



***An International Division Member Connection, April 2025***

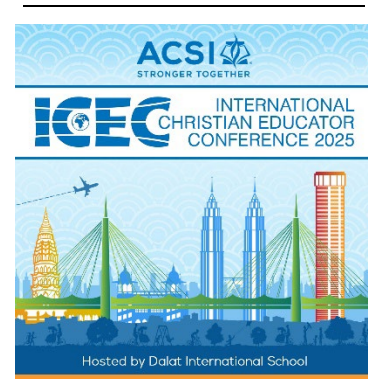
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**Fellow International Educator,**

April 1986 was a busy month for me. I was midway through my student teaching semester and finishing my senior year at Kent State. I submitted my application to Janz Team Ministries, now known as TeachBeyond. And I began creating awareness among my family and friends about M-support to join the team at Black Forest Academy later that summer. All the while, I was also sending handwritten letters (remember those?) to a certain someone at BFA, peppering her with numerous questions. A lot was going on, and I was excited about the future. Little did I know all that would unfold in the intervening years.

There's a reason I'm looking back. In Dr. Taylor's quarterly update video below, somewhere around minute 4, he very kindly announces my upcoming retirement from ACSI at the end of 2025. I'm not leaving ACSI right away, but I am making plans for a different direction over the next nine months. It's time for something new, and I'm excited about that future too.

In the meantime, I join Dr. Taylor in welcoming Dr. Angela Patterson to our team later this August as the incoming Global Division Director of International Schools. I'm excited about what Angela will bring to



the table as she will serve you and our international schools in the future. Be on the lookout for a press release that will properly introduce Angela.

Not long after I arrived at Black Forest Academy in 1986, I proposed to the person I had been writing to, and happily, [Sande](#) said yes to dedicating our lives to each other and to service in international Christian education. When we got married a year later, we had the reference “Psalm 48:14” engraved on the inside of our wedding bands to remind us... “For this God is our God for ever and ever; he will be our guide even to the end.” We have truly felt guided and blessed throughout all these years. I’m not in a hurry to understand the details of 2026 right now, but I have faith that God will lead us through it all.

Join us at one of our upcoming conferences and meet Angela Patterson in person at [ISLC](#), [ABI](#), or [ICEC Asia](#) this year.

Blessings to you wherever you are in the world,

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](#)



## Share Your Story

We’re always on the lookout for inspirational stories about Christian schools around the world. How is God moving in your school community? Please take a moment to share your story with us by filling out [this form](#).

**ACSI President & CEO, Dr. Larry Taylor, Gives a Quarterly Update**



Hear from Dr. Larry Taylor, ACSI President & CEO, as he updates us on what God is doing in and through ACSI. Watch the video [here](#).

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## Upcoming International Events

- **Final call for [ISLC Europe!](#)** Registration closes on 7 April, so you must act fast. As of today, nearly 135 participants from 21 countries have signed up. Don't miss out; [register now](#) and book your hotel room.
- The [ABI Conference](#) is coming up on 12-15 November 2025. Leaders and educators from Accredited schools, Bilingual schools, and International schools in Latin America are invited to join us in the Dominican Republic. New details are being formulated now.
- Registration is open for [ICEC Asia 2025!](#) Join us this November on the campus of [Dalat International School](#) from November 26 to 29, 2025. We are delighted to have Dr. David Smith from Calvin College as one of our main keynote speakers. We also added three pre-conference courses, and we are ready to receive your workshop submissions [here](#).
- We are now entering our fifth-year offering [PFO2Go](#), preparing educators to join international schools worldwide. Read some of the course [reviews](#).

## News, Articles, & Other Ideas

- ACSI's most recent posts and resources:
  - [The Mental Health Landscape of Adolescents: Developing a Comprehensive School-Based Suicide Prevention and Awareness Program](#) with Nancy Gillespie
  - [The Role of Women in U.S. History: A Proverbs 31 Perspective on Strength, Faith, and Impact](#) with Dr. Justina Jenkins
  - [ACSI Accreditation: Strengthening Schools and Showcasing Their Lasting Impact](#) – look for one of our international school leaders.
  - [A Legacy of Faith and Education: ACSI Latin America's Journey.](#)
  - (Video) Dr. Larry Taylor interviews [Ben Carson on education, family, and courage.](#)
- ACSI is taking nominations for the 2025 Career Services Award. [Learn more here.](#)
- Registration is open for ACSI Europe's [Student Leadership Conference 2025.](#)
- [Michael and Kim Essenburg](#) care for international Christian schools and love to share flourishing tips and ideas with you.
  - [What can you invest 15 minutes in that will help you get holistically flourishing in Jesus?](#)
  - [Board members, how readily can you explain board responsibilities?](#)
  - [International Christian school leaders, where are you slipping? What can you do about that?](#)
  - [What good are audiobooks?](#)
- Are you making the most of your ACSI Career Center benefit? [This graphic](#) reminds you of ways you can elevate your profile on our job board.
- Our friends at The Stony Brook School posted their comprehensive [Guidelines for Academy Integrity](#). How do your guidelines compare?
- Generation Alpha, kids 14 and under, also known as digital natives, are in your schools. Have you wondered how they learn and how they spend their time? Check out this interesting infographic from McCrindle: [Inside the Mind of Generation Alpha.](#)
- Dr. Mosbacker's latest post got me thinking: [From Screens to Simplicity: Reclaiming Beauty in the Evening Hours.](#) How do you spend your evening hours?

- It's time for the latest Gallup Poll results on [Happiness Levels by Country](#). Do you agree with their findings?
- This made me smile and a little bit hungry. [Delicious Names for "Pie Chart" in other languages](#).

## Head of School Openings Only

- Christian English School of Torino, Italy. [Learn more here](#).
- First Baptist Christian School, Cayman Islands. [Learn more here](#).
- Grace International School, Bangladesh. [Learn more here](#).
- Hillcrest International School, Indonesia. [Learn more here](#).
- Hope Academy, Central Asia. [Learn more here](#).
- International Academy of St. Petersburg, Russia. [Learn more here](#).
- International Christian School of Budapest, Hungary. [Learn more here](#).
- Mountainview Christian School, Indonesia. [Learn more here](#).
- Oaxaca Christian School, Mexico. [Learn more here](#).
- William Carey Academy, India. [Learn more here](#).

If you have a head of school opening, please let me know. Check our [member school vacancy page](#) and 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.

### How We Do Things Matters: Leading with Love and Intentionality

By Kati Melton, Senior Director, Western Division

*Love the Lord your God with all your heart and*

### Easter Activity from Purposeful Design Publications

***Bible, Grade 4***

By Purposeful Design Publications

### Matt Heard on Equipping Students with the Life of the Gospel



*with all your soul and  
with all your strength and  
with all your mind; and  
love your neighbor as  
yourself.* – Luke 10:27

In leadership, ministry,  
and life—**how we do  
things matters.** We can  
have the best strategies,  
the most efficient  
systems, and the clearest  
vision, but if we don't  
lead with love, integrity,  
and a deep commitment  
to relationships, we will  
miss the true impact of  
our calling. At the heart  
of everything we do is  
one simple but powerful  
truth: **we were created  
for relationships.**

### **Relationships: The Heart of Our Mission**

From the very beginning,  
God designed us to be in  
relationship with Him  
and with one another.  
Leadership isn't about  
navigating challenges  
alone—it's about walking  
together in faith, learning  
from each other, and  
lifting each other up. Yet,  
in the busyness of our  
work, relationships often  
take a backseat to tasks,  
deadlines, and  
expectations. We can get  
so focused on what we  
do that we forget how we

Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Easter 29.1**

Complete the Bible truth about the time right before Jesus was crucified. Unscramble the word below the lines. Then write each correctly spelled word on the lines.


1. Judas plotted to \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus. Jesus sent Peter and John to find a room for the disciples to celebrate \_\_\_\_\_ This feast was a reminder of when God freed the Israelites from \_\_\_\_\_

2. At the Last \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus broke bread with His disciples. He said that the bread was like His \_\_\_\_\_ that would be broken for the world. Jesus shared wine that was like His \_\_\_\_\_ that would be shed for the forgiveness of sin.

3. Jesus told Peter that before the \_\_\_\_\_ crowd, Peter would \_\_\_\_\_ or refuse to say that he knew Jesus three times.

4. Jesus prayed in the garden for God's \_\_\_\_\_ to be done. Judas brought a group of men to \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus.

5. Later, when someone asked Peter about Jesus, Peter said he did not \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus. When the rooster crowed, Peter realized he had denied Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ times. He went outside and \_\_\_\_\_ bitterly.



### **PREPARATION**

Print [Student Page 29.1](#) for each student.

Obtain **12 plastic eggs.** Keep an empty **egg carton** in the classroom throughout the Easter lesson. Place one of the following items inside three eggs: **three dimes**, a piece of **bread or cracker**, and a red **feather.** Or, print and cut the first three pictures from **BLM 29B Easter Bible-Truth Eggs**, fold them, and place them in the eggs. Print the back of BLM 29B for descriptions of the Easter items or pictures. Hide the three eggs in three students' desks, one egg per desk, before Bible class. Continue this activity each day using the other pictures from BLM 29B to discuss the importance of each

Watch the video above to hear Matt Heard on equipping students with the life of the gospel. Matt is a keynote speaker at Rooted 2025 in Dallas. [Secure your spot today!](#)

### **Alisa Childers on Discussing Progressive Christianity at Rooted**



Hear from Alisa Childers on what you can expect from Rooted 2025, including a discussion of progressive Christianity. [Learn more and register today!](#)

### **Watch these additional videos:**

What advice would you give to new Christian school educators? – [Watch here](#)

Joy O'Shaughnessy's ACSI Public Policy and Legal Advocacy Team Testimonial – [Watch here](#)

do it. But the reality is, the way we lead, the way we interact, and the way we handle difficult conversations—it all matters.

element in the Easter story.

[Continue reading here.](#)

[Continue reading here.](#)



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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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**How We Do Things Matters Continued**

- Do we approach leadership with compassion and grace?
- Are we investing in relationships, or just going through the motions?
- Do we have a network of support—people who encourage, challenge, and walk with us?

### **The Power of a Strong Network**

One of the greatest blessings of Christian education is that **we are not alone**. We are part of a greater mission—a larger community committed to glorifying God through our schools, our students, and our leadership.

But here is the question: **Do you have a network?**

Leadership can feel isolating if we try to carry the weight alone. But when we intentionally lean into relationships, seek mentorship, and build a community of support, we don't just grow as leaders—we flourish.

### **How Can You Lean into ACSI and Each Other?**

**ACSI exists to strengthen Christian education by connecting and equipping educators like you.** Whether through professional development, networking opportunities, or leadership cohorts, **ACSI provides a community** where you can grow, learn, and support one another.

**This is your network**—a place where you can be encouraged, challenged, and uplifted as we work together to advance Christ-centered education.

So, I ask:

- **Who is in your circle of influence**—mentors, peers, or colleagues who pour into you?
- **How can you intentionally connect** with fellow leaders to encourage and learn from one another?
- **What steps can you take** to invest in meaningful relationships that help you grow?

### **How Renewal Strengthens Our Leadership**

In *Strengthening the Soul of Your Leadership*, Ruth Haley Barton reminds us that leaders must tend to their own souls before they can effectively lead others.

Too often, we pour out without taking time to reflect and renew. But when we pause—when we create intentional space for solitude and silence—we allow God to strengthen our hearts, refine our purpose, and renew our vision.



This rhythm of **review, reflect, and refine** is essential for continuous growth:

- Review – Where are you thriving in relationships? Where are you struggling?
- Reflect – What is God revealing to you about how you lead and connect with others?
- Refine – What intentional steps can you take to deepen relationships and strengthen your leadership?

### **An Invitation to Connect**

As we move forward, let's be intentional about how we do things.

- **Prioritize relationships**—with God and with those you lead.
- **Seek out your network**—lean into ACSI and the people around you for encouragement and growth.
- **Create space for renewal**—because leading well starts with being spiritually and emotionally whole.

You were never meant to do this alone.

Who can you reach out to this week for encouragement, support, or mentorship? Take one intentional step to connect and watch how God uses relationships to strengthen your leadership and renew your mission. We are truly stronger together!

### **Easter Activity Continued**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

Explain that on each day of the Easter lesson, three students will find a plastic egg hidden in their desk. Have students look for the eggs and invite those who find one to open it. Encourage the class to guess how each enclosed item represents a part of the Easter Bible truth, but do not comment yet on their answers. (Answers will vary.) Convey that the correct answers will be given later.

#### **DIRECTED INSTRUCTION**

Direct students to place a cover sheet over the entire page and have them turn to Luke 22. Review (from Lesson 15.2) that the Israelites' celebration of Passover was a reminder of when God freed His people from slavery in Egypt. Convey to students that they will learn about Jesus's last meal, which took place during Passover and is known as the Last Supper. Read the following paraphrase of Luke 22:1–13 as a summary:

*As the Passover, the Feast of Unleavened Bread, approached, the chief priests and other religious leaders were looking for ways to kill Jesus. Satan entered Judas Iscariot, one of the 12 disciples. The priests agreed to pay Judas 30 pieces of silver to betray Jesus, so Judas began watching for an opportunity. Then came the day for preparing the Passover lamb. Jesus sent Peter and John to find a room for the disciples to prepare and celebrate. They found the room just as Jesus had described.*

Explain that “betray” means to turn against a friend. Ask who made a plan to betray Jesus. (Judas Iscariot) Pause for students to uncover and complete Exercise 1.

Read Luke 22:14–23, which describes the Last Supper, as students follow along. Then have students complete Exercise 2.

Convey that in verses 24–28, the disciples argued about greatness. Jesus reminded them that the greatest among them loves and serves others, as He had demonstrated when He washed His disciples’ feet (John 13:1–17). Peter then proclaimed that he would go with the Lord, to prison and even to death (Luke 22:33). Assign a student to read Luke 22:34 for Jesus’s response. Pause for students to complete Exercise 3. Read this paraphrase of verses 39–46:

*After supper, Jesus and His disciples went out to a garden to pray. Jesus instructed them to pray that they would not give in to temptation. He found a quiet place and prayed that God would spare Him from this death if possible but also prayed for God’s will, not His own, to be done. An angel from heaven appeared and gave Him strength. The Lord was in so much agony that His sweat became like drops of blood falling to the ground. Returning to His disciples, Jesus found them not praying but sleeping!*

Remark that Jesus knew He would have to go through suffering but that He still prayed selflessly for God’s will and submitted to God’s plan—even if submission meant His death. Continue by reading **Luke 22:47–53**. Pause for students to complete Exercise 4. Conclude by reading **Luke 22:54–62**. Pause for students to complete Exercise 5. Review their answers.

Direct students who found the eggs to display again the enclosed item or picture. Discuss the symbolism of each by using the information on the back of BLM 29B. Keep the eggs in the egg carton.

## **REVIEW AND APPLICATION**

- What feast was Jesus celebrating with His disciples? (Passover)
- Who betrayed Jesus? (The disciple Judas Iscariot)
- What did Jesus pray for in the garden? (For God’s will to be done)
- What did Jesus say that Peter would do? (Deny Him three times before the rooster crowed)

- Jesus submitted to God’s will even though it meant pain and death for Him. Have you ever prayed for God’s will, not yours, to be done? Tell about that time.  
(Answers will vary)
- Jesus was fully God but also fully man. How do you think Jesus was feeling in the garden when He prayed so hard that His sweat was like drops of blood?  
(Answers will vary)
- Judas betrayed Jesus for 30 pieces of silver. Think about whether you have ever betrayed a friend. If so, think of your motive—was it popularity, acceptance, or perhaps a lack of self-esteem? Ask God for His forgiveness and take steps to seek forgiveness from that person.

### **ANSWERS TO STUDENT PAGE**

1. betray
2. Passover
3. Egypt
4. supper
5. body
6. blood
7. rooster
8. deny
9. will
10. arrest
11. know
12. three
13. wept