



the calling

a worldwide christian schools® publication **Winter 2013**



Reflecting on 25 Years

Throughout the past year, Worldwide Christian Schools® (WWCS) has taken advantage of numerous opportunities to reflect upon our 25-year history as an organization. There are a few key parts of this reflection that I want to share with you.

Past and present, the purpose of Worldwide Christian Schools® has been to support mission schools that are open to all regardless of culture, income, religion, or ethnicity. When WWCS was founded, the organization was a gateway for people interested in supporting such schools in the developing world.

Twenty-five years ago most of these schools were started and led by missionaries, and WWCS would rely on the recommendations of these missionaries to determine what projects to present to potential donors for funding.

This approach was instrumental in the development of many schools in 44 countries around the globe.

The world has changed dramatically since Worldwide Christian Schools®



was founded. For instance, the ability of people to communicate regardless of location or resources has improved significantly. Another change is that the creation of most Christ-centered mission schools in the developing world is now sparked by indigenous or local people rather than missionaries. These changes have enormous potential to greatly expand the reach and impact of Christ-centered mission schools throughout the world.

In this issue of *The Calling*, you will be introduced to a new organizational approach that will better utilize these improvements in global connectedness. Looking forward, Worldwide Christian Schools® will continue to inspire and equip Christ-centered mission schools for the ultimate goal of bringing salvation and hope to every corner of this broken world. With you, we can make a real difference in the lives of thousands of children this year.

May 2013 bring you and those close to you an increased awareness of God's love. •

Scott Vander Kooy
President, WWCS-US



The Network

25th ministry year marks new opportunity for schools to connect and inspire one another

By Emily Klooster

Over the last quarter century, Worldwide Christian Schools® has honed its approach toward reaching the vision of faith-based, educational equality.

Now in its 25th year, WWCS continues to pursue this goal

by facilitating a new global network of schools with the purpose of telling each other's stories, sharing ideas, and notifying members of teacher



Dominican Republic

Photo: Lynell Shooks

training opportunities worldwide.

Schools that choose to become part of the new WWCS Network will eventually have a chance to become certified through an accountability process working toward true sustainability. WWCS Certified schools will be motivated by the guiding principles of Christ-centeredness, global connectedness, investment in teachers, a holistic educational approach, and the pursuit of environmental stewardship within their operational structure.

Consistent with the WWCS vision of equal access, the WWCS Network is not meant to be an exclusive opportunity. Any Christ-centered school may join through a simple sign-up option on wwcs.org. From there, schools will begin to receive a monthly Network eNewsletter and will be included on the WWCS e-mail list to receive an e-version of *The Calling*. •

Learn more about the WWCS Network by contacting Emily Klooster at eklooster@wwcs.org.

Sindhu's Story

By Sara Webster and Sindhu Vimal



Sindhu Vimal

Sindhu Vimal is one of the WWCS Student Hope™ program's sponsored sixth graders at Zamar Academy in India. In a recent letter to her sponsor, Sindhu wrote:

"Before joining this school I didn't know about Jesus, but when I entered into Zamar, my life became beautiful and joyful. Every Wednesday we have scripture class. Through this class I learned about Jesus, how he loves the people. Now I pray to Jesus Christ because God gave me a new life.... He gave me an opportunity to talk to an aunty near my house about Jesus and she is going to Church and prays to Jesus now. I am praying to Jesus too about fighting in my family and I am sure that there will one day be an answer to my prayers. Jesus is the one who died for me."

You can make a big difference in the life of a child like Sindhu. One hundred sixty children in the Student Hope™ program still need sponsors. Sponsor a student at wwcs.org/sustain.

Scan this QR code to visit wwcs.org/sustain.



School Thrives in the "Wild West" of Honduras

By Steve Geurink

Deep in the interior of Honduras is a land some call the Wild West of that nation. It is cattle and cowboy country, and it includes a community with little opportunity for children to succeed, even less for the orphans and those of little means.

The Luz y Verdad ("Light and Truth") School provides an opportunity for children from a community outside the main city streets. It is here that WWCS helped to build its first partner school in Honduras, a 220-foot, single-story building with iconic adobe clay tiles on the roof.

Years later, when it came time to replace the aging roof tiles, the faith community behind this school had big dreams. WWCS helped with matching funds for locally-raised donations by three supporting churches. School leaders completely removed the old tiles, selling the salvageable ones to help cover school expenses, including wages for teachers, which the school had always struggled to provide. Three Worldwide HANDS teams



Luz y Verdad School

joined local workers to completely rebuild the roof and the aging structure. Teachers pitched in to the overall effort by selling homemade popsicles to help with other school operational costs.

The end result was a building that brought pride to the community, providing a bright new learning environment for the children and a new hope for the future of the school. WWCS encourages community-supported school projects like Luz y Verdad! •

Learn more about Worldwide HANDS teams at wwcs.org/build, or scan the QR code at right.



These kids want to learn.



Student: Syem Anbu
School: Zamar Academy in Chennai, India
Birthdate: 8/7/05
Grade: 1st
Favorite Subject: English
Goal: To become a policeman



Student: Juan Jesus Yan
School: Jerico School in the Dominican Republic
Birthdate: 11/2/07
Grade: Kindergarten
Favorite Subject: Art
Goal: To become a baseball player



Student: Ramona Nova
School: Jerico School in the Dominican Republic
Birthdate: 12/7/02
Grade: 3rd
Favorite Subject: Science
Goal: To become a teacher

Syem, Juan and Ramona are waiting for sponsors. Sponsor a student at wwcs.org/sustain.

To Inspire and Equip WWCS Board of Directors Meets, Affirms Ministry Path

For two days in December, the Board of Directors for Worldwide Christian Schools® (WWCS) met to make important decisions regarding the mission of the organization. The Board affirmed that WWCS will increasingly be used to inspire and equip Christ-centered mission schools to do more themselves as they strive to educate, while also eliminating student disadvantages connected with family culture, health, religion, ethnicity, income, and educational justice.

As a result, building community around a shared communication platform for the purpose of raising important standards is the primary mission of the Worldwide Christian Schools® organization, while the WWCS vision, or goal, of ensuring access to Christ-centered schools for all children remains the same. WWCS launched the web-based WWCS Network earlier in 2012 to facilitate this mission.

The Board also discussed the transition of WWCS division Comprenew® into receiving its own 501(c)3 tax-exempt status, which will enable it to form a more effective bridge to the non-Christian community and grow at a faster rate. The December meeting marked a welcome and orientation for the new Comprenew® Board of Directors. The two organizations will continue to foster a close and supportive relationship.

The meeting was led by WWCS Board Chair Gordon Anderson of Wheaton, IL. Also present were Charles Manual of Singapore, Carol Johnson of Caledonia, MI, Ervin Ott of Columbia, SC, Judy DeWitt of Minneapolis, MN, WWCS Finance Director Karen Hilverda and WWCS President Scott Vander Kooy. Joining this group were members of the Comprenew® Board of Directors, Chris Dahlvig of Spokane, WA, Bryan Blakely of Grand Rapids, MI, and Tyrell Hamilton of Southfield, MI. • For more information on the WWCS Network, visit our website at wwcs.org. Learn more about Comprenew® at comprenew.org.



TOP TO BOTTOM: 1) WWCS and Comprenew® boards meet on December 7
2) Scott Vander Kooy and Carol Johnson
3) The WWCS Board of Directors

Ready to Serve? You Are Needed!



Student volunteers disassemble computers

Over our 25-year history, volunteers have been at the heart of all three of our ministry programs: school construction, student sponsorship and teacher training. The good news is, there are just as many opportunities for you to serve now as ever before! Skilled or unskilled, everyone with a heart for Christian education has something to contribute: time.

Volunteers climb trusses, teach teachers, sponsor children, stuff envelopes, organize work teams, paint,

pound nails, salvage computer parts and serve on a committee or board. Who knows what God will have you doing? Some sure things we guarantee each volunteer: you will...

- Show God's love and get hugs
- Open your eyes and your hearts even wider
- Walk into hurting communities equipped by a kingdom that heals
- Stretch your mind and deepen your faith

Worldwide Christian Schools® is bigger than our own staff. We are a global community of good people who aim to see all classrooms become the kingdom of God in which children can learn and grow.

See for yourself! Volunteer for Worldwide Christian Schools®. Your journey starts by contacting us at (800) 886-9000. • For more information ask Holly Aungst, Volunteer Placement Coordinator, at haungst@wwcs.org or (616) 988-8291.

Further than Flatware

Couple uses wedding registry to benefit a school in Kenya

By Emily Klooster

When Stephanie Shieh and Norman Yung decided to get married, they knew they wanted to do something a little different with their wedding registry.

In 2007, Stephanie, a program coordinator for a non-profit human rights foundation, had done two months of volunteer work for a rural school in Kenya called Rehema. She learned that Worldwide Christian Schools® had supported Rehema with capacity-building initiatives and had an ongoing partnership with them. Rather than registering for solely household goods, the couple chose Rehema as the beneficiary of their registry, pledged to match the total met by their guests, and sent the gift through WWCS.

"I had several other friends who included a registry option of donating to an organization whose work they believed in," Stephanie said. "We wanted to be able to bless others in the midst of such a blessed time in our lives."

Stephanie and Norman's registry raised \$2,250 for Rehema. After the couple's matching gift and an additional matching gift (plus) from

Stephanie's workplace, the total donation to Rehema School was over \$11,000. The funds were used to provide much-needed classroom space as well WWCS Educational Care™ training for the teaching staff.

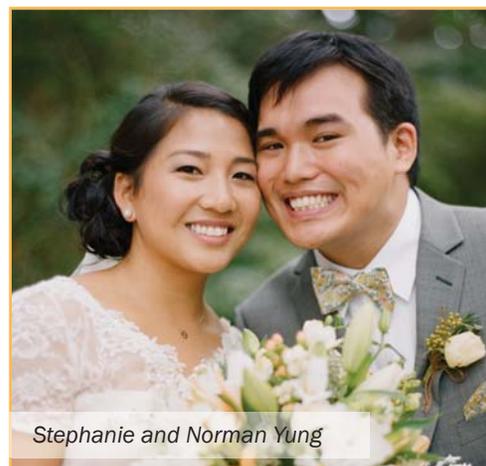
"I chose Rehema School because of my first-hand experience there," Stephanie said. "I was able to build relationships with the staff and director of Rehema and I understand their heart for the vulnerable children in their community."

"They were glad to be able to give a gift that would have a further reach than the usual flatware, pots and pans..."

Stephanie Yung

The couple's registry choice was well received by their wedding guests.

"I had several friends comment that they were glad to be able to give a gift that would have a further reach than the usual flatware, pots and pans of wedding registry stuff," Stephanie said. "It was also a great opportunity for us to connect our friends with the invaluable work



Stephanie and Norman Yung

being done by WWCS."

Stephanie and Norman now live in Queens, New York. Their first year of marriage has been a time of learning and change. In October, they welcomed a baby girl into their lives, whom they named Rehema Grace.

"Rehema is a Swahili word for mercy/compassion and, of course, the name of the school that first brought me to Kenya," Stephanie said. "It was also the name of the first baby girl taken in at a children's home I began volunteering at



Rehema Grace

after arriving in Kesogon, Kenya. I've loved the name ever since I first went to Kenya in 2007!" •



Scan this QR code for wwcs.org

Join the Worldwide Christian Schools® online community! Look for us on    



Bringing Good News to All Children

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For a full staff listing, visit our website at wwcs.org.

OUR VISION To glorify God by ensuring that all children have access to Christ-centered education.



www.myworldwide.org
a division of Worldwide Christian Schools®