



## Message from your Senior Director

### Fellow International Christian Educator,

One day all the goodbyes caught up with me. I think all educators understand that saying goodbye comes with the calling, right? I mean, simply put, you invest in a batch of kids in your class for one or two school years, you say goodbye, they move on to your colleague's classroom next door, so on and so forth. And then one day graduation comes when you really say your goodbyes and those students are off into a much bigger world. Simple, right? Maybe not.

I did fine with all the goodbyes for about the first 20-plus years at my international school. Eventually I learned to hug a little better, to say more words than usual, all the while pushing the feelings down. And then my very close friend and colleague Bill announced he was leaving too. That's when the accumulation of painful goodbyes to so many, both students AND beloved colleagues, caught up with me and the feelings came bubbling up.

I know you know this: it's different at international schools. The large number of comings and goings, by both students and staff is built in, it's just part of the air we breathe, but that air, while maybe unseen, comes with some serious meaning.

If you are anything like I was, I recommend that you read two short articles by [MaDonna Maurer](#). I love this one, [Building a Dock: A Resource for the Stayer](#). I was a long-term stayer that didn't know I needed to build a DOCK. Thank you MaDonna for the excellent resources and infographic. And if you are a leaver be sure to read, [Building a RAF\(G\)T](#). In this one, MaDonna adds a "G" to Pollock's classic RAFT model of leaving well. G stands for grief, and she contends that the F of Farewell involves so much more than just saying goodbye. I think it's important for you to read this one as well, because, eventually most of us will also become leavers.

When my friend Bill left, my first thought was, "So that's what the pain of goodbye feels like to all of my international students, and even my own sons, who have said goodbye to so many year after year after year!" (What took me so long, right?) That's when I started to open my heart to the harder work of goodbye-ing, and to, unknowingly at the time, "cherish the memories" and "keep caring and connecting" that MaDonna now suggests. These things are never easy, but always necessary.

And so it is with all the emotions, that I announce that our dear ACSI colleague and friend, Tim Thompson, is leaving our team on September 1 this year for a new calling on his life. At the same time we happily welcome Michael McNabb to join us on August 1 ([read more on Tim's and Michael's announcement here](#)). I think our collective DOCKS and RAFTS are ready for this.

I close with this blessing for you from Psalm 121:7-8 that seems perfectly relevant right now for us in international Christian education: "The Lord will keep you from all harm—He will watch over your life; the Lord will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore."

Tim for the international school team. Have a refreshing summer.

Tim Shuman, Senior Director, International Division, for the [International School Team](#)  
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\*Your international schools team.

[Tim Shuman, Senior Director, International Division](#)  
[Caitlin Taylor, Global Activity & International Events Coordinator](#)  
[Tim Thompson, Director of Accreditation, International Division](#)  
[Kimberly Park, Accreditation Specialist, International Division](#)

## Coming Up



- Please join us this November at [ICEC Asia 2023](#) coming up in Jakarta, 26–29 November 2023. We have assembled a great keynote team that will challenge and encourage your hearts. **Registration will open soon**, and so will our hotel recommendations – keep your eye on the webpage. **We are also accepting your workshop submissions NOW.** [Click here to get your workshop included](#) at ICEC.
- The next [International Schools Job Fair Tour](#) is coming up in November 2023. Liberty University on 7 November, Dallas Baptist University on 9 November, and Grand Canyon University on 13-14 November.
- Save the date. [ICEC Europe, 20-23 March 2024](#). Details are still in progress.
- A recent [PFO2Go](#) course reviewer wrote, “*Between the speakers and the participants guide, I have thought more deeply about what I will be facing on the field, and what I will be facing internally within myself.*” **NOW is the perfect time to enroll and introduce your newest hires to the importance of building their RAFT.**

## News, Articles, & Other Items

- ACSI's posts and resources:
  - [A Global Light Ablaze in Croatia](#)
  - [Teacher Well-Being: Not Just an Afterthought](#) – Ginger Hill
  - [Financial Health in Christian Schools?](#) – Schuyler Lehman
  - [Engage, Encourage, Equip: Helping Students to Ask Good Questions](#) – Billy Hutchinson
  - [ACSI's latest Research in Brief](#) – Spring 2023
  - Check out the [ACSI Student Activities page](#) listing ways for your international school to be involved.
- From our friend Michele Phoenix: [The Immeasurable Gifts of Growing Up MK](#). See more of Michele's important writings [here](#).
- Here's a good one on [Equipping Students to Manage Disappointment](#) by Sarah Fine.
- The June issue of the [International Teacher Magazine](#) is out now.
- If your high school is looking for college counseling support or supporting material, check out KC360's content for high schools. All content is on-demand and follows the admission timeline. Content includes college search and admission tips, financial aid, and transition tips. More information can be [found here](#).

- History Teachers, [this 400 year histogram](#) might be a little overwhelming at first – but wow!
- If I were still teaching 8th grade Earth Science I think I would include a few episodes of Laurel Moffatt’s calming Small Wonder podcasts like this one: [Consider the Birds](#). I think you will enjoy it too.
- Ok. Somebody give [this guy](#) a doctorate in musical instrument performance already. Somehow, he can play a line on 100 different instruments! Respect, sir! The musical saw surprised me – see if you can find it.

## Headship Openings Only

- Carthage Classical Academy, Tunisia. [Learn more here.](#)
- Christian Alliance International School, Hong Kong. [Learn more here.](#)
- Faith International Academy, Philippines. [Learn more here.](#)
- International Community School – Singapore. [Learn more here.](#)
- Kigali International Community School, Rwanda. [Learn more here.](#)
- Mountainview Christian School, Indonesia. [Learn more here.](#)

If you have a head of school opening coming up, please let me know. Be sure to check our [member school vacancy page](#) as well as the [ACSI Job Board](#). The ACSI job board is currently showing almost [7279 resumes](#) from job seekers, up again by approximately 100 since early May 2023! Use the filter to see the most recently updated resumes. If you are interested in a position at an international school check out the latest non-USA opportunities [here](#).

## ACSI Announcements



**FLOURISHING SCHOOLS**  
**Institute**   
*from ACSI*  
 Charlotte, NC | June 20–22, 2023  
 A professional development opportunity for Christian schools



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# Spring SAVINGS

**Annual Textbook Sale**  
April 10–July 7, 2023

**ACSI**  
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**Membership Renewal**

**IMPACT LIVES**  
**ETERNALLY**  
*Together*

**1st Chapter Download Available Now!**

**Teaching Redemptively**  
Joining Your Redemptive Project to Your Classroom  
3rd Edition  
Doreen L. Graham

**BIBLICAL UNITY**

**ACSI**  
STRONGER TOGETHER

**ACSI Community**  
Connecting Christ-Centered Educators

**Connect.**

Collaborate. Compel. Captivate. Comprehend.

**ACSI** **Early Education**

**The Importance of Self-Care for Christian Early Educators and Leaders**

As disciples, we're to deny ourselves, take up our cross and follow Christ, but we have a mandate to love and serve our neighbor (as we love ourselves). Flourishing learning

communities are made up of Christian early educators and leaders who understand the tension between self-care and self-denial (Matthew 16:24). If we are to avoid burnout, we must have a stewardship mindset as it pertains to our time, temple, and talents. Jesus modeled self-care by setting boundaries and prioritizing prayer time. Likewise, you are capable of developing supports, practices, and expectations that promote health and wellbeing for yourself and your school's stakeholders (students, family, and team members).

**Time-Setting boundaries.** Servant leadership is demanding. Biblical principles should inform policies and practices that promote flourishing leadership in schools. Unfortunately, many of us view self-care as self-centeredness.

**Temple-Caring for the whole person.** Scripture speaks of "caring for and cherishing our bodies." Just as we need the living water of God's Spirit for spiritual growth and refreshing, our natural bodies need water, nutritious food, sleep, safe environments, nurturing relationships, and movement to thrive.

–Kim Brucker, Senior Coordinator, Central Division

[Read the Rest of this Message Here & Learn about Networking and Professional Development Opportunities](#)



Our team is putting the finishing touches on our [Student Activities](#) offerings for the 2023-24 school year. We have some exciting expansions and new options that we cannot wait to share with you this summer. To give you a sneak peek, we will be launching a brand-new Entrepreneurial competition called [Venture: The Startup Innovation Challenge](#) and some amazing [Student Leadership](#) offerings. We know many of you are setting your calendars now, but we encourage you to leave room for these enrichment and experiential opportunities for your students!

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

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