many of the workers were being indoctrinated with the social doctrines of Karl Marx by the communists. Alberto used to go to factory gates to discuss Christian social teaching with the workers, to show out how false and harmful Marx's ideas were. Once he was quite badly beaten up by those who opposed his views.



Pope John Paul II, speaking about him, stated: >>

Alberto died when he was hit by an army truck on 5th October 1946. When he died his political opponents wrote: The communists of Bellariva bow in reverence and hail the son, the brother who has done so much good in our land.

<< He was beatified on 5 September 2004, at Loreto, Italy, by Pope John Paul II.

He showed how, in changing times, Christians are able to devote themselves unreservedly to the construction of God's kingdom in family, at work, and in politics, taking the Gospel to the heart of society.

Hooked on Success - Making a difference, by doing

Sadly schools are so often judged only on their examination results; excellent public exam results are taken as the mark of an excellent school. Such judgements are rash and ill-informed; for a good school achieves excellent results in many other ways. One way of evaluating a school is to examine how it deals with the pupils whose needs are not met by the curriculum offered to the majority of the pupils. >>

>> *Doing something different can make a difference to the well being and personal outlook for a young person*
Maria Crosby Teacher in charge of The Bosco Centre



Thornleigh Salesian College, Bolton, like most others, offers a wide range of curriculum and examination courses. However, the school has recently developed a specific programme aimed at certain year eight pupils. This programme has been run from Thornleigh's Bosco Centre which offers support to young people in terms of their learning, behaviour and emotional conduct and is at the centre of Thornleigh's inclusion strategy.

Ten pupils in year eight were identified who, in the judgement of the school, would benefit from intensive intervention over a 12 week period. The criteria used for selection was based on identification of students within the following cohorts,

- Students who had demonstrated significant difficulties throughout year eight, (in most cases their difficulties have been apparent for much longer than this) and whose behaviour had not improved despite being on report and taking part in various forms of intervention.
- Students who had no significant learning difficulties, but were underachieving in a number of subjects across the curriculum.
- Students who needed close mentoring to support them and help motivate them with their behaviour.

Pupils would spend Monday afternoons in the Intervention Centre completing work around goal-setting and learning how to attain their own personal targets by using *willpower and waypower*¹. This work was supported and advised by a professional who works within the field of positive psychology. The key starting point is to highlight the pupil's strengths, making a difference to how the pupils see themselves. They were made aware of their strengths rather than their weaknesses; helping them to use these strengths to make a difference to the way they were going to achieve their goals.

The pupils on a Friday afternoon were given a unique opportunity to learn how to fish at a local fishery with a company called *Hooked on Fishing*. The other motivational activities included making a DVD about a subject of their choice which related to school issues and also learning how to make and prepare food for a buffet so that they could then invite their parents in to sample it.

These motivational activities on a Friday afternoon had been linked with the pupil's attitude and behaviour in school. Those who have stayed on task, responded and were really able to put their learning as a focus for the week, were invited to go fishing on a Friday. The pupils responded so positively to this activity that they were the first to comment on how it had calmed them down. They

began to look forward to doing something different on a Friday. One of the parents remarked that the reward on a Friday encouraged good behaviour throughout the week.

The Friday fishing also proved to have a direct link to pupil's attitudes and motivation. To see some pupils sit still and concentrate for such long periods of time was very encouraging, especially when at times they had demonstrated so much anger and frustration within a school environment.

The Friday fishing also allowed learning-mentors to engage with the young people, interacting with them in a totally different environment. This engagement proved invaluable for the well being of the young people. Dialogue is one of the most powerful ways of changing behaviour and the ability to engage young people in meaningful conversation is a powerful tool in making a difference to their attitude towards themselves, towards school and towards others. An active engagement with a young person can help them to set and achieve goals in terms of their personal development by making the right choices about how they behave in school.

Fishing has been one of the most positive motivational activities that the pupils have been engaged in. They have also made a 15 minute DVD about how the fishing has had a powerful effect on their attitude, behaviour and motivation.

While the powerful tool of conversation around a lodge, in an environment away from school, has had a great impact on the young people's attitude towards school, it is only the start. Change does not take place overnight. The fact that the young people recognise their strengths, set themselves goals and are then given help by the learning mentors to achieve these goals is what a Salesian school is all about and this work will be built on.

The Aim Higher Programme at Thornleigh has recently been evaluated by parents of the 10 pupils responding to a questionnaire about the programme. All 10 parents have responded that they have been happy with the programme and activities. Only 2 of the 10 young people in year 8 had fished before and now some of them are looking at spending some of their free time trying to access fishing.

The culmination of this programme ended in the pupils preparing a buffet and serving it to their parents/guardians and the senior management team. The fact that nine of the ten families arrived says a lot about the programme and the impact it has had on the school, the young people and their families.

¹ **Waypower** is the ability to find paths to reach your goals, or the ability to create an action plan to accomplish your goals. If you think about it, in order to accomplish a goal you need to have both **willpower** and **waypower**. It's not enough just to have the wish for something; you need the plan and the means, too. On the other hand, all the skills to solve a problem won't help if you don't have the will to do it.



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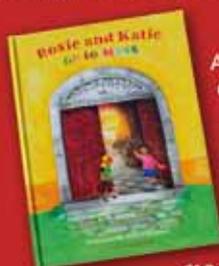


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