Since 1978, ACSI has strengthened Christian schools and equipped Christian educators.
Dear School Leader,

God is building His kingdom through the Christian school movement.

You see it happening every day in the hallways and classrooms of your school. It’s something I get to witness in schools throughout the U.S. and around the world. Together—whether you’re at a growing school in California or a newly launched school in rural Uganda—we’re all committed to Christ, devoted to Christian education, and dedicated to preparing students both academically and spiritually to become faithful learners and leaders.

That’s what we celebrate in this, our 2014–2015 Annual Report.

In the following pages, you’ll read stories about the way God is working in and through Christian schools around the world. He’s bringing together like-minded people in exciting partnerships. He’s using expertise and best-in-class tools to strengthen school programming. And He’s raising up a new generation of global leaders who will carry on the movement and mission of Christian schools.

It’s a privilege to partner with you in this mission. We truly are stronger together.

Dr. Dan Egeler
ACSI President
David Cooper, president and head of school, has spent 32 years in education and four years at FRCS. His years of experience have brought valuable insight.

When FRCS began its accreditation renewal process in 2014–2015, one of the best decisions he made was to engage a retired principal to lead. “Finding someone outside our day-to-day commerce who knew and cared about the school gave us the capacity we needed,” David says.

David was eager to evaluate the school and identify areas for growth. “It was a lot of work,” he relates, “But putting together committees that intermixed our school divisions gave us such a rich, collegial atmosphere and really enhanced the process.”

In the past, accreditation was fairly static and focused on achievement of standards. Now the focus has shifted to a more comprehensive appraisal, an approach that’s helped FRCS better align its mission and vision with educational strategies and programs.

“There’s a point somewhere in the middle of the process when we get these ‘aha’ moments of understanding who we are as a school and how we can continue to grow,” David shares. “Those are powerful.” One “aha” moment for FRCS included recognizing the need for classroom instruction that’s better informed by assessment data. Another was celebrating the fruit of their investment in students.

One student who came to FRCS dealing with anger issues found father figures in the faculty and coaches. He’s now a senior who’s mentoring other students. Another student who graduated from FRCS’ special education program is now attending college. “These special ed students were so used to being told what they couldn’t do,” says David. “Here, they always got encouragement about who they could become.”

“Stepping back and seeing transformation like this makes the long, hard days worth it,” he continues, choking back tears. “I’m so grateful the Lord called me to this. I’m blessed with the people God has led to FRCS and their willingness to freely sacrifice for the betterment of these students. It’s really an honor to serve together.”
In the past, accreditation was fairly static and focused on achievement of standards. Now the focus has shifted to a more comprehensive appraisal, an approach that's helped FRCS better align its mission and vision with educational strategies and programs.
As the Christian school movement continues to grow, ACSI Global is working to foster relationships, identify leaders, equip them to serve, and empower them to grow—all with the goal of creating national offices that can sustain schools and impact students for Jesus.
“Not one person can take credit for the movement,” says Gavin Brettenny, director of strategic development for ACSI Africa. “It’s a prophetic move of God. Different people became involved at different times and found each other.”

While the Christian school movement has been active in North America for more than 100 years, it’s only taken hold in the Majority World, including Uganda and other African countries, during the last quarter century. As the movement continues to grow, ACSI Global is working to foster relationships, identify leaders, equip them to serve, and empower them to grow—all with the goal of creating national offices that can sustain schools and impact students for Jesus.

“ACSI Global is not a missionary movement,” Gavin explains. “Instead, we facilitate the development of national leaders and do a lot of listening to help contextualize education for their individual settings. ACSI Uganda means that—purely Ugandan—in every sense of the word.”

Officially opened in August 2015, ACSI Uganda now serves 125 member schools, representing 68,000 students. It’s led by Country Director Davis Samuel Hiire, formerly a principal at Wakiso Christian International Academy and founder of Oasis of Hope Christian School. He has a God-given vision for what Christian education can do in Uganda.

“Uganda is among the most corrupt countries in the world,” Davis Samuel says. “The divorce rate is high, child abuse is too common. Violation of humanity is on the increase and Christian values are deteriorating. All of these are signs of the neglect our forefathers embraced as they threw God out of the classroom. Christian schooling will open the doors to a Christ-centered, biblical worldview that, in turn, will create a God-fearing, Holy Spirit-led generation. It’s this generation that will address the challenges our nation faces today.”

The support of ACSI Global is helping to make Davis Samuel’s vision for ACSI Uganda a reality. “Many doors for serving Christ have opened. I’m in a better position to impact schools and educators in Uganda. It’s made me a better teacher, leader, father, husband, and follower of Jesus. My God-given purpose is becoming a reality as I lead Christian schooling in this beautiful country.”
Christy Butler brings a trifecta of expertise to KCS as a full-time fourth grade teacher, administrator, and Purposeful Design Publications (PDP) trainer, with 18 years of educational experience to her name. When she began her administrator role 11 years ago, KCS was using a math textbook that simply didn’t equip students well. They performed plenty of rote computation but had poor reasoning and critical thinking skills. The discovery of those limitations began Christy’s search for an alternative, and when she found PDP textbooks, she realized they had the balance students needed. Once KCS incorporated PDP math, teachers saw significant improvement in students’ performance. The new textbook provided “sticky” activities and manipulatives, which helped students make huge strides in their critical thinking and mastery of skills.

After experiencing this success, KCS implemented PDP’s science textbooks. Instead of the read-and-answer-questions format of their previous textbooks, PDP textbooks offered hands-on activities to help students learn.

Christy believes the PDP textbook’s variety of resources and space to tailor instructional strategies are some of its greatest strengths. “It lets you be the master teacher,” she says. “The textbook acts as a springboard to support you in the classroom.”

She also appreciates how PDP textbooks integrate a Christian worldview and engage students spiritually. The incorporation of Scripture and questions to guide discussion provide the framework to help develop students’ thirst for God.

That comprehensive approach is a hallmark of PDP, from the pages of its textbooks to the high level of training and resources available to educators. “My teachers feel confident when they walk into the classroom,” shares Christy.

She’s seen the payoff in student achievement, too. KCS’ year-end assessment scores have come up where students previously struggled, and students are learning more advanced material, even in the lowest grades. “We’re integrating all areas of math,” Christy says. “Students don’t realize it, but they’re learning geometry and algebra principles. They’re actually excited to do math.”
The Purposeful Design Publications textbook’s variety of resources and space to tailor instructional strategies are some of its greatest strengths. “It lets you be the master teacher,” Christy says. “The textbook acts as a springboard to support you in the classroom.”
ADVANCING THE GLOBAL CHRISTIAN SCHOOL MOVEMENT

1 New Global Partnership

84,156 Students Served Around the World

18 Global Leaders

1 New Global Office

2,986 Schools Served Around the World
“This partnership represents the future. There’s such a hunger for leadership development throughout Europe. We’re witnessing the ripple effects of our investment as new leaders pour into others.”
Laci Demeter, director of ACSI Europe, became connected with ACSI in the 1990s and has served as European director since 2011. Born and raised in Hungary, he’s a product of ACSI’s commitment to invest in national leaders for sustainable transformation in their cultural contexts.

Many Christian schools have reopened in the wake of Communism, but they lack quality training for teachers and vision for the future. That’s where ACSI has stepped in.

“It’s common to find a desire to simply reinstate the traditional approach from 50 to 60 years ago,” Laci shares. “But we need a more Christ-centered model. ACSI brings the methodology to translate that vision into practice.”

ACSI was aware for several years how God was moving among a German school association, Verband Evangelischer Bekenntnisschulen (VEBS), and hoped to establish some level of partnership. Eventually God led ACSI and VEBS to enter into a formal agreement in July 2015.

VEBS is still fairly young, and its leaders want to learn from ACSI leaders how to better support schools and educators. Its leaders also regard ACSI as a partner with whom to join hands for missions in Eastern Europe and Africa. ACSI/VEBS have already collaborated through publishing, conferences, and other events, and ACSI is offering various levels of support and resources.

“This partnership represents the future,” Laci says. “There’s such a hunger for leadership development throughout Europe. We’re witnessing the ripple effects of our investment as new leaders pour into others.”

The momentum continues to build. “More than ever before I’m seeing interest in establishing partnerships to model and exchange Christian education best practices,” he relates. “New things are unfolding in the Netherlands, Hungary, Romania, France, Albania. There’s a sense of urgency to become involved with what God is doing.”

“Schools are bringing the Church together for the common purpose of providing Christ-centered education,” he continues. “It’s beautiful to see how ACSI is serving as a unifying element of interdenominational harmony.”

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CURRENTS OF REVIVAL SPREADING THROUGH ACSI EUROPE

Long wintered by conflict, Communism, and materialism, Europe’s largely post-Christian atmosphere retains a coldness toward the traditional Church. But young, evangelical expressions are growing stronger, and God is using the Christian education movement to bring fresh streams of revival.
As our culture changes—and our nation’s laws along with it—how can Christian schools navigate the murky waters of new legal standards while holding fast to the truth of God’s Word?

This is a question asked by many schools in light of Obergefell vs. Hodges, the U.S. Supreme Court’s 2015 decision on same-sex marriage. In the days after the ruling was handed down in June, Dr. Tom Cathey, director for Legal Legislative Services, and his team were ready to guide schools through the complex moral and legal questions it raised.

In addition to fielding questions that came to them in phone calls and emails, Legal Legislative Services equipped educators by developing a handbook that helps schools formulate a response to the ruling and by distributing a video delineating the decision and its possible ramifications.

“We can’t know for certain what will happen in the future based on this court case,” Dr. Cathey says. “But I want to prevent our schools from being caught by surprise by helping them do what they can to prepare for what they might face later down the road.”

This is the kind of guidance Legal/Legislative consistently provides for member schools, whether it’s a national issue of religious freedom or a school-specific question about a policy or procedure.

Dr. Cathey encourages schools that, while it may be necessary for their statements of faith and policies to change in response to the challenging waters Christian educators are now navigating, our calling as believers remains what Jesus taught us in John 13:35: to make His love for the world evident through our love for one another. And whether it’s in the classroom or the courtroom, Legal Legislative Services’ prayer is that schools will serve as strong beacons of humility and grace, even in the midst of the most divisive issues.
In addition to fielding questions that came to them in phone calls and emails, Legal Legislative Services equipped educators by developing a handbook that helps schools formulate a response to the ruling and by distributing a video that discusses the decision and its possible ramifications.
The Church of Christ in the DRC—a union of 65 Protestant denominations—coordinates education for the entire country as part of a unique partnership between church and state: the church runs and the state funds the country’s 18,000 schools. It’s an incredible opportunity for biblical influence in the lives of more than 5 million students.
“Where do you best catch fish?”

That was the question a bishop of the Church of Christ in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) heard as he sought God in prayer.

The Church of Christ in the DRC—a union of 65 Protestant denominations—coordinates education for the entire country as part of a unique partnership between Church and state: the Church runs and the state funds the country’s 18,000 schools. It’s an incredible opportunity for biblical influence in the lives of more than 5 million students. In other words, these schools are the best place to “catch fish” for the kingdom.

But accomplishing this task is a tremendous challenge. Years of civil war have decimated the country’s infrastructure and the people’s trust. Leaders throughout the country—including school leaders—are accustomed to leading through control. But the Church of Christ is determined to forge a different path. To do that, they enlisted the help of ACSI Global.

The ACSI team initiated an assessment of schools in the DRC, focusing on leadership development and teacher training. Dubbed The Elephant Project—inspired by the proverb, How do you eat an elephant? One bite at a time!—its focus was chosen with great intention. “If you don’t have change in leadership behaviors, you won’t see transformational change,” says Gavin Brettenny, the project’s manager.

The assessment’s findings look promising for initiating a “train the trainer” initiative to bring about transformational change in DRC school leadership.

Mrs. Asnath, director of a vocational sewing school, is one of the leaders trained under a pilot program as part of the assessment. “The ACSI leadership development training inspired her to risk appointing a finance committee and be more transparent with school funds,” says Gavin. “Her changed leadership has resulted in improved employee job satisfaction, improved levels of trust between school leadership and teachers, better decision making—and she has greater peace. She has ‘new joy’ in her school.”

ACSI will work with the Church of Christ to implement a nationwide program within the existing school structures.

“We’ll support the bishop’s vision to fish in his own ponds,” Gavin says. “Everything is about improving the quality of Christian education. You’ll produce high-performing students who will impact their country and culture at all levels. It’s discipling a nation.”
HELP US CONTINUE TO BE STRONGER TOGETHER

You are a vital part of how God is using ACSI to equip Christian schools around the world.

1. Renew your ACSI membership.
   Contact your regional director.

2. Support the global Christian school movement.
   Give online at www.ACSI.org/Donate/Donate/Donation-Form-Legacy.

3. Pray for Christian schools around the world.
   • Pray that God will continue to raise up school leaders.
   • Pray for teachers as they prepare students both academically and spiritually to become leaders and kingdom builders.
   • Pray for students and their families as they pursue truth and knowledge.
### SUPPORT AND REVENUE

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### EXPENDITURES

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