

On many occasions, the crowds listened to the voice of the little Archbishop Desmond Tutu, with his big smile and his wonderful words. Even when he was told it was far too dangerous for him to be present on these occasions, he was there. Sometimes, the crowds of black people would be very angry after someone had been murdered and he would hurry to the place and speak to them and calm them. I tell you his name because he is an old man now and fighting cancer and, maybe, one day in the near future, you will see on the news, that he has died. I want you to know his name – Desmond Tutu - because, if they show his life on television, it will be very interesting for you to watch.

Slowly, the mind of the racist, white minority government was changed and, in the end, it agreed to set free Nelson Mandela from prison and to allow the first free elections in South Africa. The world went wild with joy. Everyone was watching their televisions and laughing and crying. Nelson Mandela came out of 27 years in prison, walking tall and proud, not talking of revenge but of peace, of South Africa as a rainbow nation, not a nation with 3 separate colours but with many colours of people. There was a free election. The news programmes of the world showed the view from aeroplanes of the lines of black people standing for hours and hours in the sun to go to vote in the polling stations in their millions. Of course, the Party they voted for was the African National Congress. It came to power with a huge majority. Nelson Mandela became its Prime Minister and the peaceful revolution had happened - that no one had dared to hope for. Tomorrow is his 85<sup>th</sup> birthday and I am sure there will be something on television about it.

Life is not easy in South Africa. During the apartheid years, many children missed their education. Crime and other problems are very serious. But South Africa is free and has a majority government. Most of the whites have stayed to help build the nation and the long work of reconciliation and forgiveness is beginning to happen. But this was because of the leadership

shown – with great courage and persistence and hope. Many of the best and most educated people worked very hard among the ordinary and uneducated people to help them to have the right attitudes. People were not afraid to be leaders of opinion. It is not easy to speak of peace when people demand war – to talk of forgiveness when very hurt people demand revenge. But the world needs such people to be leaders and to speak out what is right and true, even when it is very hard. I hope that one day, you will be such people for Bangladesh. God bless you.



### **MORE ABOUT LEADERSHIP** *Assembly 100 – July 21<sup>st</sup> 2003*

Yesterday I was talking about Nelson Mandela. Did any of you see anything on television yesterday about his 85<sup>th</sup> birthday? South Africa was not the only country to make a big fuss of this remarkable man who led his people to freedom from a white racist government. We have been thinking about leaders – good and bad – Mandela and Hitler.

Some of you may be watching 'Great Britons' on a Saturday night. There is a competition on BBC for who was the greatest British person who has ever lived and we can all vote. Last Saturday it was Queen Elizabeth 1st of England. Did any of you see it? Before her, England had had one Queen that was very weak and one Queen (Elizabeth's sister) who caused lots of trouble. No one thought, when Queen Elizabeth 1st came to the throne in the 1500s, that she would be one of the greatest leaders ever known. I mean, she was a woman! But she led England from weakness to strength and the Elizabethan age (as her reign was called) was also the time when the English language was at its very best and we had wonderful poets and playwrights, not least,

William Shakespeare. She used language wonderfully and could walk into Parliament when the members of Parliament had been cheeky and really make them tremble with the power of her words. She was very, very intelligent, had been very well-educated, could speak many languages, talked with great scholars as an equal, and, when she was an old woman she was still in control! She refused to marry but pretended to be interested in all sorts of kings and princes from many European countries, so that they would not attack her England. She did not prepare anyone to be king or queen when she died and the next two kings had a difficult time.

Because this can be a problem with SOME great leaders – too often, when they die, or lose power, a country, or an organization can collapse. There is a kind of leadership that never trusts anyone else with power – that keeps everyone else down and never gives them a chance of taking responsibility. My grandfather, who founded the family business, kept control of things until he was a very old man and my father and brothers had to wait until he died before many necessary changes were made. Leaders should train the next generation of leaders.

One of the parts of the world that is in chaos at the moment is the Republic of the Congo in Africa. It is a huge area and used to be a colony of Belgium. But Belgium did not create an educated class who could be future leaders and they have suffered ever since. I heard that, when the Congo became an independent country, there was only one native doctor in the whole country. But Ghana, also in Africa, was quite different. It was a British colony and, in the 1950s, I was at school with an African girl from Ghana whose father and her grandfather were both doctors. However bad or good the British were as colonizers, we did not leave any country without some people experienced in leadership, even if we had put them in prison for a time! We are all now worrying about Iraq. The Iraqis want to rule themselves but, for the last 30 years, Saddam Hussein has only given his own

political party any experience of political leadership. There are many different groups which all want power but have had no experience of it. Some Iraqis who have been living overseas have had experience of responsibility but, some say, they are not true Iraqis! So there are big problems.

A good leader will know when to take control, in moments of crisis, but will try and share responsibility as much as possible, in order to train the next generation of leaders. In business and politics, as well as in the home, the leadership style for the Millenium has to be different. I want us to think now of the next text I have put up next to the office downstairs. We have had 'None of us are as smart as all of us' for some time but there is now a small, framed quotation from Camus, who I think was French, "Don't walk in front of me, I may not follow. Don't walk behind me, I may not lead. Walk beside me and just be my friend." Now that is something for us to think about next time ....God bless you.



## EXIT VISAS AND MOTORS

*Assembly 101 – Tuesday July 22<sup>nd</sup> 2003*

Mrs Naeema tells me that there is an epidemic of pupils leaving early in the Junior School. Your parents ask for leave permission – what I call 'exit visas' - in the office and the office staff find it is hard to say no and then we find that you have gone off to Fantasy Kingdom or just to see a friend! Some of you do not seem to realize how kind this school is, compared to many schools. In some schools, they keep the parents waiting in the road and don't allow them inside the school and no parents DARE ask for special privileges because the school is very fierce! When you walk out of your classes early, it disturbs others. Moreover, *your* education