



An International Member Connection, October 2023

Fellow International Christian Educator,

Some years ago, I started to collect verses for schools and organize them in my Google Keep. Now, let me to state the obvious: schools don't need verses, but the good and called educators in them do. "Schools" is just a handy word to capture the group of precious individuals for which I have been given the honor of encouraging once a month via this newsletter. I have referred to these verses, passages, and themes occasionally over the years in my writings to you and I thought I would bring a few together in this latest Insider.

Here are just a few highlights from that collection:

- Perseverance in our calling: [1 Corinthians 15:58](#), [Hebrews 6:10](#)
- Declaring God's truth in our teaching: [Psalm 96:1-3](#), [Psalm 119:33-40](#)
- Living in Community (so vital in the international school): [2 Thessalonians 1:3-4](#), [Hebrews 10:22-25](#)
- The art of teaching: [Deuteronomy 32:2-3](#), [Psalm 78](#)
- Raising the next generation: [Deuteronomy. 6:6-7](#), [Psalm 78:5-7](#), [Psalm 145:4-7](#)
- Encouragement for teachers: [Hebrews 13:20-21](#), [Isaiah 43:1-2](#)
- Encouragement for leaders: [Psalm 121](#)
- Prayer for staff recruitment: [Luke 10:2](#)

Dear educator, I encourage you to take a moment out of your busy lives and pick one or maybe two of these verses and let the words drop like rain upon you ([Deuteronomy 32:2](#)). And if you have the chance, hit reply and share with me your thoughts or a different verse that has encouraged you in your calling and craft.

In closing, it is my pleasure to introduce two new teammates to ACSI Global: Dr. Michael McNabb, Director of Accreditation, International Division, and Chelsea Allen, International Schools Activity and Events Coordinator. Learn more about them [here](#). Also note Caitlin Taylor's new title on the same page.

We hope to see many of you at ICEC Asia in November or at ICEC Europe in March. See links below.

Blessings upon you,

Tim for the international school team.

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](#)

[Chelsea Allen, International Schools Activity & Events Coordinator](#)

[Michael McNabb, Director of Accreditation, International Division](#)

[Kimberly Park, Accreditation Specialist, International Division](#)

[Caitlin Taylor, Administrative Assistant, International Division](#)



- **Register NOW** for [ICEC Asia 2023](#) in Jakarta, 26–29 November 2023. Registration closes on November 3. Please be sure to also sign up for one of our three Pre-Conference courses. **We are still accepting your workshop submissions.** [Click here to get your workshop included at ICEC.](#)
- **Register NOW** for the [International School Virtual Job Fair](#) and the [International Schools Job Fair Tour](#) coming up in November 2023! The opportunity to register will close soon!
- Save the date. [ICEC Europe, 20-23 March 2024 in Prague CZ](#) to be held at the beautiful [Vienna House by Wyndham](#) in Prague.
- [PFO2Go](#), our online course for new hires at international schools remains open for your participation year-round. If PFO2Go is new to you please [check out our FAQs](#).



- ACSI's most recent posts and resources:

- [I Can Do It All by Myself](#) – Emily Pigott
 - [Discovering Our Student's Ways](#) – Elizabeth Lucas Dombrowski
 - [Spiritual Formation and Flourishing](#) – Dr. Mitch Evans
 - [Frontline Faithfulness: Navigating Transgenderism](#) – a webinar series
 - [Financial Sustainability & Christian Schools: Becoming Future Ready](#) – a virtual live panel discussion with ACSI and Cardus.
 - The only [Flourishing Schools Institute](#) (FSI) this school year is November 7-9 in Phoenix, AZ. A \$250 off registration promo code is available at acsi.org/fsi.
- [Cultivating a Culture of Love for Learning](#) is a super helpful read. Thank you Bastiaen Noren and TeachBeyond.
 - Michael and Kim Essenburg care deeply about international Christian schools...
 - [Teachers, how do you find adequate time to do your work?](#)
 - [Board members, how can you help your head of school actually flourish during the ACSI Inspire self-study?](#)
 - [Flailing, flat, flourishing, or faking it—which describes your current experience as a leader?](#)
 - [School leaders, how can you quickly get more help? Hint: ChatGPT!](#)
 - Allow this faith article that originally appeared in Australia's The Age to encourage you. [The ordinary wonders that give me belief, like the dawn of each day.](#)
 - Do you struggle with sleep? A certain someone in my household was deeply blessed by Natasha Moore's "[Through the Watches of the Night](#)": [Reasons Not to Despair When Sleep Proves Elusive](#). And no, this is not one of those sleep remedy posts.
 - Sometimes I just need to channel my inner middle-school-boy and watch a few cool episodes of the [Hydraulic Press Channel](#). Middle school science teachers I give you permission to play a few of these in class to get the creative juices flowing.
 - And finally, I've seen Michelangelo's magnificent sculpture of David in-person several times, but not like this. [Michaelangelo's David getting dusted](#) is both fascinating (the SIZE of the magnificent David) and satisfying (who doesn't like a good dusting?). Enjoy.

HEADSHIP OPENINGS

- Chiang Rai Christian International School, Thailand. [Learn more here.](#)
- Faith International Academy, Philippines. [Learn more here.](#)
- International Academy of St. Petersburg. [Learn more here.](#)
- International Christian School of Vienna, Austria. [Learn more here.](#)
- International Christian School, Pyeongtaek, South Korea. [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 [7374 resumes](#) from job seekers! Be sure to use the filter options to narrow your prospective search for new staff. If you are interested in a position at an international school check out the latest non- USA opportunities [here](#).



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Purposeful Design Publications Fall Open House

We are excited to extend an invitation to you for the upcoming Fall Textbook Open House hosted by Purposeful Design Publications on November 14, 2023. As the leaves begin to change and a new school year unfolds, we invite you to discover the latest additions to our exceptional collection of educational resources.

At Purposeful Design Publications, we understand the crucial role that high-quality textbooks play in shaping engaging and effective learning experiences. Our Fall Textbook Open House will provide you with an opportunity to explore our latest offerings and engage with our team.

We will also officially launch our new Grade 5 Language Arts Textbooks. Mark your calendars and be part of our virtual event. [Click here to register!](#)

Interview with Emily Pigott, Director of Student Leadership & Learning

Emily Pigott was recently hired to lead ACSI's Student Leadership & Learning Department. Our ACSI writer, David Harding, sat down with her to hear her vision for the future.

DH: Can you tell us a little bit about yourself and your background?

I began my educational journey in 1999 and was at the same school, Southwest Florida Christian Academy (SFCA), for 20 years. I served as a teacher in the high school and as a principal there, and it was at SFCA that I first began the student leadership development journey that I'm on.

The head of school and I co-founded the Student Leadership Academy at SFCA and the purpose was to train and develop student leaders who would go out and have a cultural impact. We wanted students to fully understand leadership and what it truly meant so that they were ready when they left our four walls. That is where my love for student leadership really began, because you could see the difference it made in the students' lives.

I spent 20 years there doing that and then had the opportunity to go serve at Student Leadership University (SLU) as their executive director. I traveled globally conducting student leadership development in the Middle East, Israel, Bethlehem, the Golan Heights, to Europe, and everywhere in between. While I was at SLU, I co-authored with the vice president an eight-semester leadership development curriculum. That was a lot of fun, probably one of the most challenging things I've ever done.

I was in this role at SLU when I attended an ACSI FSi conference and David Ray mentioned an open position at ACSI. He asked me if I would be interested, and my first answer was that I love the thought of it, but I'm fine. He said, "You know where I am," and then I went and slept on it and found him the next day, and his words were, "I knew you'd be back." It was just a great opportunity—to serve at ACSI—as ACSI was so important in my journey as an educator, especially as an administrator.

DH: Tell me a little about the history of ACSI's Student Leadership & Learning Department and where you see it headed in the next couple of years.

Emily: ACSI has been involved in student activities since its inception in 1978. It has always been a department that comes alongside schools and serves them well by enriching their students' learning experience. The team making it happen has been consistent and incredible. Now what we're going to do is take it up about ten notches. We want to look at the educational experiences that students are having and basically advance them in two different ways. Number one, we will be equipping the educators, which is something that will be brand new to this department. Along with the ministry team and professional development, we want to equip educators so they can develop student leaders.

We want to bolster students' creative thinking, problem solving, and leadership skills—teach them how to serve well. God has uniquely and perfectly gifted and wired each of them for the plan He has for them. We want to do our part in helping them discover what that plan is - what those unique giftings are.

How we do that is through our immersive events and experiences, so they get to discover their strengths and learn how to use them effectively. The ultimate goal is to equip student leaders who are skilled and motivated to go out to the landscape of our world, which is a crazy place right now, and impact their communities for Jesus. When they do, cultural change will take place.

I love education because I believe it is the solution to a multitude of problems. So is student leadership—a student who understands their giftings and abilities and knows how to use them to impact the world. We get to come alongside schools and help them with that: to do the heavy lifting that they may not necessarily be able to do because they are in the weeds training them in math, the sciences, and things like that.

Right now, the Student Leadership & Learning team serves around 700 member schools, we put on over 300 events, and we will impact about 40,000 students each year. Our hope, prayer, and goal that we have as a team is that those numbers just skyrocket. When you think about all the schools and students that ACSI serves, then we look at that and say, well, we're going to take those 40,000 students and we're going to double that and eventually triple that.

In five years, our goal is to start seeing the cultural impact of our students. We hope to see the world and the landscape changing. We'll witness more students out in the world that are confident in who they are. They'll understand the truths found in Scripture. And they will be fully capable because they will understand how to lead and what influential leadership looks like. In five years, because that means we've had five years with them, we should be seeing these things happening in the culture, and that's our vision. That's part of what we can't wait to see happen.

DH: What I'm hearing is a definite shift from just providing students with extra-curricular activities to using those activities as a vehicle to train them in leadership and go back to their schools and be leaders. Is that correct?

Emily: Yes. Math Olympics, spelling bees, fine arts performances, Venture Startup Innovation Challenge, which is like Shark Tank, debate clubs, speech meets—those are all very important things in learning how to articulate something, how to study, prepare, and present content. All of those things are necessary, but we want to then take those enrichment opportunities, as we call them, and go a step further by putting students in experiential opportunities. This way, they can exercise all that they learned in those components, and they're applying them in leadership ways because that's the only way we're going to have a cultural impact is if we use the way God has gifted and wired us.

*Learn more about ACSI Student Leadership & Learning Experiences at <https://www.acsi.org/studentleadership>.



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