

# GET INSPIRED



## FINDING A PLACE IN GOD'S BIG STORY



## HOW DO WALKING TOGETHER WORKSHOPS LEAD TO TRANSFORMED TEACHING?

**How do Walking Together workshops lead to transformed teaching? The following is Wezi Nyirenda's reflection on a powerful lesson she learned from a Walking Together workshop in Zambia.**

We had spent most of the morning learning about Act One of the Big Story. God created a beautiful world. He loved it and had made a covenant with it. Everything He had created was perfect, but it did not stay that way. In Act Two, the Fall, sin changed all things that were created good.

At that point, our leader surprised us. Each of us were given a piece of pottery to admire. I thought, 'Was this now mine? Would I be allowed to keep it?' No, the pottery was collected again and put in a bag.

Then, the other leader picked up a big stick and began to hit that bag really hard, over and over again.

We were shocked! Why was he destroying our beautiful pottery? We became very quiet. Some of us even felt tears running down our cheeks. We all felt as if we were at a funeral. After some minutes, all the broken pottery pieces were dumped into a bucket. What was once beautiful had been destroyed!

***"I learned I have a part to play in Act Four of God's plan. I can be a co-worker with God to make a broken world beautiful again. This was a lesson I will never forget!"***

Someone quietly asked, "Why did you allow this to happen? It makes me very sad!"

She replied, "Maybe it will help us understand what God must have felt when sin broke His perfect creation.

But the story does not end here.

God still loved what He had created

and began to plan a way to rescue it. We will learn more about that in Act Three and Four – Redemption and Restoration – of the Big Story..."

I too was able to rescue some of those broken pieces to make something beautiful out of them again. Using the broken pieces of pottery, we were able to make new art that – while not perfect – reflected some of the original beauty of the creation.

I learned I have a part to play in Act Four of God's plan. I can be a co-worker with God to make a broken world beautiful again. This was a lesson I will never forget! ALL THINGS are created by Him, loved by Him and redeemed through Him. I will now teach that to my pupils in every subject!



*Go to [edudeo.com/walking-together](http://edudeo.com/walking-together) to learn more about our Walking Together Program.*



# Next Steps for Walking Together



Leaders in Christian Education, Elco Vandergrift and Diane Stronks, are officially taking charge of EduDeo's Walking Together program. Armed with a passion

for mentorship and teacher development, this pair is ready to transform teaching for children around the world.

We spoke with Diane and Elco at the recent Christian Schools Canada conference about what the future holds for EduDeo's Walking Together program.

**EduDeo:** Diane – Elco – thank you for speaking with us! First off, what excites you about EduDeo Ministries and your role as Walking Together Co-Leaders?

**DS:** I'm excited about the opportunity EduDeo provides for all kinds of different people to be involved in Christ-centred education. The opportunity for Learning Leaders to bring their expertise to a community that has self-identified what it is they need. EduDeo can connect partners to people who want to volunteer, giving them the opportunity to learn together. As a result, transformation happens for everyone!

**EV:** I'm excited about EduDeo Ministries' vision of empowering partners. I am also inspired by the hunger for Christ-centred education I've witnessed, especially in Zambia.

**EduDeo:** You've both served as Walking Together Learning Leaders. What are some highlights?

**EV:** I've been amazed at the hunger for Christ-centred education in Zambia – wanting to learn more about what it is and how we do

it authentically. Watching the community begin to trust this time of being together, and getting them to feel safe enough to evaluate how the training can work for them in their context. Sharing, feeling safe to say “this doesn't work for us”, learning to appreciate how they process.

**EduDeo:** What can we in Canada learn from our partners' schools?

**DS:** The work that is done globally strengthens the work in Canada. Canada has a long history of Christian education, but just like in a family where the children often don't appreciate what the parents and family has done until they go away from home, so we can take for granted what we have in Christ-centred education.

**EV:** The hunger for Christ-centred education globally is something that in some way we're losing an appreciation for in North America. It's a beautiful thing to see how inspired teachers in our partners' countries are by the power of Christ-centred education to impact children's lives. This can be a powerful gift to North America.

**EduDeo:** What role do you think EduDeo can play in a global movement of Christ-centred education?

**DS:** EduDeo is uniquely placed. There already is an understanding that the organization is very careful with whom they partner and how. They are not going to do things for people, instead they are very deliberate about doing things with people. That creates space to flourish.

**EV:** EduDeo has an opportunity to help global partners understand Christ-centred education in a deeper way. It's Christ-centred education that is so much deeper than simply a view on eternity. Everything we have is our Lord's, and EduDeo has a role to play in communicating that message and understanding.

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# HANDS-on Impact: Unity Presbyterian School



**Unity Presbyterian School in Belize has developed with the hard work and generosity of EduDeo HANDS teams. Maria Patt, a teacher at Unity for the past three years, has witnessed the impact the school, and EduDeo supporters, have had on the community:**

“[Unity] is in a low line area where many people are living in poverty. Refugees coming from Central America live in this area in precarious homes and lacking basic needs of life. In the midst of this context, Unity has sovereignly been founded by God in this area as a light in the darkness.

I have seen how the Gospel is impacting the lives of many who through God’s word are coming to the knowledge of the Good News of salvation. The Gospel has been transforming students’ lives little by little because, as the years go by, they speak, behave and think differently.

I can attest to the great part EduDeo Ministries has played in supporting so many of the good things happening at Unity School!”

*Interested in joining a HANDS Team or starting your own? Contact Karla-Maria Ponce, HANDS Coordinator, at [kponce@edudeo.com](mailto:kponce@edudeo.com) or 1.866.360.4274.*

**EduDeo:** Can you share a practical example of Walking Together causing community transformation?

**EV:** I can give an example from Zambia. I saw one school where a leader began to employ a restorative practice in response to “something that had gone wrong”. He realized Christ desires

# From one Parent to Another:



Dear Friends,

My name is Pedro Che. I am the father of four children who attend Presbyterian Day School (PDS) in Cristo Rey, Belize.

I decided to send my children to PDS for several reasons...this is where I did my primary education, the quality of education is great, English is taught at all levels, the dedication of all the teachers to educate my children, but above all, the Christian education that is given there.

I admire the way discipline is done in a Christian manner. The unity among parents and teachers is wonderful. My children always talk about the love the teachers have for their students. I struggle to keep four of them in PDS because of the tuition, but I believe it’s really worth the effort.

**Your support is an important part of providing Pedro’s children with a quality, Christ-centred education. Thank you!**

Invest in teaching that  
**TRANSFORMS**

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restoration, so he began to find ways to help God’s children practice restoration as well – beautiful!

**As an organization, we are grateful to Bob Koole and the role he has played as EduDeo’s Walking Together Director for the past number of years. We look forward to seeing how this work continues to grow and be a blessing under the leadership of Elco and Diane.**

# Give the Gift of Christ as an EduDeo Sponsor

## FREE Getty CD when you sign up!

Do you want to help children around the world learn about Jesus Christ? Do you want to share the gift of education? This Christmas, become an EduDeo sponsor and give children a Christ-centred education.

Become a sponsor for \$34/month and, for a limited time, you'll receive Keith and Kristyn Getty's most recent album "Facing a Task Unfinished".

Sign up online at [edudeo.com/sponsorship!](http://edudeo.com/sponsorship!)



## Host a World-Changing, Unforgettable New Year's Party

EduDeo is thrilled to partner with Parteza, an exciting new platform that lets you host world-changing parties that advance Christ-centred



education. Use Parteza's party planning tools to host an unforgettable New Year's party with friends and family – or go one step further and host a Murder Mystery Dinner.

AND, as a special incentive, host a party for EduDeo and receive a free t-shirt!

Plan your party at [www.parteza.com!](http://www.parteza.com!)

## Keith & Kristyn Getty Coming Easter 2017!

Wondering why there's no Getty concert this Christmas? Because we're hosting the Getty's next Easter on April 27, as they tour their new album 'Facing the Task Unfinished'.

Stay tuned for more information!



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