

Equipping Hearts and Minds One Child at a Time



OPEN SCHOOLS[®]
WORLDWIDE

SERVING AT-RISK CHILDREN



Annual Report 2023

Table Of Contents

02 **Executive
Director's Report**
Angie Pape

03 **From the Board**
Brad Eyre - Open Schools Worldwide
Howard Dueck - TeachBeyond

04 **REGIONAL REPORT:
Africa**

09 **REGIONAL REPORT:
Latin America**

11 **Our Global
Management Team**

12 **Advancement &
Financial Highlights**

5 STEPS OF HOPE



OPEN SCHOOLS
WORLDWIDE
SERVING AT-RISK CHILDREN

THROUGH LIFE-CHANGING LEARNING

A LITERACY, NUMERACY AND LIFESKILLS INTERVENTION PROGRAM

1. PARTNER

A local partner (Christian community group, NPO's or Christian schools) approaches Open Schools Worldwide to utilize our literacy, numeracy, and life skills program.

2. IDENTIFY

The partner identifies the project needs as well as potential Christians in the community to serve as volunteer tutors.

3. TRAIN

Open Schools Worldwide trains, empowers, and equips local volunteer tutors.

4. TEACH

The volunteer tutors teach the children basic literacy, numeracy, and life skills using ministry moments to build a biblical worldview.

5. MONITOR

Open Schools Worldwide supports local projects with monitoring, evaluation, and volunteer tutor development.



EQUIPPING HEARTS AND MINDS

Our theme "***Equipping Hearts and Minds, One Child at a Time***" emphasizes the impact that a Christ-centered education can have on each child in our program. Our tutors care for the child's heart and mind nurturing them with godly principles, skills, knowledge, and values necessary to grow into a healthy, happy, and well-rounded individual.

In 2023 many children experienced the transformative power of Christ's saving grace through our ministry. Our curriculum incorporates dedicated "ministry moments" designed to help children recognize and understand God's love for them. These opportunities not only bolster their trust in God but also empower them to navigate their surroundings with greater confidence. Tailored for second language learners, our intervention program provides opportunities for those outside of formal education. By fostering curiosity and creativity, we aim to build participants' confidence and self-esteem, laying a solid foundation for their future education. As a result of their engagement in our program, 212 students have received invitations to enter formal schooling in 2024.

The generous support and prayers of our donors have enabled us to:

- Provide education to 9138 children in 16 countries in both Africa and Latin America
- Empower 512 local volunteers and community leaders, ensuring sustainable impact
- Fund the training and development of 69 volunteers in 6 new countries
- Print and distribute more than 8000 workbooks
- Equip 169 projects with the necessary project resources to deliver the program
- Establish new programs and translate our curriculum into Portuguese and Spanish

We sincerely appreciate TeachBeyond for their valued partnership in education and for the dedicated staff who assist us with curriculum development, grant writing, and a variety of educational services. I want to commend and acknowledge our committed Open Schools Worldwide management team and the key facilitators from each of our countries for their unwavering dedication to our mission, for the countless miles travelled to reach underserved areas, and for the time spent uplifting those whom God holds dear.

We are thrilled to share our 2023 annual report with supporters and friends who have enabled us to make a meaningful impact in our ministry to the marginalized. We trusted God for 2 new countries in 2023 and He enlarged our territory by 6 new countries. What a gift! We are grateful to Him for His providence and to you for your trust in our organization and for your partnership in our critical work.

Angie Pape,
Executive Director, Open Schools Worldwide





ADVANCING THE KINGDOM

As we reflect on 2023, we have seen the Lord's hand on our organization in remarkable ways. This year, we experienced phenomenal growth, extending our reach to new countries and touching the lives of countless children and an increasing number of adults learning to read and write for the first time.

Our 2023 theme of, "Equipping hearts and minds, one child at a time", truly encapsulates our mission's developments. Our team has grown through new members and projects, all while maintaining a focus on each child in our program. Despite various difficulties, the team has focused on the mission and advanced the Kingdom with excellence.

We have made significant progress in expanding education for marginalised communities. The development of our Level 2 curriculum is a meaningful milestone, providing a more advanced and enriching educational experience for older students.

2023 also saw us deepen our partnership with TeachBeyond. Their support has enabled us to reach previously impossible areas and accelerated growth in our board, organizational management, and curriculum. We are better together and continue to work as one cohesive unit to fulfil our mission.

We are grateful for the faith-filled men and women who selflessly lead and serve together in Open Schools Worldwide and TeachBeyond. Open Schools Worldwide is accelerating in both depth and breadth, and we are thankful to each of our supporters.

Brad Eyre
Chairman, Open Schools Worldwide Global Board



THE DREAM

It has been my great privilege to be part of Open Schools Worldwide ever since they joined forces with TeachBeyond in 2019, and even more in this time of unparalleled growth. Careful work with partners, sustained engagement with donor development, close attention to administrative detail, quality training and monitoring, a deep love for the children and tutors, and so much more, flesh out the heart and vision of Open Schools Worldwide's desire to equip hearts and minds, one child at a time. Personally, this has added meaning, as Open Schools Worldwide beautifully expresses the outworking of the dream the Lord gave me many years ago!

In the early morning hours of September 14, 2003, I had a dream. In it, Jesus appeared to me, carrying in His hands a very precious and costly treasure: the souls of all the children in the world who do not have access to an education. He opened His hands, and when I saw I was astonished.

I threw up my hands and said, "Lord, what do You want me to do with this!?"

He said, "Give them an education. Give them English. Give them Jesus."

I replied, "How? Who am I that I could possibly even begin to do this?"

He said, "You will get the help you need."

Howard Dueck
Executive Vice President, Regions, TeachBeyond



That all might be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you.
(John 17:21)



OPEN SCHOOLS
WORLDWIDE
SERVING AT-RISK CHILDREN

REGION: AFRICA
COUNTRIES: 13
PROJECTS: 165
LEARNERS: 9058
TUTORS: 500



BURUNDI: OPENING A NEW COUNTRY

As the vision of one man who saw the deep need for the children in his community, Irene started a single project with 30 children. Many of these children faced significant challenges, including dropping out of school due to the death of their parents or the inability to afford school fees.

Recognizing the urgent need for intervention, his community has embraced Open Schools Worldwide wholeheartedly. The impact of the work extends beyond the children: it fosters spiritual growth and gratitude among those involved.

By the end of 2023, the program expanded to support over 50 children and initiated two additional projects. The progress has been remarkable as children who faced educational barriers are now thriving. They improved their reading and writing skills, and their overall happiness and behavior transformed. Parents have noted the positive changes in their children.

Additionally, the tutors involved in this initiative have experienced personal growth, deepening their love and commitment to the children they serve.



GHANA: IMPROVEMENTS IN LITERACY AND NUMERACY

In Ghana the long-term tutors are witnessing transformation through their consistent service to the children. Recent evaluations across ten projects in Accra have shown remarkable progress in literacy and numeracy. Children who faced challenges in making phonetic sounds have successfully acquired these essential skills, with sixty percent advancing to the newly developed Level 2 curriculum.

Training initiatives have also strengthened the program, with 12 new tutors receiving training and 15 current tutors enhancing their skills in Level 2 Numeracy and Literacy. Twenty-five public school teachers joined our training, especially those teaching children in fishing and market communities as they had heard of the benefits of our program.

Teachers adopting the Open Schools Worldwide methodology, confirm positive changes in student behavior and a reduction in truancy rates. Parents shared that the Open Schools Worldwide "Route 86:11", a life skills board game, has encouraged open conversation and improved discipline among their children.

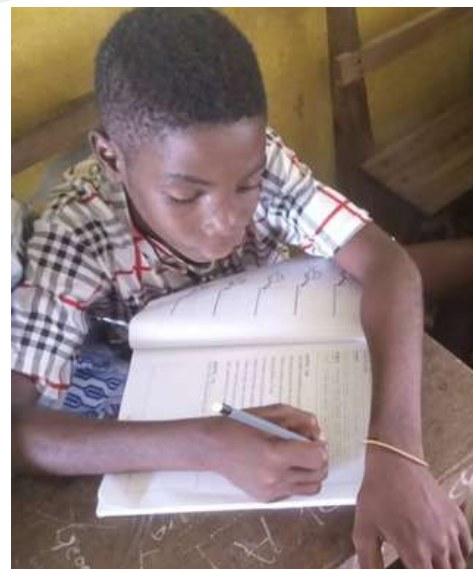
KENYA: HOPE IN NOMADIC AREAS

Open Schools Worldwide in Kenya has made significant strides among children who previously had no literacy skills, especially in the nomadic areas of the country. We also provided essential literacy education to primary school learners and adolescent girls who are unable to attend school due to early marriage or health issues in the Pokot nomadic community. In 2023, our program impacted the lives of 114 children.

The lives of two young boys stand out:

- Brighton, who would often pass by the Open Schools Worldwide classes with weapons in hand while helping his father with their animals, was initially hesitant to attend. After a few weeks, his father surprisingly agreed to let him join the program. Brighton left his weapons behind and began attending Open Schools Worldwide, where he quickly excelled. After just one semester, his tutor recognized that he was ready for formal education. He is now thriving in the school system.
- Another remarkable success story is that of Joseph. With limited English, he initially struggled to make progress. However, after just a month in the program, a representative from a child sponsorship agency visiting the program was astonished by his rapid improvement. He was subsequently placed in formal education, where he is excelling.

Without the inspiration provided by Open Schools Worldwide, it's likely that these two boys would have very little hope for their future.



A huge thank you to the Irish Methodist WDR for funding the projects in Ghana.



**That all might be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you.
(John 17:21)**



**OPEN SCHOOLS[®]
WORLDWIDE**
SERVING AT-RISK CHILDREN

LESOTHO: 100 VILLAGES



Open Schools Worldwide's partnership with *Africa4Jesus* and their '100 villages' vision illustrates a vital step toward addressing the educational disparities in Lesotho, an independent country which is landlocked within the borders of South Africa.

Having trained 21 tutors this year, these dedicated individuals now serve as catalysts for change, providing support and mentoring to students in rural Malea-lea.

The launch of 15 new projects is a targeted approach to enhance educational access in underserved communities in the mountainous Ha Jobo villages, which is crucial given the obstacles faced by students in these remote regions.

Overcrowded classrooms and a shortage of qualified teachers exacerbate the challenges for many learners. By focusing on rural areas, Open Schools Worldwide alleviates some of these pressures and fosters an environment conducive to learning.

The '100 villages' dream supports the long-term vision of transforming the lives of children in the mountains of Lesotho.

MALAWI: HARD PRESSED BUT NOT CRUSHED

It is truly remarkable to witness the ongoing resilience of the projects in Malawi, thriving despite the challenges posed by droughts and floods that devastate their districts. Many times, their crops fall victim to inadequate rainfall, and their homes and fields are destroyed. Yet, they continue to rejoice in God and remain committed to the program, undeterred by these hardships.

In 2023, we monitored twenty-one sites across the *Chikwawa* and *Nsanje* districts, and we are excited about the potential for new partnerships and training opportunities in other areas.

A major highlight is the unwavering dedication of our partners along with our tutors, who bravely teach the 1317 children in our program under trees and in makeshift shelters. They consistently inspire us with their vision of expanding the Open Schools Worldwide program into other districts.

Habakkuk 3:17-18 says, "Though the fig tree should not blossom, nor fruit be on the vines, the produce of the olive fails and the fields yield no food, the flock be cut off from the fold, and there be no herd in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will take joy in the God of my salvation". This verse reminds us of the strength found in faith and perseverance as we partner with our Malawi brothers and sisters.



SOUTH AFRICA: ORIGINAL VISION AFFIRMED

Twenty years ago Open Schools Worldwide started in South Africa. The long history has confirmed the much needed call to help children who are challenged with a lack of education.

Building on the strong foundation, we have been able to introduce Level 2 curriculum in some of our projects, to enrich tutors with professional development, and to provide advanced safeguarding training. Our safeguarding training impacts tutors and partners by addressing harmful community cultures and practices, thereby promoting child safety and protection.

Throughout the year, 53 learners in South Africa transitioned into formal schooling. At *Mooiplaas*, 30 of these learners progressed to formal education, allowing the partner to enroll 30 new students from the community in the 2024 school year. The 17 projects running in South Africa differ in size, location and need, but all affirm the importance of the original vision.



UGANDA: FLOURISHING GROWTH THROUGH UNDERSTANDING THE MISSION

In 2023, we trained 160 tutors, marking a significant milestone for our program in Uganda. One of the most remarkable aspects has been witnessing the incredible enthusiasm and dedication of our 74 partners, especially the pastors, as they wholeheartedly adopt the Open Schools Worldwide curriculum as a transformative tool for the 4509 children in our program and their communities.

It's uplifting to hear them proclaim, ***"This is not just an educational program; it's a ministry of transformation for our community and church."***

**That all might be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you.
(John 17:21)**



**OPEN SCHOOLS[®]
WORLDWIDE**
SERVING AT-RISK CHILDREN



ZAMBIA: DESPITE SETBACKS, PROGRESS WAS MADE

In the past year, we successfully trained 27 new volunteers and conducted re-training sessions for tutors involved in our projects. Open Schools Worldwide is committed to monitoring and evaluation to make sure that the existing projects feel supported and enriched. Undeterred by the authorities' decision to delay school openings and the cholera outbreak in Lusaka during the rainy season, we managed to distribute children's workbooks in Chongwe, Zimba, and Livingstone. All this has awakened the passion of more community members in such places as Kazungula to adopt Open Schools Worldwide as an intervention for children in their own communities.

HONOURING AN OPEN SCHOOLS CHAMPION: A LIFE OF PURPOSE AND ACHIEVEMENT

As we prepared this annual report, we were saddened to hear of the passing of one of our long-standing and beloved tutors, Eunice Nyambe, from Ngwenya, Zambia. Eunice played a vital role in training countless tutors, inspiring them to reach as many children as possible. She was a pioneer in raising awareness of the challenges faced by women and children in her community.

She mobilized women to create opportunities for investment to help improve the lives of their families. She will be fondly remembered for her selfless dedication to others, often sharing her home and resources with local children. Even amid major health challenges, Eunice took great pride in showcasing the reading skills of the children she taught.

She would often teach while lying on her back, stating, "The doctors advised me to do something that brings me joy. Teaching the children in the Open Schools Worldwide program fulfils my life."



REGION: LATIN AMERICA

COUNTRIES: 3

PROJECTS: 4

LEARNERS: 80

TUTORS: 12

BRAZIL: ADAPTING TO OPPORTUNITIES

Open Schools Worldwide initiated its inaugural projects in Brazil in 2023, focusing on assisting children from grades 3 to 6 who struggle with reading, writing, and math skills. One of our projects is hosted in a public school at the request of the principal, during regular class hours, easing the gaps in resources within this school for students facing academic challenges.

One participant in the program, a sixth-grade student, initially faced considerable hurdles in reading and writing in his formal classroom. He could only write his first name and was often subjected to teasing due to his struggles.

However, after a year of support, he has made remarkable strides. He can now understand some phonetics, write his full name confidently, and perform basic math operations. While he still has a journey ahead of him, his self-esteem has grown as he has discovered his ability to learn. This renewed sense of hope is precisely what Open Schools Worldwide aims to extend to other underserved children in Brazil.



DOMINICAN REPUBLIC - FEELING LOVED AND SAFE

We are proud to highlight the successful translation of our curriculum into Spanish, enabling our dedicated team in the Dominican Republic to provide tutoring for 38 children hosted at a local Christian school.

Every year, thousands migrate to the Dominican Republic in search of better living conditions. Unfortunately, many children in these circumstances are outside the formal educational system and must engage in work to help support their families.

The learners in our program find a safe and nurturing environment offering a respite from the harsh realities of their lives. Some have started attending church where they are hearing the teachings of God.

This holistic approach contributes not only to their educational development but also to their personal growth and community connections.



MEXICO- TRANSFORMATION AT THE BORDER



Using the newly translated Spanish curriculum, our team trained 6 tutors for our first Open Schools Worldwide project in Mexico. The partner provides a haven for refugee, migrant and vulnerable woman and children on the border.

Our partner writes ...

'The curriculum is designed to be interactive and dynamic, ensuring that learners find the lessons enjoyable. Through a variety of activities, the children gain new insights through actively listening to the stories, fostering their curiosity and interest in the narrative details. Thought-provoking questions encourage learners to reflect and share their personal experiences as they relate to the story. Our students are increasingly drawn to God's word and eagerly volunteering for prayers. Parents have reached out for biblical materials that align with their children's growing curiosity.'

Global Management Team



ANGIE PAPE
Executive Director
Global



DANA NEFF
Associate Director



PHIL PETERS
Director
Advancement



ALISON POULTER
Curriculum Developer



MITCH LAWRENCE
Country Director
Zimbabwe, Zambia,
Malawi, Uganda



**JASPER
SUBRAMONEY**
Country Director
South Africa



CESAR VALDEZ
Country Director
Dominican
Republic



JOANITA HAEUSER
Country Director
Brazil



WANGUI MAINA
Country Director
Kenya



TITA CAMACHO
Country Director
Mexico

COUNTRY FACILITATORS



**That all might be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you.
(John 17:21)**



**OPEN SCHOOLS[®]
WORLDWIDE**
SERVING AT-RISK CHILDREN

ADVANCEMENT

Kilometers for Kids, our annual global fundraising event, invites participants to ride, walk or run sponsored kilometers to generate funds for Open Schools Worldwide. 2023 was the fourth event, and generated a record sum of over \$45,000.

- Generous donors also provided funding for specific needs such as the sanitation facilities and a shelter for a project in Livingstone, Zambia, funds for 500 branded T-shirts for all our tutors, and the provision of 4000 workbooks and resources for our increase of learners in Isinjiro, Uganda.
- Further advances were made through gifts from churches and grants, as well as donors giving regular monthly donations to Open Schools Worldwide. The TeachBeyond Africa Regional Conference in March increased the awareness and appreciation of the valuable ministry of Open Schools Worldwide throughout TeachBeyond. It is humbling and encouraging to see how God continues to provide resources so that these precious children can receive hope!

Phil Peters

Advancement Director

Irish Methodist World Development & Relief (WDR) continues to enjoy its relationship with the staff of Open Schools Worldwide. The partnership enables the supporters of WDR to have an impact where they would otherwise not. WDR and Open Schools Worldwide have been working together for many years and the commitment and innovation is inspiring. We pray that God will continue to bless Open Schools Worldwide as it reaches out to vulnerable children and that WDR can remain a part of this mission.

Tim Dunwoody

Team Leader for World Development & Relief



INTERNATIONAL OFFICE:
NPO: 053-878
PBO: 930042502



+2782 569 0972



info@osww.org



facebook.com/openschoolsworldwide



www.osww.org



OPEN SCHOOLS®
WORLDWIDE
SERVING AT-RISK CHILDREN

