



# Start a HANDS Team WE NEED YOUR HANDS



To help build and repair classrooms at Christ-centred schools in the developing world.



To demonstrate the love of Christ to students, through radical, HANDS-on service.



To learn about opportunities to serve on a HANDS team, contact Karla-Maria, HANDS Coordinator: kponce@edudeo.com.

## HANDS: BLESSED AND A BLESSING

Rita Fluit, past HANDS team member, shares how HANDS impacted her – and impacted the community she served.

### What made you want to join or lead a HANDS team?

EduDeo is an organization supported by our churches and I was familiar with their vision and mission statements. When opportunity arose, I felt called by God to go on a trip with other people I knew. It was through that trip that I really saw the impact that Christian education was having on the lives of the students, parents and communities of Nicaragua. The whole experience did not leave us unchanged either!



### Why should others join or lead a HANDS team?

No matter how raving the reviews are of those that have gone on trips; I never feel it does them justice. Everyone should experience an EduDeo trip.

There is nothing more exhilarating than worshipping with Christians of another culture; seeing their joy and gratitude as you help them / work with them in achieving their goals of a Christ-centered education for their people.

My favourite experience was meeting

with the principals and hearing / seeing their heartfelt stories of commitment, prayer, determination and praise. They love their communities and want to bring transformation and thus improvement for their fellow man.

### What was the most challenging part of the trip?

The most challenging part was the inability to speak Spanish – however in an amazingly short period of time we were able to communicate in other means with the local workers who we worked alongside.

### What have you learned about missions since completing a HANDS trip?

When participating in missions that utilize volunteers and local labor – both sides win. Both sides grow in understanding of each other, which eliminates the ‘us’ and ‘them’ phenomenon. Local men receive employment, which provides for their families.

We all learn to understand the other culture, persons, different ways of doing things, and experience the joy of working on a job together that benefits the whole community. It is a team approach and we learn and grow from each other.

### If you could say in a few sentences what a HANDS trip is all about, what would you say?

A HANDS trip is about going with God and trusting that He will work in and through you in your experience. You and the recipients will be blessed!



## WRITING PROJECT CONNECTS STUDENTS IN CANADA AND THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

In January 2017, Canadian Grade 5 teacher, Audrey McGregor, began an inspiring project – “Write to Hope” – spanning 3,000 kms, connecting her students at Trinity Christian School in Burlington, ON with a class at La Esperanza Christian School in the Dominican Republic. In August, “The Blessing Garden” rolled off the press – marking the completion of a story written by students from two different schools, in two different countries.

In January 2018, Audrey led a leadership workshop in the DR, and took the time to visit her collaborator, Maria, at La Esperanza. She shares her experience in the following article from our blog:

“It started with the idea of how we, students at Trinity Christian School (TCS), could bless our sister school in the Dominican Republic in a meaningful way. How could we collaborate with our brothers and sisters in Christ through a rich learning experience? What I didn’t know is how I would be so incredibly blessed by the learning experience.

Today, I met the teacher and some of the students who collaborated with students and teachers at TCS on the Write to Hope book project. It was such a privilege to meet La Esperanza teacher Maria Carmen and some of the students that participated in the book project. Maria and I shared our stories of the process we experienced with our respective classes.

I was amazed by the similarities in the way the students in the DR and TCS responded to the project. Wrestling with the story plot, anticipating how the story would progress, and excitement over the final finished product was a common denominator between students 3,000 kms apart and from completely different cultures.

**We may not have the same resources, culture or spoken language as our friends across the globe, but we can share the understanding that good learning is transformative no matter where we live.”**

Interested in participating in Write to Hope? Contact Phil Beck pbeck@edudeo.com. Space in this program is limited. Reserve your spot before it disappears!

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**GO**  
April 1 - June 30

# SPRING IS COMING.

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# GET INSPIRED

## THE GLOBAL MOVEMENT of Gospel + Education

I just returned from the Africa RoundTable Conference hosted by the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI) Africa. Representatives from over 20 African countries gathered together – and I was honoured to be a part of it. We met to discuss how partnership can advance Christ-centred education across the continent. Three of our partners – from Ghana, Rwanda and Ethiopia – were also attending. And that says something to me...

**EduDeo Ministries is part of something much bigger than ourselves.**

To build on this thought, I recently read a quote from an Indian missionary: “Christian mission is about triggering movements and not about mere successful projects.”

That is what I saw at the Africa RoundTable. EduDeo doesn’t exist in isolation. We’re part of a global movement of Christ-centred education. We’re responding to a desire around the world – in North America, Central America and Africa – to see children’s hearts

shaped by the Gospel. Children are being taught to care for creation, to be active participants in bringing God’s kingdom (through love and justice) to the earth. I see EduDeo’s role in this movement as equipping national and indigenous educators on how to be effective Christian school teachers - how to have Christ at the centre of everything. More and more organizations are coming to us recognizing this as their greatest need and our greatest strength!

**“Children are being taught to care for creation, to be active participants in [...] God’s kingdom...”**

You are also an irreplaceable part of this global, Gospel movement. You’ve been building classrooms, investing in teachers and leaders, providing financial aid to vulnerable students – and I’m thrilled to see it continue.

Thank you for all you’ve done and continue to do. There’s a movement happening. I’m excited to be part of it with you.

*Hank*

## DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

### A Different Kind of Discipline

This January, teachers in the Dominican Republic received a second training on Restorative Practices – a tool that equips teachers to handle difficult situations in a healthy way.

Lisbet, principal at Renacer, shares one story of impact: “We were forced to hire a new [Math] teacher,” Lisbet said. “The students were resisting the change. They started a war with the new teacher.” To address the problem, they made a circle with teacher and students.

“We shared the situation with the students and how the teacher felt. Each student had a turn to express what they liked about the new teacher and then they shared what they didn’t like.” Given an opportunity to have their thoughts heard and hear from their teacher, they had a new perspective on the situation, and asked the teacher for forgiveness.

“At the end of the semester, there was a huge change in their attitude,” Lisbet shared. “Their grades in Math went up, the culture of the class was so healthy. The transformation has spread to the whole high school.”

### HANDS TEAMS

#### Providence Reformed Collegiate (ON)

- Belen Christian School
- Peña de Horeb CS
- Promise Keepers (CAN)**
- Jerico Christian School
- Burlington (ON)**
- Peña de Horeb CS

## BELIZE

### Biblical Curriculum - Part Two

For a second year, EduDeo guided national educational leaders through the practical steps of creating Christ-centred lesson plans.

### HANDS TEAMS

- Promise Keepers (CAN)**
- Redeemer Presbyterian School
- Smithville CRC (ON)**
- Presbyterian Day School

*“The teams that come through EduDeo have been a blessing to my life.*

*I see their effort and dedication to serve God and improve our school by making it a better environment for us... I am thankful that they come from a faraway country and to help schools in need.”*

- Carim Ramirez, Gr. 6, New Life Christian School



## ZAMBIA

### Emusa School

Construction at Emusa is nearly finished! The roof, plaster walls, as well as flooring and painting in the four classrooms has been completed. All work will be complete soon.



### Vilulu School

Construction at Vilulu is progressing well. Walls have been rebuilt, the roof and floors are done, doors and window frames have been fixed. Painting has also been completed. All that’s left is fixing the window panes – something that will happen during the dry season.

*“I am appreciating this support and I ask the almighty God to bless you 10 times. I did not know that I can reach Grade 12, but now I am in Grade 12, which is a very good thing for me. I had no where to run to because my parents had nothing for my school fees, but now God has answered my prayer. Thank you very much.”*

- Edward Mtonga, Gr. 12, Hoya Day Secondary School

### HANDS TEAMS

- Hope 5 Team (AB)**
- Ikwere Primary School

# THE GLOBAL MOVEMENT OF GOSPEL + EDUCATION

## NICARAGUA

### Leading Change with a Growth Mindset

EduDeo provided coaching to ACECEN leadership on how to create effective schools – schools that are accountable, healthy and growing.



### Kenneth Hanna Christian School

Kenneth Hanna celebrated the completion of three new classrooms. Since 2014, the school has grown from 150 to 346 students.

These classrooms – as well as the school library (built in 2014), computers, and quality teacher training – have raised the profile of the school in the community.

### HANDS TEAMS

- DeMotte (USA) & Woodynook (AB)**
- Charles Wesley School
- Abbotsford Christian High School (BC)**
- School2School with Centro de Fe Vida Nueva
- Gateway Christian School (AB)**
- School2School with Bautista Libertad
- Team Newfoundland (Promise Keepers) (NL)**
- El Buen Pastor
- Immanuel CRC (ON)**
- Kenneth Hanna Christian School

## HAITI

### Ambassador Training

This is the second year of training / mentorship for 20 ‘Ambassadors’ in Haiti, focusing on restorative principles and collaboration in learning. These Ambassadors will mentor 125 teachers across Haiti.



## GUATEMALA

### Vision for Christ-Centred Education

EduDeo worked with leaders in education to craft a vision for Christ-centred education in their country, including how to involve parents and innovative teaching techniques (such as project-based learning).

## SOUTH AFRICA

### Africa Round Table

EduDeo, along with representatives from 20+ African countries, explored how to advance Christ-centred education.

## RWANDA

### Leading Transformative Learning and Teaching

Representatives from EduDeo and Abundant Leadership Institute led educational leaders in how a Biblical worldview can transform education, curriculum and ways of teaching and learning.



## GHANA

### Shaping Heads, Hearts and Hands

An EduDeo-led workshop explored with key educational leaders from International Needs Ghana how curriculum (unit and lesson writing) can be used to reveal God’s Story and our role within it.

## ETHIOPIA

### Living and Leading the Biblical Story

25 educational leaders imagined how a Christian school can lead with the Biblical story.