

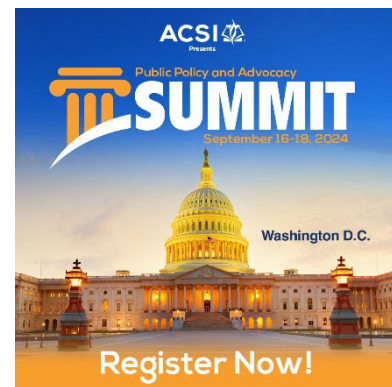
An International Member Connection, March 2024

### Rooted: Educator Worldview Summit

*A “worldview” isn’t just a series of propositions—  
it’s about understanding God’s created reality better  
so we can be the people God calls us to be.*

– John Stonestreet

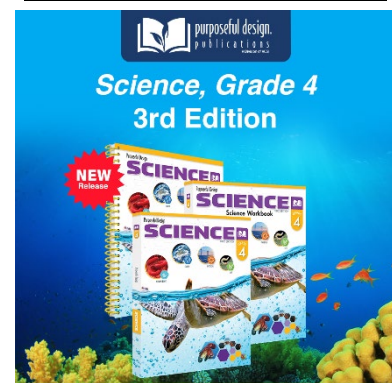
We hope you and other teachers from your school will join us June 24-27 at Ridgecrest in beautiful Black Mountain, NC, for the [Rooted: Educator Worldview Summit](https://www.acsi.org/rooted) hosted by ACSI and the Colson Center for Christian Worldview. Fabulous speakers, including Dr. Kathy Koch, Dr. Christopher Yuan, Dr. Matthew Sleeth, Dr. Thaddeus Williams, Monique Duson, Dr. Sean McDowell, along with John Stonestreet and Dr. Larry Taylor, will help you develop a Christlike culture, facilitate healthy faith formation, and engage secular ideology. Your attendance will earn you twelve CEUs in education and the Bible.



### Fellow International Christian Educator,

I hope you find time to meaningfully enter this season of Lent and Easter.

Sandee and I have always enjoyed visiting hundreds-of-years-old European cathedrals and churches every chance we could. For a time, we even attended services with the Reformed Protestant congregation in the magnificent Münster in Basel, Switzerland. And even though we could only understand about three-quarters of what was said in the service, often the message of the cathedral itself partially made up the gap. The stunning verticality, the stained-glass windows, the meaningful frescoes, the cathedral bells, the sound of the choral singers, and the organ all pointed us to



the triune God like few suburban churches in North America ever could.

The apostle Paul wrote in Galatians 6:14, “But far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.” Easter season rightly points us to the cross, and Paul himself boasted of nothing else. One of the most important things we often miss about many European cathedrals is their cruciform shape (built in the shape of the Cross). Take a look at this [satellite image of the Basel Münster](#) and...there you see it, the Cross of Christ! That cruciform shape is no accident! It’s as if the architect and builders wanted everything about the building, inside, outside, above, and below to boast of one thing only - the cross of Jesus Christ.

During this wonderful Easter season of reflection let us also boast in one thing – the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ and Him resurrected! And let our lives reflect more of that cruciform shape in our classrooms and in our neighborhoods, towns, and cities around the world. Amen?

Blessings upon you,  
Tim for the [international school team](#).



[2024 Events](#)

## Upcoming International Events

- [ICEC Europe, 20-23 March 2024](#) takes place in just two weeks, and we are excited. We look forward to seeing many of you there.
- We are working diligently to finalize dates and locations for our [2024 Job Fair Tour](#) and [Virtual Job Fair day](#).
- [PreField Orientation to Go](#), 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](#).
- Leaders mark your calendars for the International School Leaders Conference (ISLC) Europe, coming up on 27-30 April 2025.
- Check out the next [Converge conference](#) for leaders on 24-25 February 2025.

## News, Articles, & Other Ideas

- ACSI's most recent posts and resources:
  - [Faithfulness in Prayer](#) with Becki Rust
  - [The Flourishing Faith Index: Measuring Biblical Worldview and Spiritual Formation in Christian Schools](#) with Matthew Lee, Eric Price, and Lynn Swaner
  - [Taking a Selah Moment: Black History Month and Christian Schools](#) with Tia Gaines
  - [New ACSI Podcasts](#).

- This is a great article on [Cultivating a Culture of Prayer](#). The tips for teachers are excellent.
- I enjoyed this blog post on [The Open World of International Schools](#) by Josiah Marr.
- [Education, Ethics, and Cheating in the Age of ChatGPT](#) by Peter Merrick, Ph.D.
- If you are looking for a deep dive into the current state of International Schools around the world, read this post from ISC Research, [What Data Tells Us About the International Schools Market](#).
- Another helpful article for school leaders from Dr. Barrett Mosbacher on [Five Essential Communication Skills for Calming Conflict](#).
- Michael and Kim Essenburg love international Christian schools and love to give you tips, ideas, and things to think about.
  - [Avoid Faulty Assumptions \(#8\): My students are learning—so I'm flourishing, right?](#)
  - [International Christian school staff and leaders, what would you include in an action plan designed to increase the resilient well-being of students, staff, and leaders?](#)
- Dallas Baptist University has new scholarships available for graduates of ACSI member international schools. Check them out [here](#) and [here](#).
- Dr. Roger Parrott, President of Belhaven University, is once again offering very generous scholarships to graduates of ACSI member schools and teachers and leaders! [Check both offers here](#).
- I'm sure you want to know, which countries have [the most Starbucks?](#)
- What? Even rats are taking selfies now and they seem to enjoy it! [Check it out](#).

## Headship Openings Only

- Cairo Covenant School (starting June 2025), Egypt. [Learn more here](#).
- Carachipampa Christian School – Bolivia. [Learn more here](#).
- Christian Academy of Guatemala. [Learn more here](#).
- Christian English School, Italy. [Learn more here](#).
- Faith International Academy, Philippines. [Learn more here](#).
- Inter-American School, Guatemala. [Learn more here](#).
- International Academy of St. Petersburg, RU. [Learn more here](#).
- International Christian School, Uijeongbu, South Korea. [Learn more here](#).
- Kigali International Community School, Rwanda. [Learn more here](#).
- Mountainview Christian School, Indonesia. [Learn more here](#).
- Rain Forest International School, Cameroon. [Learn more here](#).
- Sahel Academy, Niger. [Learn more here](#).
- Sekolah Pelita Harapan, Lippo Village, 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](#). If you are interested in a position at an international school, check out the latest non-USA opportunities [here](#). You can get your important job openings feature in the next ACSI [Job Flash](#), learn how you can get your need posted to thousands [here](#),

## Does Student Leadership Development Really Matter?

By Emily Pigott, Director of Student Leadership & Learning

There are around 1.3 billion students between the ages of 13–18 on our planet. They are in our schools, in our churches, and in our communities—they are a part of shaping the very culture of this world. So, does developing student leaders' matter? The undeniable answer must be yes. But in a world where the pace is breathtaking and cultural messages challenge the Truth found in God's Word, how do we do it?

Do you remember what Peter was like when Jesus first started discipling him? He was an ordinary, untrained fisherman who was impulsive and undisciplined. As Jesus disciplined him, He patiently confronted and corrected him. He answered his questions and pointed out God's truth. He lived a righteous life for Peter to be able to watch and imitate.

He entrusted great responsibility to Peter, and when Peter failed, Jesus restored him to relationship and service with Him.

This sounds a lot like student leadership development, and if this type of discipling and leadership development equipped Peter to lead with such purpose and impact, it can do the same for our students.

As we move into the second semester of our school year, let's determine to make student leadership development a priority. Help students see the potential of their future and understand the impact of their calling. In doing so, you will be encouraging your students to engage their culture for Christ.

Stronger Together.

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## Policy or Creed

by Philip Scott, Esq.

Over the last 10 years, there has been an emphasis on religious entities, and Christian schools, in particular, building legal defenses for faith-based decisions they make. Christian schools have not started doing something new; rather, culture and the legal system have moved the goalposts of what is generally acceptable conduct and left us with religious exemptions (limited carve-outs of religious conduct) if we can prove we qualify for them. Thus, we have entered a phase of risk management and legal planning that focused on Statements of Belief or Statements of Faith with a

## Rooted Educator Worldview Summit

By Caitlyn Harding

As the sun set, infusing the tree-lined mountains with a golden hue, Cindy Dodds, ACSI Chief of Flourishing Initiatives, finished her prayer walk around Ridgecrest Conference Center in Black Mountain, North Carolina. In a few short months, this dazzling scene will be the backdrop of the ACSI Rooted Educator Worldview Summit, as dozens of educators from across the world will come together to hear speakers such as John Stonestreet, Dr. Sean McDowell, Monique Duson, and more. Christian educators will be trained on specific strategies for engaging students in biblical

## ACSI Community

By Jenny Bergeron

The ACSI Community online forum is a great way for ACSI members to connect with other like-minded Christian educators. A free member benefit, every teacher and/or staff on a member school's roster can enjoy the online camaraderie in ACSI Community. When a school becomes an ACSI member, every individual staff email address is eligible for an account and is immediately added to the general ACSI Members community group. Each member can join multiple groups. Groups are topically based, and most can be easily joined.

bent towards our defense in court. Our statements expanded from being our creeds to also serving as Exhibit A in our legal defense. On the whole, I'm not sure that's been healthy for our creedal posture.

When our Statement of Faith becomes a risk management tool, we must be mindful of the inherent risk of "updating" our statements at the behest of legal concerns rather than from a felt need to further clarify our beliefs. The two can overlap, but we cannot lose sight of the necessity of the belief leading the strategy and not the inverse. If we continue down that road, we run the risk of viewing our statements as policies instead of professions of belief.

[Continue reading here.](#)

thought and action so they can ultimately lead students into a life of flourishing faith.

"Our vision for the Rooted Educator Worldview Summit is to help our Christian educators better understand how to develop a Christ-like culture, facilitate healthy faith formation, and engage secular ideology in a God-honoring way within their respective schools," Dodds shared.

"Those who fully engage in the benefits of the Summit will walk away encouraged and inspired by a network of educators who are learning and growing together in this area."

[Continue reading here.](#)

Recently updated with a facelift, you can access ACSI Community on any device now, including your mobile phone. Check out how to download the app as well as navigate around ACSI Community in our new [Getting Started document](#).

There are many groups to choose from, including topics such as:

- [Day of Prayer](#)
- [Band and Choir Directors](#)
- [Facilities and Maintenance](#)
- [Early Education](#)
- [Student Leadership and Learning](#)

Join a new group in ACSI Community today!

**Maximize Your Membership**

**ACSI**   
**Maximize Your Membership**



**Student Leadership and Learning —  
Servant Leadership Roadmap**

**IMPACT LIVES ETERNALLY**

 *Together* 

This month's [Maximize Your Membership webinar](#) features ACSI's Director of Student Leadership and Learning Emily Pigott on the Servant Leadership Roadmap. Previously recorded **Maximize Your Membership** webinars are available at our [website](#).



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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](#)

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## Policy or Creed Continued

I was reminded of this slow fade earlier this year when I attended ACSI's International School Leader Conference. There were at least 40 countries represented from all corners of the world. Multiple sessions focused on the creedal commitments schools make to further clarify where they stand on issues primarily dealing with human sexuality. What struck me in the conversations was the intense focus on formulating the right Statements of Faith for their school community. The concern of having the right policy for legal protections was largely unavailable for schools and, therefore, not a factor in driving revisions. In fact, for many schools, having such a policy publicly promoted on biblically based sexuality would bring arrest, closure of the school, and even risk of life. These gathered leaders were not discussing these policies from the standpoint of risk strategy but of biblical fidelity. If Christian education is to have any impact, it must teach the full message of God, irrespective of societal pressures.

Several schools shared how they have gone through a multi-year process of amending their statements so they now address human sexuality. They spent time as school leaders discerning what was needed and investing in their school community to bring everyone onto the same page of what Scripture teaches and what they believe their line in the sand is.

I am not suggesting schools change course on their various statements around human sexuality. We in the U.S. should recognize the dual purpose of our Statements of Faith and realize the pull to treat them as just policy. May we not treat our Statements of Faith as another policy that we put in the binder and let sit on the shelf until it is needed. May our Statements of Faith be the organizing framework for our school communities, second only to Scripture itself.

## Why this Sin?

You may be wondering why we should reference issues of human sexuality in a foundational document to begin with. Aren't we making the mistake of elevating one kind of sin over other sins? For example, why not address slander and every other form of sin if we are going to start naming sins? Setting aside the conversation on equality of all sin for our purposes here. I would suggest that regardless of one's view on the impact of individual sins as compared to other sins, there is an element of understanding our cultural moment that requires statements of belief on human sexuality. No element in American society is attempting to dismantle the individual, the church, the family, societal institutions, and marriage over slander, but legions are over human sexuality and human identity. Creeds serve to focus and organize belief through action around a

core set of principles. In any given age, pressing questions about the reality of God's message, His goodness, and ultimate truth may change or present greater pressure points based on the presuppositions of belief a given culture presents as truth. The present message that is luring our society down the wrong path is one of sexual and identity autonomy from God.

Our Statements of Faith are needed for the Christian school community to help foster a shared faith perspective. They provide the direction and support needed for the community to hold fast to its faith in the face of great opposition. May we never cheapen our Statements of Faith to simply be policies.

### **Rooted Educator Worldview Summit Continued**

The ACSI Rooted Educator Worldview Summit is the first of its kind. It is unique in two ways—first, ACSI is partnering with The Colson Center, one of the most respected organizations worldwide on biblical worldview and spiritual formation. Second, the content will not only be biblically sound but will align with the findings of the Flourishing Schools Culture research.

“It's not easy to summarize biblical worldview integration in a sentence or two, but it begins with an understanding that God is the source of all truth,” Dodds shared.

“The general premise of integration is to guide students to think biblically and critically about every area of learning, applying biblical principles not just to their subject matter, but in their relationships with peers and in their extracurricular activities, as well. When students understand learning and life from a biblical perspective, they gain a greater understanding of the nature and character of our God and are equipped to live a life of biblical flourishing.”

The [Summit](#) will take place from June 24–27, 2024.

“Through this Summit, educators will be equipped and also exposed to opportunities to continue their journey through a fellow's program specifically designed for educators to confront our cultural moment,” Dodds said. “Imagine the impact of a generation of Christ-centered students who are prepared to engage cultural issues in healthy ways.”