



An International Division Member Connection, August 2024

Fellow International Educator,

I purchased a copy of *The 1662 Book of Common Prayer* a few years ago. While I have not mastered its usage, I have enjoyed the prayers for special occasions that guide me from time to time in ways my own prayers rarely do. With the new school year approaching quickly, I want to share and recommend one specific prayer, also known as a Collect, with you that I have come to love. (I hope you enjoy old British English.)

This prayer is entitled, For School:

“Almighty God, of whose gift alone cometh wisdom and understanding: We beseech thee with thy gracious favour to behold our universities, colleges, and schools, that knowledge may be increased among us, and all good learning flourish and abound. Bless all who teach and all who learn, and grant that in humility of heart they may ever look unto thee, who art the fount of all wisdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.”

The last sentence is my favorite. It includes a blessing, “Bless all who teach and all who learn...” and a description of what our teaching and learning should be like so that we all look to Jesus, first and foremost, as the fount of all wisdom. Will you allow the words of this prayer to guide you this year, from your first steps into your halls right into your individual classroom?



Finally, I have probably listened to this song too many times, but “[Is Your Arm Too Short To Save](#)” has blessed my heart each and every time. I’m sure one of you could use this right now. Be sure to listen to the end.

Blessings upon you wherever you are,

Tim for the [international school team](#)

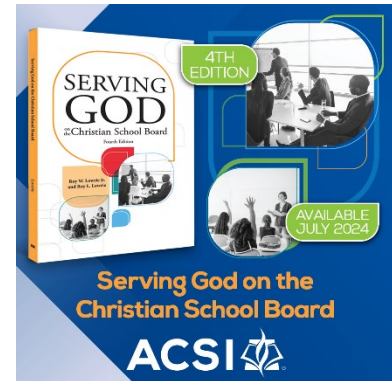
[Tim Shuman, Senior Director, International Division](#)

[Chealsea 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](#)



Membership Renewal

With you, we are stronger together. Renew your ACSI membership for the 2024–2025 school year! For details on how to renew, visit our [website](#) or [contact the ACSI Care Team](#).

Update from ACSI President & CEO, Dr. Larry Taylor



Watch the video above for an update from ACSI President & CEO, Dr. Larry Taylor.

Upcoming International Events

- Register your incoming hires to [PreField Orientation 2 Go](#) now. [Check out our course FAQs](#). Read this [recent article](#) about PFO2Go.
- Need help finding staff for the '25-'26 school year? Register for the [2024 Job Fair Tour](#) and our [Virtual Job Fair Day](#).
- **International School Leaders, join us in Mallorca, Spain, for ISLC Europe, which will take place from 27 to 30 April 2025. [LEARN MORE HERE](#).**
- **Latin American leaders**, we are announcing a new conference just for you on 02-05 April 2025 in Santa Domingo, Dominican Republic. Information is coming very soon.
- **Mark your calendars for ICEC Asia 2025**, which will be held in Malaysia from November 26 to 29, 2025. Details are forthcoming.
- Check out the ACSI Europe [Student Leadership Conference 2024](#) in Budapest. All are welcome.

News, Articles & Other Ideas

- ACSI's most recent posts and resources:

- [Becoming More Christian in Christian Schools](#) with [Shaun Brooker](#), New Zealand
- [Math Instruction in Christian Schools](#) with Jennette Wahlstrom, USA
- [Succession Planning](#) with Ben Thomas, Global
- [ACSI's PFO2Go Online Course Seeks to Fill Gaps in Preparation for Overseas Appointments](#) with Josh Worden and Tim Shuman, US & Global
- Check out the free [Spiritual Formation](#) resources at ACSI.
- Read the latest from ACSI's US-based Legal Affairs team [here](#).
- Unlock Hidden Scholarship Secrets!
 - How do I get scholarships?! This burning question is answered by Kristi Steele, founder of KC360.co, with the launch of her new Scholarship Secrets Course. Designed to guide students through the complex world of collegiate scholarships and financial aid, this course will quickly teach students how to secure scholarships just for you. Join Kristi with KC360 to learn how to find scholarships just for you! <https://kc360.co/course/scholarship-secrets/>
- [Michael and Kim Essenburg](#) care for international Christian schools and love to give you flourishing tips, ideas, and things to think about.
 - [A flourishing perspective of Christian education—what helps you develop, apply, and focus on it at your international Christian school?](#)
 - [International Christian school staff and leaders, what questions do you have about implementing a personalized flourishing plan?](#)
 - [Leaders, how coachable are you? How can you increase your coachability?](#)
- Here's something for your governing board: [Characteristics of ideal Board Chair](#).
- "The particular affinity I have felt with the Bagginses comes from their peculiarity—a peculiarity I share as someone who has been 'there and back again,' or what some have called a 'Third-Culture Kid.'" [Hobbits and Third-Culture Kids](#). Please share this with your community.
- This is an interesting graphic for any international school. [Where are the Top 100 Universities in the World?](#)
- [The latest Big Mac Prices around the world](#). We used this data in the 90s to help our TCK sons get college scholarships. IYKYK. On the other hand, maybe you need this one, [How many pork xiao long bao you can buy with \\$10](#).
- With the Olympics in full swing, how good are you at matching flags to countries? Test yourself with this fun game at [FlagMatch](#).

Headship Openings Only

- Christian Academy of Guatemala. [Learn more here.](#)
- Christian English School, Italy. [Learn more here.](#)
- Doulos Discovery School, Dominican Republic. [Learn more here.](#)
- Faith International Academy, Philippines. [Learn more here.](#)
- Hillcrest International School, Indonesia. [Learn more here.](#)
- Hillcrest School, Nigeria. [Learn more here.](#)
- International Academy of St. Petersburg, Russia. [Learn more here.](#)
- Mountainview Christian School, Indonesia. [Learn more here.](#)
- Rain Forest International School, Cameroon. [Learn more here.](#)
- Sahel Academy, Niger. [Learn more here.](#)

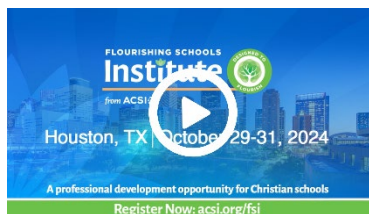
If you have a head of school opening coming up, please let me know. Be sure to check our [member school vacancy page](#) as well as the [ACSI Career Center](#). If you are interested in a position at an international school, check out the latest non-USA opportunities [here](#). Check out the latest ACSI [Job Flash](#) that goes out to thousands. Learn how you can get your needs included in the job flash [here](#); scroll down for Job Flash.

Independent Review of ACSI Research Flourishing Faith Model & Flourishing Faith Index

By Cardus

Similar to the prior independent review of [FSCI](#), ACSI contracted [Cardus](#), a North American non-partisan think tank, to conduct an independent review of the Flourishing Faith Model (FFM) and the Flourishing Faith

FSi Testimonies



Watch this video to hear how the Flourishing Schools Institute has impacted and encouraged fellow leaders in Christian education.

The Importance of Longevity in Leadership: Dr. Nita Carr's Story

By Josh Worden

Dr. Nita Carr thought that her journey in school leadership would be a mobile one. Her plan early in her career was to “stay in a place five years, get another promotion, and move on,” she said.

Index (FFI). This independent review is a rigorous and thorough process in which qualified and impartial scholar(s) do a comprehensive examination of the model and the instrument to ensure their conceptual and technical soundness by analyzing the conceptual framework, development process, and how well it measures what it is intended to measure (psychometrics).

This independent review covered several essential aspects of the model and the instrument, such as:

1. The FFM's conceptual framework, including defining terminologies and identifying constructs based on relevant literature;
2. The FFI's development process including the item-writing process, the items themselves, and the pilot study of the initial list of items;

[Continue reading here.](#)

The 2024 FSi in Houston, October 29-31, will feature an Opening Night AI Panel Discussion. To learn more, visit acsi.org/fsi

Dr. Carl Trueman on the High Calling of Teaching



Watch this short clip to hear Dr. Carl Trueman speak on the High Calling of Teaching.

Hear from Dr. Trueman and other speakers at the [2024 Public Policy and Advocacy Summit](#).

But when she became the President of [Cornerstone Schools of Alabama](#) (CSA) in 2007, Carr had a change of perspective. She developed a desire to stay put, along with a realization that she would also be more effective if she did so.

"I had no idea that 17 years later I would still be at Cornerstone, but when you're called, you don't leave a place," Carr said.

CSA is the largest Christian school in Birmingham, serving 700 students on three campuses. Carr had plenty of goals for CSA when she arrived; the school had just 160 students in one "run-down" building.

"I came in and made a lot of promises about the future, about college, about test scores, about a relationship with Jesus," Carr said. "The families told me one time they thought I was crazy."

[Continue reading here.](#)



[ACSI | Association of Christian Schools International](#)

Post Office Box 62249, Colorado Springs, CO 80962

Connect with us on social media and fellow Christian educators through the [ACSI Community!](#)

We respect your privacy. We do not sell, rent, or abuse our customer email list.

We strive to send valuable, timely emails to our members and friends.

[MANAGE SUBSCRIPTION PREFERENCES](#)

Cardus Independent Review Continued

3. The FFI's psychometric analyses and properties of the instrument items that provide empirical evidence of the reliability and validity of the instrument; and
4. Recommendations for future development that aim to enhance the value that FFI can deliver to end users, including additional analyses from various backgrounds of schools.

The reviewer concluded the independent review by providing an endorsement of the FFM and FFI instrument:

"The FFM was developed based upon a comprehensive literature review and discussion with an expert panel. The accompanying FFI was drafted and piloted with fidelity. That work has led to an instrument with ample evidence of validity and reliability.... I commend ACSI for developing the FFM and FFI and am eager to see how Christian schools will benefit from what they offer... My general assessment is that the FFM and FFI are, respectively, a conceptually robust framework and psychometrically sound instrument. I give my endorsement of the FFM and FFI for use by Christian schools if they wish to formally assess and put forth focused effort in their students' spiritual formation and biblical worldview development."

Questions regarding the independent review and the FFM and FFI instrument should be directed to research@acsi.org. More information about the FSCI and the Flourishing Schools research can be found at <https://www.acsi.org/thought-leadership>.

The Importance of Longevity in Leadership Continued

Because Carr stayed, she was able to see that process come to fruition. Now that she has been at CSA for 17 years, she has seen entire classes go from kindergarten through 12th grade.

“We had a student graduate a couple of years ago who had been with us since he was four,” Carr said. “His mom came up and said, ‘Ma’am, when I first heard you talk, I thought there was no way you would keep your promises. But you kept them.’ That meant the world to me.”

That was another lesson Carr learned along the way: building trust can’t be forced. It takes time to follow through on promises and develop the trust of parents, students, and colleagues.

“When you say something, mean it. Let your ‘yes’ be a ‘yes’ and your ‘no, no.’ That’s been a huge factor for me in building trust,” Carr said. “Also, the long-term relationships, seeing kids that I’ve known all throughout school care that I’m at their graduation. A lot of building those relationships is just being there, caring and giving them a hug.”

By remaining at CSA, Carr has walked with the school through feast and famine. Since all CSA students are on some level of scholarship, donations play an even bigger role than at most schools. Carr oversees bringing income in for CSA, so the 2008 recession after her arrival in 2007 was a shock.

“I saw a lot of other nonprofits go out of business. Birmingham did not let our kids down,” Carr said. “I’d get phone calls and they would say, ‘We’re going to make sure those kids get to keep going to your school.’ It was an important lesson early on that I needed to pay this money in.”

Leadership

Carr now gives back to fellow Christian school leaders through ACSI’s [Leadership U](#), a 14-month program designed to help leaders grow as they navigate a transition into a new role or prepare for potential future roles.

Scholars are paired with mentors like Dr. Carr. Learn more about becoming a Leadership U scholar or mentor on the website: <https://www.acsi.org/professional-development/leadership-u/about-leadership-u>.