

From: [Vicki Carper](#)
To: [Vicki Carper](#)
Subject: Your Central Division February Snapshot is Here
Date: Tuesday, May 31, 2022 1:41:59 PM

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Dr. Jeff Mattner
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Hold Fast

It almost seems a little glib these days to say that we are going through difficult times. But this is the reality that we find ourselves in. The world is reshaping itself and there is seemingly very little we can do to slow the rate of change. No matter our context, we are feeling the pain of trying to determine what normalcy is.

Christians faced a similar “reshaping” of their reality as they came under increasing persecution during the first century. The encouragement given to those first-century Jews who had become followers of Christ is very timely for us in this century:

“Let us hold unwaveringly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful.” –Hebrews 10:23

[READ MORE](#)

Central Division News

Advocacy: A Strategic Pillar at ACSI

Two activities regarding our advocacy efforts:

1. **Workshop: Laws Important to Christian School Operations** (6 hours - 1 CEU).

Please [click here](#) to find a location and also to register for the meeting.

A common challenge for Christian Schools is keeping up with the laws that impact a school's operations, protect a school from liability, preserve the school's resources, and defend a school's religious liberties. While we live in a litigious society, school leaders can help their organizations avoid unnecessary disputes and litigation through sound policies and a basic understanding of relevant federal and state laws. Provided by ACSI's Legal & Legislative Issues Department, this workshop is designed to help you as a Christian school leader gain a better understanding of laws

that impact your school and help you guide your organization to better policies, procedures and practices.

2. **Monthly Public Policy & Advocacy Networks** – Join us for our monthly public policy & advocacy network webinars the third Thursday of every month at 1:00 PM (Eastern time). This ZOOM call is by invitation only, so if you are interested in attending, please contact Dr. Jeff Mattner at jeff_mattner@acsi.org. Last month we were privileged to hear from former Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos. Next meeting: January 20, 2022.

Strategic Partners Spotlight

Every month we highlight one of our ACSI Strategic Partners as you consider ways to get the most out of your membership. This month's spotlight: Staples Advantage. Your mission is to provide a Christian education that helps parents and children to meet their spiritual and educational goals. Staples is your Platinum vendor partner dedicated and committed for 15+ years to support you with the quality, competitively priced solutions to help your school grow and flourish. You receive the following member benefits through your contract:

- Negotiated, aggressive pricing to help you make the most of every dollar.
- Thousands of quality K-12 products for your entire school including classroom and teacher supplies, print and promotional products, technology, custodial and furniture.
- A dedicated account manager, plus furniture and custodial consultants to provide expert advice on any project free next-day delivery.

To learn more about how Staples can help you serve your needs, please contact Chuck Luchen, Vertical Market Manager K-12, chuck.luchen@staples.com.

ACSI Membership

ACSI is helping our members make the most out of their membership through monthly webinars. **Maximize Your Membership** is a 30-minute webinar the third Wednesday each month at 10:00 AM (MT). [Click here](#) to register.

Central Division New Leader Orientation

The Central Division is offering a New Leader Orientation for all of our school Heads that are in their first year or a veteran Head who has not fully utilized ACSI membership benefits. This orientation will be a one-hour, interactive review of ACSI membership benefits. You will be able to meet our ACSI Central Division staff and get a taste of what ACSI has to offer. This session is free, of course, but you will need to register ASAP to Vicki Carper.

- Meeting Date: Monday, February 7, 2022
- Meeting Time: 11:00 AM Eastern / 10:00 AM Central

Please RSVP to Vicki Carper. She can be reached at vicki_carper@acsi.org. Once you have RSVP'd, you will receive the ZOOM meeting information.

Other Upcoming Events:

[CONVERGE in San Diego, CA on March 8-10, 2022](#)

Student Activities

The main stretch of 2021-22 Student Activities events is underway and it is a joy to be thinking about the thousands of students throughout the world participating in and preparing for their upcoming bees, meets, festivals, and competitions! We are grateful to everyone involved for your continued support of the program.

Although there are several months of events still ahead this school year, we are already looking forward

to 2022-23. Thank you for considering serving as a volunteer ACSI Student Activities Chairperson/host site next year! [Chairperson/Host Volunteer Form](#)

2021-22 Middle School Leadership Development [Virtual Adventure](#) and [Spelling Bee Kits](#) are still available for purchase. Both events are on-demand and provide your school with all the resources needed to facilitate an event on your campus this school year. You don't want your students to miss it!

Questions? The ACSI Student Activities [team](#) is here to serve you!



It's a new season for the Early Education Department! We're growing as we add Dr. Althea Penn to the roster of early education experts. She will serve as the new EE Director, leading the team to further equip early education programs to flourish despite the numerous storms raging across the globe. Dr. Penn is a faithful daughter of ACSI. She has participated in ACSI professional development and has served as an ACSI member school leader, educational consultant, and professional development specialist for decades. Althea brings a wealth of administrative and pedagogical expertise to the team.

[Read More](#)



Althea Penn, Ed.D, PDS, ODP

Announcements



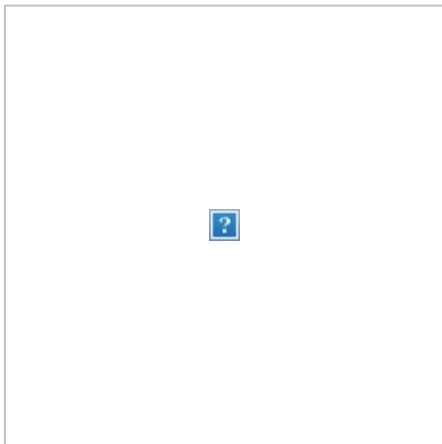
Secure your **spring testing** materials now.

Participate, Plan, Promote, and [Pray](#)

Make connections to improve student achievement by connecting with the ACSI [Student Assessment Program today!](#)



Make plans to attend **Converge Global Leadership Summit** March 8-10, 2022 in beautiful San Diego. See the speakers, schedule, and more [here](#). The [registration](#) deadline is February 18th

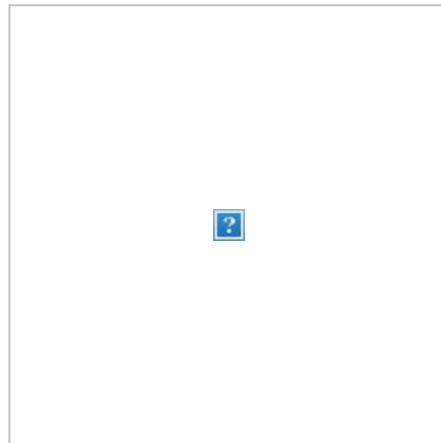
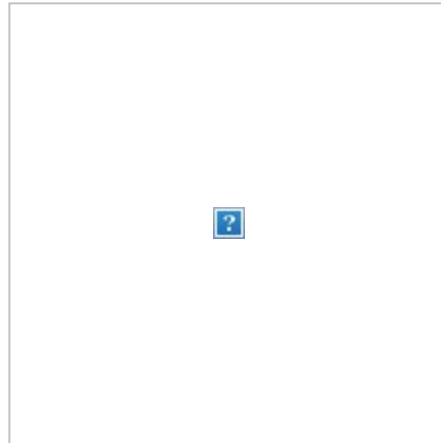


Job Seekers! Do you have a calling in international Christian education? Our international member schools are always looking for incredible people to join their staff. Join us for the [Winter Virtual Job Fair](#) where you have the opportunity to meet with dozens of recruiters looking for qualified people like YOU to join their team overseas. Join us for free on 1-2 March!

with us!

The [Prayer Map](#) is ready for your prayer posts. Click to read prayers from around the globe!

Download the new [Shalom Prayer Guide](#) – full of ideas to incorporate into your classroom, chapel, or elsewhere.



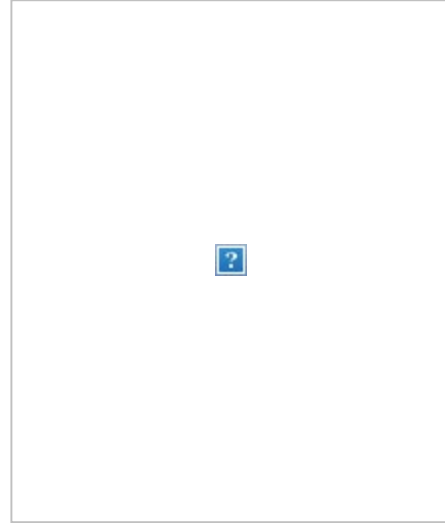
Explore how to foster stronger relationships in your school community to create a caring environment that promotes flourishing the way God intends at the ACSI one-day event at COVERGE March 8. Perfect for all school leadership levels, glean deeper understanding of the relationship domain and best practices utilizing ACSI's Communities of Practice approach combining engaging learning, discussion and action planning. [Register today](#).



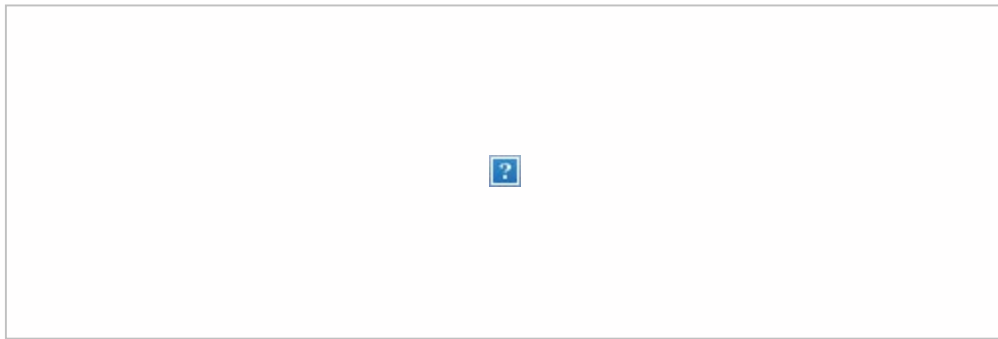
Advance Christ-centered education by immersing high school students in cultural travel and ministry experiences at strategic ACSI global locations. Learn more about The **Great Commission Project with ACSI and Joshua Expeditions** [here](#).



ACSI's **Leading Insights: Special Education and Inclusion**, features experts in theology, research, and practice in serving students with disabilities in the Christian school setting. The authors share new insights on how Christian schools can create cultures of belonging and mutual care that reflect God's heart for all children. Learn more [here](#).



[Read an excerpt](#) of the new book **Flourishing Together**, written by Lynn Swaner and Andy Wolfe, and order your copy today.



Access the latest accreditation and certification information from the most recent [Academic](#)

[Services Newsletters](#). If you have questions about accreditation, our [Divisional Accreditation Teams](#) would be happy to assist!

Public Policy & Advocacy

Insights on the 1st Amendment Right of Religious Autonomy

As articulated by the Supreme Court in its decisions in *Kedroff v. St. Nicholas Cathedral of Russian Orthodox Church in N. Am.*, 344 U.S. 94 (1952), and *Serbian E. Orthodox Diocese for U. S. of Am. & Canada v. Milivojevich*, 426 U.S. 696 (1976), this well-settled constitutional doctrine prohibits civil courts from reviewing internal disputes of religious organizations involving matters of faith, doctrine, or governance and asserts that the First Amendment demands that courts refrain from resolving controversies over religious doctrine, as well as disputes over the polity and administration of religious organizations. Some also refer to this constitutional principle as the “ecclesiastical abstention doctrine.” As succinctly stated by the Supreme Court, “[W]henever the questions of discipline, or of faith, or ecclesiastical rule, custom, or law have been decided by the highest of [the] church judicatories to which the matter has been carried, the legal tribunals must accept such decisions as final, and as binding on them.” *Hosanna-Tabor Evangelical Lutheran Church & Sch. v. EEOC*, 565 U.S. 171, 185-86 (2012) (internal citations omitted).

Event Calendar

Event Evv

- Feb. 2: [PDP Elementary Science Grade 2 Launch Party \(RSVP\)](#)
- Feb. 5 or Feb. 26 or March 18: [Virtual Early Educators Conference](#)
- Feb. 15: ACSI [Day of Prayer](#)
- Feb. 16: [Maximize Your ACSI Membership](#)
- March 1-2: [International Schools Winter Virtual Job Fair](#)
- March 2: [ACSI Student Assessment Program Spring Open House](#)
- March 8: [Designed to Flourish: Grow in Relationships - an ACSI One Day Event at Converge](#)
- March 8-10: [Converge 2022](#)
- June 21-23: [Flourishing Schools Institute \(west of Chicago in Oakbrook, IL\)](#)

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