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Embracing TD's Future with confidence

...as we are being blessed in uncertain times

Introduction

These are exciting times at TDChristian! The Embrace the Future: Project 2010 campaign is nearing completion, with almost 80% of the \$3 million pledged or donated. A new science wing is in the works, and with it a renewed focus on environmental stewardship—a concern shared, and pursued in the public sphere, by one of our alumni recently interviewed by @td. Another international co-op program is taking shape, and almost a quarter of our student body participated in a video now streaming on the new iEmbrace AIDS website of the Christian Reformed World Relief Committee (CRWRC). This issue reports on the many ways in which the Lord has graciously blessed our efforts, imperfect though they are, as we have stepped out in faith. In these volatile and uncertain times, let us live in the confidence that God will continue to bless this school and its supporting communities. **Immanuel!**

Letting Our Light SHINE

by Justin De Moor, V.P. Communications

On October 30, over a hundred TDChristian students participated in filming a video for the iEmbrace AIDS campaign of the Christian Reformed World Relief Committee (CRWRC). The video, used primarily on the campaign's website (www.iembraceaids.com), will also be put on other websites such as YouTube to direct more traffic to the campaign website. Like the new website, the video communicates the theme of shining a light on the AIDS situation in the world, and both were launched on December 1, World AIDS Day.

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Letting Our Light Shine



Have a Blessed Christmas!

TDChristian Supporters: Embracing the Future

by Justin De Moor, V.P. Communications

At the Fall Membership Meeting on Thursday, November 27, the membership and stakeholders of TDChristian High School voted 97% in favour of the decision by the Board to proceed with the construction phase of **Embrace the Future: Project 2010**. The plan is to begin construction in the spring for completion in September, 2009.

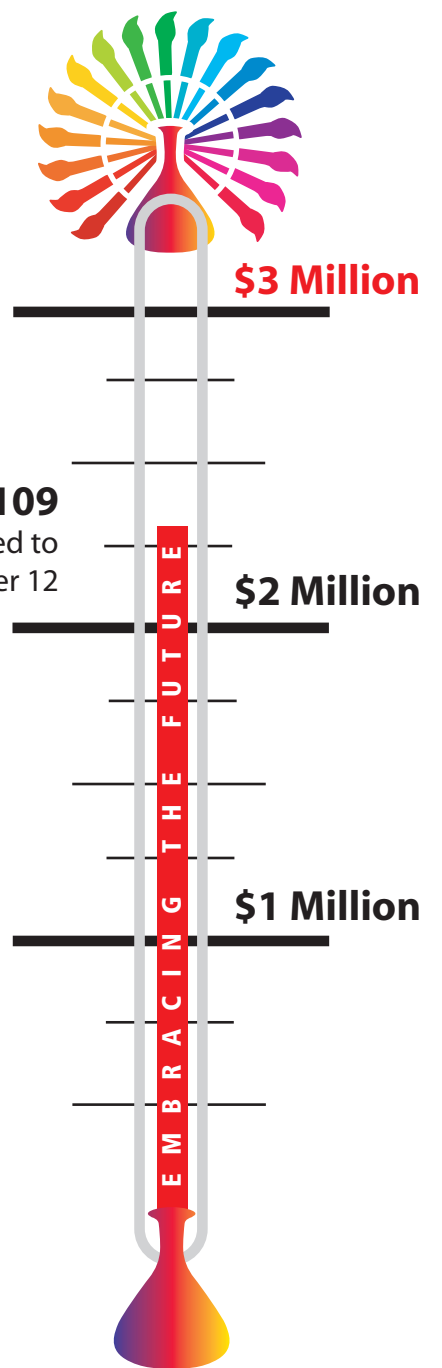
This decision was a result of the very successful Project 2010 campaign, which, as of the meeting, had raised pledges in the amount of \$2,339,109 (78% of the \$3 million goal). The campaign continues, with the expectation of reaching the goal of zero debt and a slight surplus in the bank by the conclusion of Project 2010. Please see also "Future Building" on page 2.

The campaign results so far:

Leadership Phase (key donors)	\$ 2,218,490
Community Phase (chapters)	120,619
Gifts and Pledges to Date	\$ 2,339,109
- representing 78% of \$3 Million Goal	

The Mailing Phase has just begun, with over 450 letters sent out requesting support from members of the broader Christian community. Please pray that these requests will also be met with consideration and generosity.

PLEASE CONSIDER making a pledge to the Embrace the Future: Project 2010 as part of your year-end giving by sending in the pledge form found on page 4 of this newsletter.



Project 2010
EMBRACING THE FUTURE

Architect's rendering of west facade incorporating a new more green design using solar panels on the glass ceiling of the new atrium.



Future Building

by Jordan Hoogendam P.Eng.

In these uncertain economic times, we are reminded how integrally linked our social, environmental, and economic futures are. Speculation in the commodity markets drives food prices up around the world. The impact of climate change is realized through increased storm events such as Hurricane Katrina. Our reliance on fossil fuels has created absurdities that were unimaginable a few generations ago—food imported from New Zealand, the use of chemical inputs to agriculture instead of relying on small-scale nutrient cycles. What conclusions should we draw? How should we respond? Where some see crisis, others see opportunities.

As a community, TDChristian is looking to expand its facilities. What better occasion to tackle some of these issues and model a stewardship that is about more than simply economic sustainability? The vision for this project is a “living laboratory,” an inherently educational space that gives students, staff, and the community a chance to learn about sustainability first hand. A strategy of conservation to minimize the demand on resources will be coupled with active exploration of technologies that can “harvest” onsite resources such as sunlight, rainwater, and fresh air.

Sunlight: Strategically placed high-performance (low-E argon-filled) windows will let in passive solar energy during the winter and keep the warmth within the space. Daylight sensors will turn down electric lights when there is enough daylight to illuminate the rooms. A clerestory over the atrium will bring natural light into the core of the expansion and existing classrooms, and a roof-mounted system will collect solar energy to preheat hot water. Further, technologies such as solar photovoltaic cells and small-scale wind turbines are being explored as educational demonstrations.

Air quality: We are developing a comprehensive strategy of source control to protect air quality. Building materials will include low-offgassing paints and coatings as well as other low-emitting products, and construction activity will be monitored to ensure proper staging and protect indoor air quality. Also, materials with high recycled content, sourced regionally, will be preferred so as to reduce reliance on virgin resources (i.e., metals, cement, etc.) and the energy needed to transport and process them.

Heating and cooling: Openable windows will provide natural ventilation and cooling when conditions allow, while a mechanical ventilation system will deliver air efficiently into the breathing zone, varying the flow depending on the number of people in the space. Hydronic radiant heating will make classroom space comfortable to learn in. As the design develops, the design team is also studying the feasibility of using vertical borehole Ground Source Heat Pump (GSHP) technology to store heat in the ground during the summer and extract it during the winter. The energy measures being explored could reduce the annual energy cost of operating the expansion by 40%.

Water: The renovated washrooms will use low-flow faucets and high-efficiency toilets, while rainwater falling on the roof will be collected in an underground cistern and used to flush toilets in all washrooms. These measures combined are expected to reduce potable water use in the expansion by at least 50%.

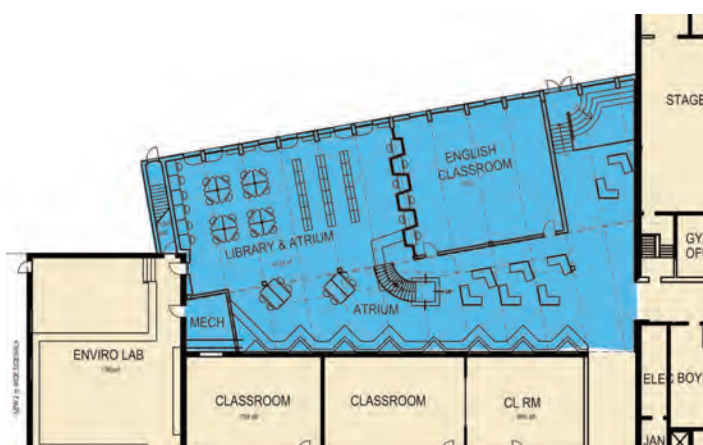
The design team is currently in the process of exploring a host of other possible measures. It's our hope that this space will help educate students in what it means to be environmentally sustainable, and move TD another step towards developing an understanding of the interdependencies of the economic, social, and environmental imperatives we currently face.

Value Added

- spacious, enhanced Science/Environmental Studies areas
- modelling alternative energy use
- spacious Library/Media Centre
- English classrooms accessing Library/Media Centre
- enlarged Art room
- enlarged Music room and practice room
- creative spaces for lounging/studying
- quiet study areas/small study rooms
- washroom on the second floor
- large atrium to tie it all together

The Numbers

- 3 more classrooms (room for 60-75 students)
- 9 of 25 existing classrooms will be significantly larger
- increased square footage: 12,443 sq. ft.
- enhanced/renovated area: 7,498 sq. ft.
- total area when finished: 74,613 sq. ft.
- overall % increase in space: 20%



From TD to t

by Debbie Sawczak

An interview with Ard Van Leeuwen. Ard, who attended TD in the 70s, ran as a candidate for the Green Party in the Dufferin-Caledon riding in the recent federal election. He lives with his wife and 4-year-old daughter in Caledon. This article is not an endorsement of the Green Party by TDChristian or @td, but a profile of one of our alumni and his efforts to make a difference.

Tell the story of how you came to enter politics.

I've always been interested, but did nothing about it until a little over two years ago. I was living and working in Europe and Asia Pacific for about 10 years in the 90s so couldn't establish any roots in Canada. I also wanted to make sure that when I did get involved I'd be able to commit enough time to make a difference. When I finally settled down and didn't need to work full-time anymore, I started looking around to see how I could get involved. The first step was to figure out which party to support, since I had no prior allegiances.

Why did you decide to run for the Green Party, specifically?

I attended their convention in August 2006 as an observer. I was initially attracted by their reputation on environmental issues, but wanted to see what else they had up their sleeves. Three things pleasantly surprised me. First, the party was fiscally responsible, and that appealed to my head as a business person. Second, it was socially progressive, and that appealed to my heart. Third, I saw a huge gap between actual and potential performance: it was like a startup company just coming into its own, and I felt I could contribute most at that stage of development.

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Letting Our Light Shine

Christina De Jong, eCommunications Specialist for the CRWRC, said “The *Embrace AIDS: Let Your Light Shine* video came about thanks to the generosity, enthusiasm, and commitment of a donor who wanted CRWRC to better engage youth in the *Embrace AIDS* campaign.”

TDChristian was selected for the filming because the school had served as a focus group for the campaign back in September. During that activity, a group of students from one of the Social Justice classes joined V.P. of Communications Justin De Moor to meet with the marketing company, Manifest Communications, who had been put in charge of marketing the campaign.

De Jong said, “The film shoot went very smoothly, thanks primarily to the 102 extremely willing and cooperative students.” She added, “I suspect it was quite cool for the students to be on a ‘true’ shoot, with all of its complexity, crew union rules, etc.”

Kiana Tari, a Grade 11 student who stayed until the end of shooting at around 11 p.m., said, “It was a great experience. Everyone said it went very well. It was great to help in bringing increased awareness to such an important issue as AIDS.” Tari, like most students who participated, was amazed that over six hours of footage was taken for a product that is under one minute in length.

De Jong is very happy with the result. “The final product is an exciting, moving piece that I think engages and inspires youth to find out more about HIV and AIDS, CRWRC's work in this area, and ways to get involved,” she said. She added that the website gives youth ideas for further involvement, including holding a light painting photography and video event to create more photography for the website.

This was a very exciting event at TDChristian, as it provided an opportunity for staff and students to be involved in letting their light shine for justice and peace.

You can check out the video at www.iembraceaids.com.



he Green Party

People think of the Greens as a one-issue party, only about eco-friendliness. Is there more?

We've got a stand on everything from Afghanistan to Zoology, which can be read about in our Vision Green document at www.greenparty.ca. In the meantime, let me answer the question by saying that the state of the environment touches everything. When we abuse our environment we abuse our health. We also harm our economic prosperity—climate change and the lowly pine beetle have wiped out \$7 billion of forests in British Columbia, for example. We need to tend our environment if we want to conserve our economic prosperity. So in fact, the Green Party is about health on all fronts: healthy people, a healthy environment, and a healthy economy.

Describe your experience of the campaign. What stood out for you?

A campaign is chaotic and you can only do the best you can with the resources you've got. What stood out for me were the public debates and the steady interaction with the four local papers. You talk to a lot of people you'd normally never get to meet, and you realize that it's a big world out there with many different and valid points of view. A big highlight was visiting a Grade 5 class at their teacher's invitation because the Green Party had won in their mock election. I was grilled for 90 minutes by 10-year-olds with very good questions and an amazing appetite for information. One surprise was the number of letters and questionnaires from all kinds of groups wanting to ensure their voices were heard during the election. And oh yes, when you put your name on a bunch of signs, you rediscover a lot of people you haven't talked to in decades, such as an old music teacher of mine who happened to have retired in my riding.

What are some key policy decisions that need to be taken in Canada?

The world will have to wean itself off carbon. The process is already under way, and those countries who have implemented carbon taxes, some almost 20 years ago, have performed better economically. Canadians are the world's least efficient users of oil. The key decision that needs to be made is to pay the full price for oil consumption, because damaging our health, economy, and environment is definitely not free and we are suffering from that illusion. Once carbon fuels are properly priced, alternative energy sources like wind and solar will become more financially attractive. So will rail transportation and investment in other forms of public transportation.

Reducing poverty is another key policy commitment we must make. We rank badly compared with other developed countries in the way we are handling poverty, especially child poverty; even the UN raps Canada on the knuckles occasionally for our track record. The gap between rich and poor continues to grow in Canada, and that has to stop.

What is a specific proposal that might address that issue?

The overarching Green proposal to eliminate poverty is our "Guaranteed Minimum Income" program, a concept that has been talked about for decades but never implemented. Essentially it would combine all our existing safety net programs such as EI, pensions, disability, welfare, and many others into a single program to guarantee all Canadians a minimum income without needs tests. This minimum would be set above the poverty line. The savings generated by combining programs, as well as savings in health care and enforcement costs, would fund the program.

How can developing nations like China and India modernize quickly and competitively, yet in an environmentally and socially responsible way? How can wealthier nations help?

I question the underlying assumption that you can't be environmentally and socially responsible and economically prosperous at the same time. For example, air pollution adds to the health care cost of any country, so cutting down on it frees money to be spent elsewhere. Social disparity leads to crime and unrest, adding to law enforcement and reparative costs, so money can be saved by pursuing greater equity. Those nations doing the costly work of greening their economies will actually be in a better position to compete globally than those who don't.

Still, wealthier nations have a role to play. It's fair that those who have prospered most from cheap oil should take the lead in coming up with alternatives through research, development, and greenhouse gas reduction targets. This is what happened in the successful Montreal Protocol to combat ozone depletion. That same structure (wealthier nations bearing the initial costs) was applied to Kyoto as well, but unfortunately the USA and a few other nations never signed up. Others, like Canada, signed up and broke their commitments. Worse yet, Canada and the USA were seen as obstructionist in the latest round of climate change negotiations in Bali.

What part can individuals play in advancing the goals of just, sustainable development? What are the obstacles?

Personal lifestyle choices can have a great impact on sustainable development, but the Green Party is not about pushing lifestyle choices on anyone. Instead, we are trying to change the "lifestyle" of the economy. We are also trying to give people alternatives so that if they want to change their lifestyle, they can. For example, without adequate public transportation it's hard to leave the car at home. We have to build that infrastructure to give people a real choice.

The biggest obstacle is to get people thinking in longer time frames. That's usually possible when you ask them what kind of world they want their kids and grandkids to have. But short-term thinking is deeply rooted. It's extremely difficult for government to take action to avert a crisis; action is usually only taken after the crisis has already occurred. Worrying about short-term performance to win the next election doesn't help long-term planning either.

What part would you say your Christian education played in your political involvement? What part does your Christian commitment, if you profess one, currently play?

The biblical notion that we are stewards of our planet has always gone hand in hand with my reverence for the environment, and the Green Party certainly sees the earth as a heritage that's not ours to destroy. Some other basic Green principles such as non-violence, social justice, and respect for diversity overlap with the values in my Christian education and lifeview. Politics has also underscored for me the reality that all of life is intertwined. That's part of what makes politics interesting: you have to deal with all aspects of life—government, business, education, health, social justice, human rights, the family, and so on. You can't compartmentalize things and choose to ignore any of them, because everything is fair game.

Since you weren't elected, what shape will your involvement take now?

Much the same as before: getting ready for the next campaign and helping to grow the Green Party into a more significant force in Canadian politics. There are no Greens in Canadian parliament (there are in a few dozen other national parliaments), so there's still plenty to do.

What advice do you have for students at TD? What advice for Christian educators?

Students, be thankful for and appreciate your Christian education. It'll stand you in good stead no matter where you end up or what you do. Educators, discuss with your students what exactly it means to be "in the world but not of it". That's a phrase I often ran across in my own Christian education, and it begs the question what role Christians should play, for example, in the "of the world" activity that is politics.

Do you plan to run in future elections, at any level of government?

I'll probably run again if our local members nominate me again. For me this was not about one election. I knew it was going to be a long haul to even make a dent in what I think needs to be done. I'll stick to the federal level in any case. It's where my interests lie.



Ard with Green Party leader Elizabeth May.



Ard speaking at his campaign kick-off event.

TD Goes International (Again!)

by Justin De Moor, V.P. Communications

Following in the footsteps of the two international co-ops to Belize, 15 students, accompanied by teacher Rachael Weening and graduates Eric de Ruiter and Monica Hintz, will spend eight weeks in northern Honduras this spring. The group will be situated in Rio Viejo and living and working alongside Dr. Martin and Wendy Williams, who have set up a jungle clinic in the area. The contact was made through a new TD student, Mercedes Nucaro. Mercedes' dad, Antonio, is a long-time friend of the Williams family and mentioned them to principal Ren Siebenga during a discussion of TD's emphasis on social justice.

The group will be leaving for Honduras February 26 and returning April 24. While there, the students will be earning co-op credits for work in agriculture, construction, education, and medicine as well as learning to speak and understand Spanish.

Weening said she is looking forward to the trip, although there remains a lot to prepare before departure. For the first three weeks of the second semester, she will be teaching the 15 students for three periods a day as they begin to study Spanish and learn about life in Honduras. Students have also worked hard to raise the \$3,300 needed to participate in the co-op. Each family was expected to contribute \$500 of that amount.

Taking the trip are Grade 12 students Jeff Ashton, Kyle Beishuizen, Nancy Gulizia, and Anna Bergsma, and Grade 11 students Scott Bergsma, Jessica Bottomley, Ally Kwan, Justin Olthof, Sabrina Ramdas, Annie Ratcliffe, Olivia Simpson, Tracey Ubbens, Joey Vanderkooi, Kevin Verkaik, and Justin VanderVeen.

Please consider making a financial contribution if asked by one of the above students. For more information about contributing, please e-mail weening@tdchristian.ca.

In addition to the Honduras co-op this spring, two international service trips are planned for March Break. Ten students will be going to Guatemala and 10 to southern Honduras, with two staff members accompanying each team.

Discover more about these three exciting new ventures in the next issue of the @td newsletter.

Alumni News td

Attention Alumni!

Please keep us posted regarding reunions, marriages, births, career moves, and any other important milestones. Simply e-mail alumni@tdchristian.ca. Don't worry if you're late in reporting – we're still interested!

• Marriages

- Ben Vandenberg (04) and Erin Hesselink (04), October 3, 2008.
- Emily Roffel (06) and Jason Postma, September 27, 2008.

• Births

- Blaine and Colleen (Steringa, 95) Kennedy were blessed with the birth of their first child, Aidan Peter Kennedy, September 23, 2008.
- Ryan (00) and Alysha (Edskes, 05) Van Loenen had their second baby boy, Aiden John, October 9, 2008.
- Albert (88) and Lucy Klein Horsman had a baby boy, Luke James, November 16, 2008.

• Anniversaries

- Edward Straatsma (80) and Astrid Metz (80) celebrate their 25th wedding anniversary on December 10, 2008. Their children are Marissa (03), Kendall (06), Erika (08) and Curtiss (11).

Attention graduating Class of 1979!

Can you believe next year –yes, next year–it will be 30 years since we graduated from TDCH! Are you interested in celebrating this momentous occasion, meeting older friends and classmates? If so, and if you are interested in helping to set up the reunion, please contact Ed Sikkema by phone (905-775-0792; cell 416-550-0033) or email (kema@rogers.com). Looking forward to seeing all of you!

CONGRATULATIONS, EVERYBODY!

@tdchristian

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To reach the TDChristian Board

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Taking Action

Please give to this exciting project campaign using the pledge form below. Please send your completed pledge form to:

EMBRACE THE FUTURE: PROJECT 2010 Campaign

Toronto District Christian High School
377 Woodbridge Avenue,
Woodbridge, ON L4L 2V7

THANK YOU in advance for your support as together we "Embrace the Future!"



(SAVE Pledge REMINDER for your records)

Our Pledge Reminder

Project 2010

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____

I / We pledged to donate \$ _____ over a _____ year period as follows (taking into account our Chapter giving as well):

Date (month/year)	Project 2010 CAMPAIGN	Annual CHAPTER SUPPORT	
2008	\$ _____	\$ _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Our gift was paid by cheque. <input type="checkbox"/> Our gift was in the form of appreciated securities (stocks, bonds). RECEIPTS are issued in February for the previous calendar year.
2009	\$ _____	\$ _____	
2010	\$ _____	\$ _____	
TOTAL	\$ _____		Signed _____

(Please RETURN bottom Pledge form to TDChristian)

Our Pledge for TD's Future

Project 2010

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____

I / We pledge to donate \$ _____ over a _____ year period as follows (taking into account our Chapter giving as well):

Date (month/year)	Project 2010 CAMPAIGN	Annual CHAPTER SUPPORT	
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TOTAL	\$ _____		Signed _____