

Report on Cape Town Book Distribution Capability November 2011

1.0 Purpose of the Trip

The purpose of the visit to Cape Town was to review the status of the book project in Cape Town and assess the future potential of the new capabilities being put in place. The review included viewing the Newlands Rotary Club book distribution at the Leap School and the distribution of the containers to projects in the Cape Town area. We also viewed the facilities, which have been put in place by the Humanitarian Distribution Centre Cape Town Trust. The potential distribution capabilities will determine to a great extent what volume of books we can handle. Consequently, our financial and management planning for 2012 may be driven by what Cape Town can handle. While we are expanding in Swaziland, Ghana, Namibia, and Pakistan, we are contracting in India due to corruption and beginning to effect Johannesburg distribution with our direct shipments to other Rotary distribution operations in eastern South Africa and Swaziland.

2.0 Hosting

We were treated very well by the Newlands Rotarians and stayed with PDG Mike Saxby of the Signal Hill Rotary Club. Mike Walwyn, Newlands, drove us around to the various sites and reviewed their distribution operations for containers. Mike is the retired General Manager of King and Sons, the clearing agent for all of our shipments to South Africa on Gulf Africa Lines (most of our shipments) drove us around to the various project sites. The time together with Mike Walwyn allowed us to discuss how they are doing their clearing and distribution. Cape Town has not had any of the clearing problems that Johannesburg has had. We had dinner one evening at Mike Walwyn's home with Mike Young, club project director and the club president plus the spouses of all. We thank the Mike's three for the generous hospitality they showed us while in Cape Town.

3.0 Newlands Club

The Newlands Rotary Club continues to be the primary focus for project. They have the distribution site at the Leap School open every Thursday. They have continued their commitment to the distribution of books and containers. It was clear to me that as we move forward it will be important to continue significant involvement of selected members of Cape Town Rotary. The Newlands members see the HDCC as the means for them to exit the project they started without terminating its effect on the communities. We see this as a healthy sign of a growing project.

4.0 Humanitarian Distribution Centre Capetown (HDCC)

The HDCC is close to being ready to receive shipments. They need to raise funds for initial operations but most of the donors of in-kind service are in place. Nicky Karim and Danny Perkins have done a great job of putting the trust and assets together and getting the trust recognized by the government. Both Mike Walwyn and PDG Mike Saxby (whose background is distribution) are strong supporters of the HDCC concept and efforts. The components of the HDCC distribution system are the Pearson Publishing warehouse (storage facility). Distribution at the Leap School, Department of Education District Library, Elsiesriver School, plus one other site which we did not visit.

5.0 Leap School Distribution



The distribution facility is made up of two containers (painted white in the photo) and the container being emptied (the Hyundai container).

The Leap School facility is manned by a lady from the Congo who appears to have been a well educated lady before coming to South Africa. She is employed by Leap School part time and by Newlands Rotary part time. She and a volunteer who is a retired teacher sort the books, place them on shelves in the two containers which act as their distribution faculty, and assist school staff when they come to pickup books.



The day we were there had three schools show up to collect books. They carefully went through the racks of books and selected only the books they planned to use.

6.0 Container Distribution



Early in the establishment of the project in Cape Town, the then sitting governor in Johannesburg alleged that Newlands was



selling the containers. This rumor proceeds to this day. While visiting with a

Rotarian from another club he told me that they have purchased the container. We reviewed the procedure Newlands was using and found no problem with what they were doing. The recipient of a container assumes the financial responsibility for clearing the container and transporting it. Invoicing for the cost of bringing it in constitutes the “buying” of the container. The Newlands Club has devised a plaque for each of the containers recognizing the Second Wind Foundation and other donors for each container.

We visited sites with completed container installation and sites where the conversion was in process. The Photo in the upper left below is a container donated to the Rotary Club of Durbanville for a library. Conversion is in the planning stages. The upper right photo is an example of how two containers can be joined together for extra room. The lower left is the inside of a container which is partially converted. The lower right photo shows the container location with the Port of Cape Town in the background.

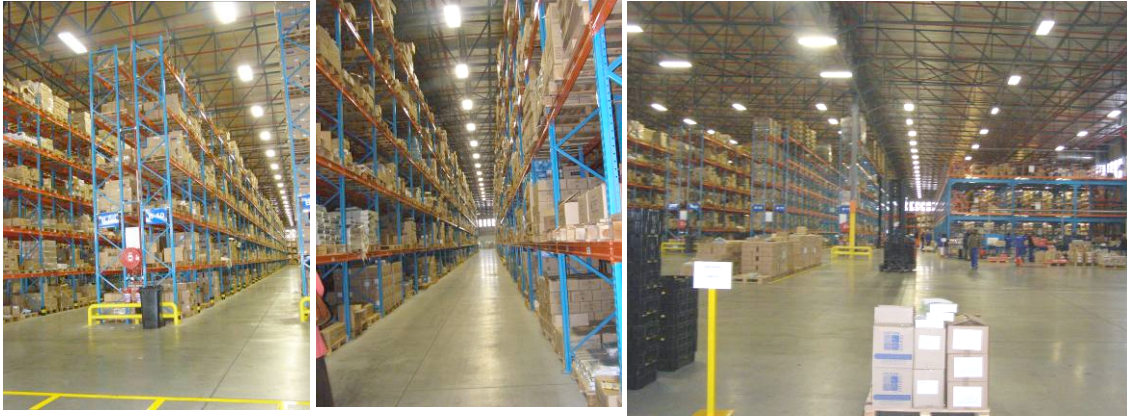


7.0 Pearson Warehouse



We visited the Pearson warehouse with Nicky and PDG Mike Saxby. The photo shows from left to right PDG Mike, Nicky, Barb, and the warehouse manager. It was a truly amazing place. It is longer than a football field and as wide. It is well lighted. Approximately 2/3rds of it is racked for single pallets with two pallets in a cell and six double

stacked cells high. Pearson has agreed to host at no charge up to 100 pallets plus the unloading and handling of the pallets from the containers on arrival. As we know from our McLean and Exel experiences, this is a very important addition to the HDCC capabilities. Below are some photos of the Pearson facility.



8.0 District Library

The actual sorting and distribution will happen at place like the District Library at the old teachers training facility. This facility is currently used for school district offices, the library, a training facility, and a special achievers sports school. The second floor of the library is not used. It contains racking and shelving for displaying the books. The proposal is to use it as a training facility for librarians and new library workers on how to operate and maintain a library successfully. Note the equipment in the photos below.



9.0 Elsiesriver School

At Elsiesriver School we met with the school principal, Randal Christians, and another gentleman to discuss use of the school grounds as a distribution location and contact with the various schools and communities in the Western Cape Province. The Principal had already obtained per mission from the Department of Education – Western Cape to use the school grounds for building a distribution

facility and storing containers. The school grounds are fenced and patrolled by school security. More importantly, there was a passion for providing libraries for their communities so that youth and adults alike could discover a world beyond their world. The old political system encouraged many classes of citizens to sit down and be “cared for” by the government. This killed self-initiative which is now ingrained in the social structure of the population. It is believed that through the discoveries provided by community libraries some of the innate self-initiative will be rekindled.



Above is a photo of the proposed distribution and storage area. To the left is the Elsiesriver School Distribution management team. Note the diversity of the team. This diversity is appropriate to this rainbow nation and essential to reaching all communities.

10.0 Summary

We were excited by what we saw, heard, and reviewed. Records are being kept at Leap School of the book distribution. It is clear that the books come from Rotary. The handling of the containers is appropriate for the gifting and appropriate plaques are being provided. The HDCC plans are developing nicely. Budgeting their first year’s operating cost still need further development and sharing among the trustees but to date they are positioned to surpass Johannesburg in their first year.

As usual, communications appears to be their greatest challenge. Rotary Clubs who provide the funds to sponsor a shipment through the port call it “buying” the container. A club follows up on distribution yields info that the books are not being used. Follow up investigation yields the fact that the club loaded a pickup with boxes of books then took them to a school and dumped them instead of bringing the school to the Leap School and have them select the books they could use.