

GOD'S TIMING: BACK FROM THE DR



"I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do everything through him who gives me strength." (Phil 4:12,13)

When Paul wrote about accepting the gifts from the Philippian church (Phil 4:10-20), he said they were 'pleasing to God'. I fully trust that as a school led to support EduDeo, our gifts have been pleasing to God as well, and He has blessed us with an abundant bounty for our Campaign. We have surpassed our original goals, but as we have referenced all along, God has a plan and it is bigger than we could ever have imagined. He will provide the resources for that plan.



God has blessed us with an amazing surplus for our campaign and at the same time, He has allowed us to bless EduDeo and COCREF with over \$275,000 through the Campaign Gift of Education. These funds are being used for building and infrastructure projects, leadership training, legacy projects and bursaries for vulnerable children. At HCS, the building specifications will be finalized once we know the total funds raised when the Campaign wraps up next month. The schools in the Dominican Republic do not know their final plans either, but they are already seeing some changes. Both the HCS and the DR projects, while different in numbers and project scope, have something in common. They are both gifts from God, and they are both for the benefit of enhancing Christ-centred education.



My family and I recently visited the DR and one of the most impactful moments of our trip was a visit to a partially renovated school. The project started approximately two and a half years ago but stalled a short time later simply due to lack of funding. The school we visited is badly in need of more space and other upgrades. As I listened to Mario Matos, Executive Director of COCREF, talk about the stalled project, I began to realize this was almost the exact same time the HCS Campaign Cabinet began to have preliminary discussions about partnering with a globally focused education based organization!! I fully believe that our project here is part of the solution for that particular school and so many other areas where EduDeo is active. Through God's ultimate plan and our partnership with EduDeo, things are moving forward in our community and in their community as well. What started as an idea has blossomed into reality and the funds that have already been sent to EduDeo are having an immediate impact. As we enter the final stages of planning for the new life that God is giving to our facility, new life has also been given to this particular project in the Dominican, and more new life will be coming in the future.



I believe we are all very thankful for the gifts that God has given us, and I can share firsthand how thankful COCREF and the schools in their organization are for the partnership between EduDeo and the HCS Community. You cannot imagine the impact the Gift of Education is already having and will continue to have on the future of infrastructure, leadership, legacy planning and scholarships for vulnerable children in the Dominican Republic. To God be the glory for ever and ever.

Paul Vandendool
Board Chair

UPDATE FROM THE BUILDING COMMITTEE

"Right now, what you see isn't what you get. There's a lot going on, but it's mostly behind the scenes work, not the physical changes that everyone likes to see," says Dan Vanderlaan, Chair of the Building Committee. The committee meets with the architect on a monthly basis, reviewing the latest developments. It was a true blessing when Hugh Burgsma signed on as the project manager and now some of the tedious bits; building permits, site plans, meetings with engineers, contacting contractors, are getting finalized. Architect Henry Swinkels continues to make minor changes to the building plan as he gets new input from staff and the Building Committee.

"Once the capital campaign wraps up at the end of January, we can make the final adjustments according to the amount raised, but we do not foresee any major changes" noted Vanderlaan. In response to questions raised about a larger facility meaning more maintenance costs, the committee is confident that with new, more efficient heating, cooling and lighting systems, the costs will not be significantly different than what they are right now. There are those who wonder about the aesthetics of trying to blend the old with the new. Swinkels noted that the exterior will have a completely new look and it will be hard to tell one from the other. As far as the start-up date goes, Vanderlaan is confident that July 1st is still the goal. "That's when the really exciting changes will happen, when people will really see their dollars at work, and God's plan for HCS takes physical shape".

PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER AND LIFT EACH OTHER UP

At the outset of the *Same Foundation Next Generation* Campaign, HCS committed to build a strong partnership with EduDeo and COCREF (Colegios Cristianos Reformados).

It has been so inspiring to learn more about the work of COCREF in the Dominican Republic. This organization has oversight of a group of 15 Christian school probably quite similar in the way the OACS helps oversee Ontario Christian Schools. Developing a relationship with this organization and its Executive Director Mario Matos has been exciting and we are being invited to join together in prayer to lift up specific items for prayer and praise! Items that demonstrate the similarities between our schools and as we strive to continually improve the way we deliver Christ-centred education.

1. On August 19, COCREF amalgamated with two other organizations. This amalgamation will enhance their ability to impact children living in "batey" communities – through education and leadership development for various ministry leaders. They give thanks for this unification and seek prayer of wisdom for the new board.
2. COCREF continues the process of empowering local ownership / leadership of its schools. To date 7 of 14 COCREF schools have recruited their board members. This also involves the delicate process of transferring teacher contracts from COCREF to the local school board. Please pray for this continued process.
3. We seek prayer for the Lord's direction as we continue conversations with the Ministry of Education to access public funding for our schools.

Please join us as we for pray over these matters and as we give thanks to God!



COME AND CELEBRATE WITH US!

We are delighted to announce that the activities of the *Same Foundation Next Generation* Capital Campaign are wrapping up. The final visits in the community are almost complete! Come to the Annual Pancake Supper on Friday, February 2! We will make periodic announcements throughout the evening and give a final update about total funds raised through the Campaign! Please join us, we'd love to see you there. Let's celebrate together!

We give our heartfelt thanks to those who are sharing their time and talents.

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