

An International Division Member Connection, May 2024

Fellow International Educator,

You likely have travel plans for this summer—travel plans for holiday, plans to re-locate, or plans to see family, friends, and supporters. But what about your plans for six months from now? Or one year from now? Or five and ten years? Understandably, the further out our human minds go, the less and less certain we can be.

Back in early April, millions of Americans got really excited about a solar eclipse and made travel plans to be in the “zone of totality”. From all the social posts, it was amazingly worthwhile! What was equally amazing but far less noted was the absolute certainty and timetabling of that event right down to the day and minute! A flight to “the zone” might be canceled or delayed, but the eclipse itself was absolutely guaranteed, a guarantee that applies to [solar eclipses](#) well past our time on this earth! But here’s the really amazing part, if our creator God has timetabled solar eclipses, if he controls the sun, the moon, and all the stars with such precision, can we not trust him with our lives, our comings and goings, and our futures?

Read what David wrote in Psalm 139 (or listen to the whole chapter [here](#)):

"Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there. If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast." (vs. 7-10)

"All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be. How precious to me are your thoughts, God! How vast is the sum of them! Were I to count



them, they would outnumber the grains of sand—when I awake, I am still with you." (vs. 16b-18)

Yes, you and I can indeed trust God with all of our days, our traveling, and our staying.

Blessings upon you wherever you are,

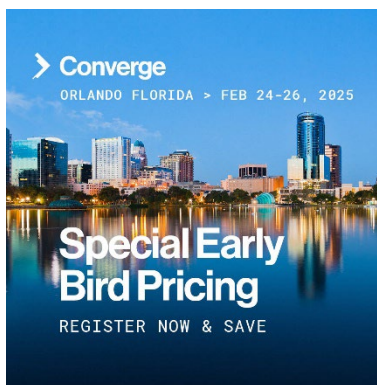
Tim for the [international school team](#)

[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](#)



Membership Renewal

Membership Renewal is just around the corner! Be on the lookout for a renewal email coming your way in June. To prepare for renewal season, ensure that your account is accurate. Take a moment now to update your enrollment numbers and key school contacts. View the [User Guide](#) for assistance and [contact us](#) if you have any additional questions!

[2024-25 Events](#)

Upcoming International Events

- [Rooted Educator Worldview Summit '24](#). 24–27 June 2024, Black Mountain, NC, USA. All are invited.
- We know you need teachers and that's why it's time to register now for the [2024 Job Fair Tour](#) and our [Virtual Job Fair Day](#).
- Please check out our current PFO2Go price promotion and register your incoming hires to [PreField Orientation 2 Go](#) right now. [The course FAQs](#).

A recent PFO2Go learner wrote, *"I would recommend this course to anyone going to an overseas school assignment because it touches on many important issues that affect everyone moving overseas, culture, transition, culture shock, and how to handle the stress that will arise and how to care for yourself."*

- **Leaders mark your calendars for the International School Leaders Conference (ISLC) Europe, coming up on 27–30 April 2025.**
- **Mark your calendars for ICEC Asia 2025 on 26–29 November 2025—to be held in Malaysia!** Details will be forthcoming.
- Check out the next [Converge conference](#) for leaders on 24–25 February 2025.
- Have you considered sending your student leaders to the ACSI Europe's [Student Leadership Conference 2024](#) in Budapest?

News, Articles, & Other Ideas

- ACSI's most recent posts and resources:
 - [Spiritual Stewardship in Your School: Data Can Help](#) with Alicia Johnson
 - [Artificial Intelligence: A Choice to Build Empires, or God's Kingdom](#) with Jason Toevs
 - [Building Life-long Resilience: The Social-Emotional Skills Connection](#) with Kathy Howard
 - [Messy Learning](#) with Dr. Dave Mulder

- In [Vocational Education and Helping Students Find Their Gifting](#) (video) with Jerry Nelson, the Netherlands' vocational educational system is discussed.
- Michael and Kim Essenburg care for international Christian schools and love to give you tips, ideas, and things to think about.
 - [When doing school improvement, when are you and your international Christian school colleagues at your best?](#)
 - [Help students flourish as readers by teaching them how to pick books](#)
 - [What do you want to know? How are you going to learn it? \(Hint: Try a book discussion!\)](#)
- My friend [Josiah Marr](#) tackles an issue many are grappling with, [Should Cell Phones Be Allowed in Schools?](#) In it, Josiah points out [ICS Bangkok](#) and their cell phone policy. Good stuff.
- ISC Research takes on the issue of AI in international schools with [AI is coming to school. Are we ready?](#) And, [Building consensus for a meaningful AI policy.](#)
- Art, history, and design teachers [check out](#) this fascinating collection of modernist churches built in the [brutalist](#) style. How do you think this architecture contributes to or distracts from worship on Sunday? This could be an interesting class discussion.
- When I was a kid there was a TV cartoon about a flying squirrel named [Rocky](#) that I thought was pretty cool; well, [real flying squirrels](#) are way cooler.

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.](#)
- International Academy of St. Petersburg, Russia. [Learn more here.](#)
- International Christian School, Uijeongbu, South Korea. [Learn more here.](#)
- Mountainview Christian School, Indonesia. [Learn more here.](#)
- Rain Forest International School, Cameroon. [Learn more here.](#)
- Due to the unusual need we are also listing this non-headship opportunity at Dakar Academy, Senegal. [Experienced Boarding Administrator](#) needed.

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](#). Check out the latest ACSI [Job Flash](#) and learn how you can get your needs posted to thousands [here](#). Look for Job Flash.

ACSI Podcasts Are Encouraging Educators



ACSI launched four podcasts in January that are viewable on YouTube and available for listening on several platforms, including Spotify and Apple. From brave stories about leading through war to best practices for a flourishing school community, ACSI is providing 15-minute content pieces each Monday that busy educators are finding both inspiring and useful.

The first Monday of every month, ACSI President & CEO, Dr. Larry Taylor, interviews a Head of School either internationally or domestically, gleaned leadership insights you can implement, in “Sharpening Kingdom Leaders.” Dr. Edward Bunn explores the practical application of the Flourishing Journey. Emily Pigott reflects on the positive impact of teachers and leadership development in “Student Leadership & Learning.” At the end of each month, Chief Ministry Officer Jerry Nelson explores how biblical worldview

and spiritual formation should be integrated into everyday Christian education with “Grafted Together.” Follow or subscribe to ACSI Podcasts to be notified of the latest episode, and let us know what you think at communications@acsi.org.

Maximize Your Membership



Watch this month's [Maximize Your Membership](#) and join ACSI's Divisional Directors to hear about members benefits and ways they support ACSI schools. Previously recorded *Maximize Your Membership* webinars are available at our [website](#).

Finding the Right Curriculum: Top 6 Considerations Schools Should Look For

By David Harding

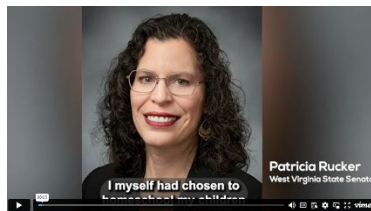
Schools are inevitably faced with the task of selecting a curriculum, whether they are a new school just starting out or an established school looking to update their current curriculum. To assist schools in this process, Evie Piedt, ACSI's Textbook Training Senior Coordinator, explained that the Purposeful Design Publications department provides schools with a "[textbook adoption rubric](#)" to evaluate ACSI curriculum. This rubric is an additional offer of support to aid schools in their decision-making process.

Piedt emphasized that there are several key components that schools should consider when evaluating curriculum. These areas include:

1. Alignment with the school's mission, vision, and values
2. Adherence to best practices, standards, skills, and current research
3. Ease of navigation and visual appeal
4. Whether included assessment materials provide sufficient information for teachers to be able to assess student understanding, identify areas of weakness/misunderstanding, and modify instruction to meet student learning needs

School Choice Matters: West Virginia State Senator Patricia Rucker's Story

By Josh Worden



Watch the video above to hear West Virginia State Senator Patricia Rucker's story on school choice advocacy.

Hear Senator Rucker speak at this year's Public Policy and Legal Advocacy Summit in Washington, D.C. Learn more and register [here](#).

The Great Commission Project in the Dominican Republic



Watch the slideshow above for impactful images from the Great Commission Project.

Great Commission Project Partners with Local Schools, Impacting Lives for Christ

By Josh Worden

Nearly 50 students from two ACSI-affiliated Christian schools recently returned from a transformative trip to the Dominican Republic with the ACSI Great Commission Project (GCP). Lake Country Christian in Fort Worth, Texas, sent 37 travelers, while Madison-Ridgeland Academy in Madison, Mississippi, sent 10 travelers to minister to students from two Christian schools and two public schools in the D.R. The two American schools are among the six schools that will participate in the GCP by the end of July.

The GCP empowers students to gain cultural experiences overseas while serving alongside local students as they share the Gospel. For this trip to the D.R., students with the GCP interacted with a variety of grade levels, including ministering to elementary and middle school students with songs, games, and crafts with gospel themes.

With older students, GCP travelers used outdoor games and sports clinics, along with spending time in classrooms, to interact with and learn about each other's respective cultures and share testimonies of what God has done in their lives.

Continue reading [here](#).

Continue reading [here](#).

**Watch additional videos on
the ACSI Vimeo:**

Apologetics Conference Recap
– [watch here](#)
Advocacy in Christian
Education – [watch here](#)



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

[MANAGE SUBSCRIPTION PREFERENCES](#)

Finding the Right Curriculum Continued

5. Whether the digital components provide significant value for the content in the areas of instructional delivery, student engagement, and ease of navigation

6. Whether the curriculum elements fall within the school's budget

By considering these aspects, schools can make informed decisions when selecting a curriculum that best meets the needs of their students and educational objectives.

The entire rubric can be accessed through the website: <https://your.acsi.org/PDP-Rubric>.

Learn more about Purposeful Design Publications on the website at <https://your.acsi.org/pdp-store>. The annual [Spring Savings event](#) runs from April 15–June 30, 2024.

Great Commission Project Continued

Students from the U.S. and D.R. were partnered together and traveled to a neighboring public school, going classroom to classroom to share the Gospel and personal testimonies and pray over each group. They also spent a day at a sister elementary and middle school, ministering through songs and skits to share the Gospel.

At least nine students from the D.R. made commitments to Christ, with follow-up support provided by local school leadership.

The integration of cultures was palpable throughout the experience, with students from diverse backgrounds coming together to serve a common purpose. One U.S. student bound for the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor in Texas next school year met a peer from the D.R. who will attend Baylor University just 40 minutes away, and the pair exchanged contact information to reconnect this fall.

The scope of the project extended across multiple schools, including Colegio Bautista Cristiano Palabras Vivas, Escuela Basica Jesus Maestro, Colegio Bautista Cristiano, and a Sister Outreach School, Colegio Bautista Cristiano Belen. The collective outreach touched the lives of over 1,000 students, reinforcing GCP's mission to spread the message of Christ's love and redemption.

"It has been inspiring to see schools from different countries partner to allow their students to share Christ, see people make commitments for Christ, experience cultures together, and have Kingdom impact," said Scott Forsythe, an ACSI Great Commission Liaison. "These trips provide the opportunity for schools to go beyond the one-time mission trip to develop long-term partnerships and relationships."

ACSI's mission with the GCP is to immerse high school students in cultural travel and ministry experiences at strategic ACSI global locations.

"The Great Commission Project is an incredible opportunity for students to exemplify what it means to be a servant leader," said Emily Pigott, ACSI Director of Student Leadership & Learning. "The relationships cultivated last beyond the trip as Jesus' love shines through the students to truly impact their culture for Christ."

For more information on the Great Commission Project, please visit <https://www.acsi.org/greatcommission>.