

BEYOND TECHNOLOGY

GUIDING ELECTRONIC INNOVATION WITH HUMAN INGENUITY



Richard Culatta
e-Leaven Conference
www.WideOpenDoors.net

THE PROBLEMS

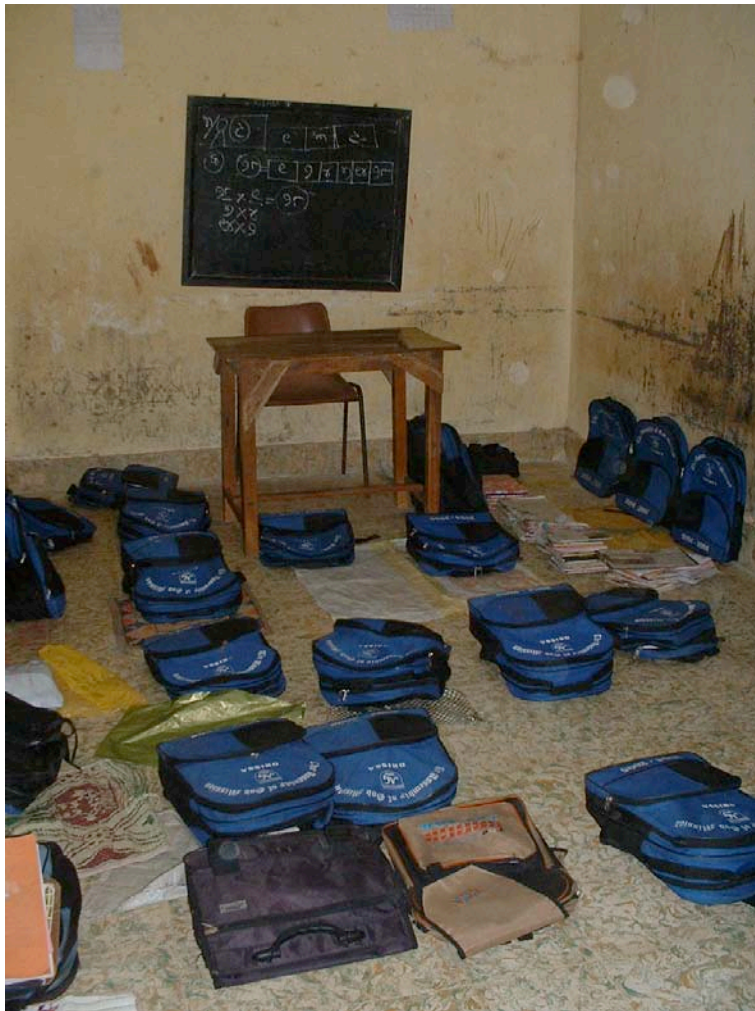
- Most children do not have the same educational opportunities that we've had
- The children who need opportunities the most are the ones who don't get them.
- These problems exist in the US as well as in foreign countries

DUBLAN, MEXICO



Challenges: Access to technology, Teacher training

PURI, INDIA



Challenges: Limited materials (almost no books)

PROVO, UTAH



Challenges: Supporting Latino students, Teaching literacy

LEAVEN

The kingdom of heaven is like unto leaven which a woman took, and hid in three measures in meal, till the whole was leavened

HOW LEAVEN WORKS

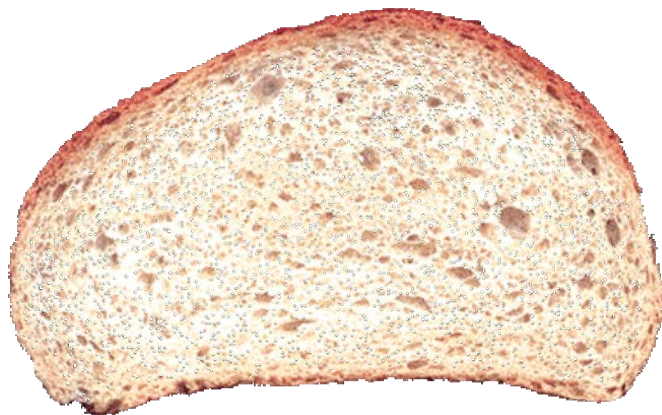


If you bake bread without a catalyst to help it rise, it will always come out flat.

HOW LEAVEN WORKS



If you bake bread without a catalyst to help it rise, it will always come out flat.



By adding leaven, bread that would otherwise be flat rises and grows.

WE ARE TO BE LEAVEN

“We ought to do better; **we ought to become as leaven**; we ought to become as a light from which goodness and truth and beauty and virtue may spread across the world.”

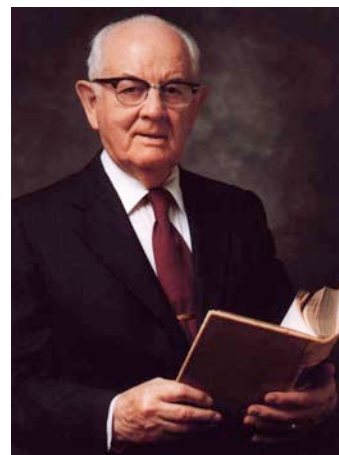
President Hinckley
“Reach Out in Love and
Kindness”



WE ARE TO BE LEAVEN

“Even if the priesthood holders of our Heavenly Father are headed in the right direction, if they are men without momentum they will have too little influence. *You are the leaven on which the world depends*; you must use your powers to stop a drifting and aimless world.”

President Kimball
“Set Some Personal Goals”
May, 1985



GETTING INVOLVED

Be *in* the world, but not of it.

What is the inherent problem with the attitude manifest in a statement such as this one?

“I don’t want to have anything to do with the public schools because I can’t stand the bad language I hear in the halls and the type of activities the kids are involved in.”

LEAVENING TECHNOLOGY

- Technology in education can be very similar to leaven in bread.
- Technology can be used in a “leavening” way and in a non-leavening way.
- Examples:
 - Leavening technology - Satellite internet that brings materials to a remote school in Guatemala
 - Non-Leavening technology - Streaming music to an iPod (cool, yes, but not really going to help the student with no opportunities)

WHEN TO USE LEAVEN



bread that has already risen
does not need leaven

“The people who need education the most are those who are least capable of having a broadband link.”

Chris Thomas
Chief Strategist
Intel



GETTING STARTED

- Get involved
(we can't solve problems we don't know exist)
- Many solutions will be more creative than technological
- Solutions will come through inspiration and collaboration

CHANGING GUATEMALA

One Small Example





In 1996 a group of people got together to build houses for needy Guatemalan families



They found that even when these families were given homes, they still had no hope for the future. Because of this they decided to begin building schools.



In 1998 the Rose Education Foundation began with the mission of providing an education to children who would not receive one otherwise.



The Foundation was concerned with having enough opportunities for the children in the schools. Naturally, I asked if they had any computers?



They said that they did (but what could you do with a computer like this one?)



So I decided to ask for some funding to help them develop a technology program.



I approached eBay to ask them if they would donate their surplus computers to the Foundation. They agreed.



Over 100 computers were sent to the schools in Guatemala



Money was donated to install a satellite internet connection at the school



This is me running CAT5 cable to the classrooms...



while standing on a very rickety ladder



The school principal was the first to begin using the internet to look for educational resources



A computer class for the students was created



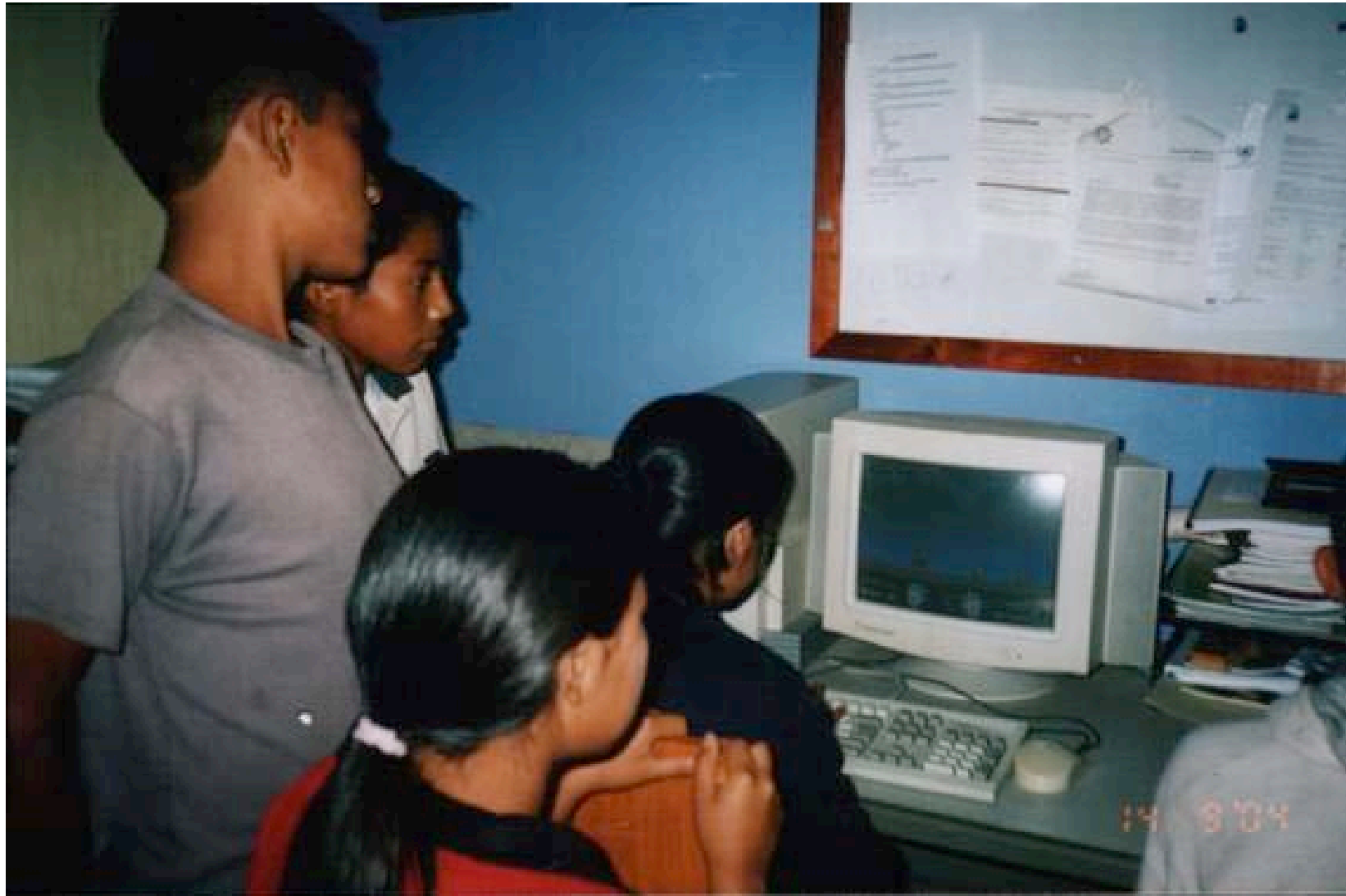
Computer skills will pretty much guarantee these students a job someday



and in so doing, help them be able to provide for their families



A weekend class to teach basic computer skills to the parents was created



Extra machines were given to families in exchange for a donation to a Rose Education Foundation student's scholarship



This allowed more students to be able to attend the schools

OUTCOMES

- 850 children given access to technology
- 50 adults participated in computer skills course
- 150 scholarships funded
- Many families received a computer
- *“I never thought I would be able to buy a computer for my children - much less a good one!”*
 - Alberto Chocojay, Parent

FINAL THOUGHTS

GUIDELINES

- Get involved
- Find projects that will improve a country and a community as well as individuals
- Find ways to get better use out of technology that already exists

OTHER PROJECTS

- Linking students with experts (webcams, IM, e-mail)
- Providing meaningful purposes to technology use (Brazil rivers project)
- Creating educational materials (website, desaparacidos)

(moving computer cart around b/c no laptop)

(showing ESL students in Provo how to use PPT)

(Partners shipping computers to Bolivia)

STILL TO BE DONE

- Find a way to distribute all of the content at BYU to schools around the world
- Find other companies who would be willing to donate surplus computers for schools other than just the ones in Guatemala.
- Show local teachers how they could be using technology to improve their teaching.

OUR RESPONSIBILITY

Where much is given much is required

- “Your question should be ‘what can I do today to improve the world of tomorrow?’”

Elder Charles Didier
Church of Jesus Christ of
Latter-Day Saints



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