



An International Division Member Connection? May.868 1

Fellow International Educator,

I loved teaching eighth-grade earth science. Early on, a colleague told me that my course may be the last time many students will ever experience a class on meteorology, oceanography, astronomy, and geology. Wait, really? Yeah, really. Personally, I didn't need the encouragement because I took every university class I could in each of those subject areas. I was already passionate about earth science, but knowing this might be the last time my students learn about weather, oceans, stars, rocks, and minerals gave me even more motivation to "tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the LORD, his powers, and the wonders he has done." (Psalm 78:4b)

I want to credit my new friend [Missy Takano](#)* for a few of my thoughts this month. During a recent visit to Black Forest Academy (BFA), Missy took a small group of us through a significant portion of scripture in the book of Job. As she read from Job 39, it reminded me of my love for earth science years ago. In the passage, God gives a lengthy speech to Job, citing one earth science reason after another in



which HE rules and maintains our world. Here's [the quick link to Job 38](#). Take a few moments to read the chapter, looking for weather, oceans, stars, and land formation references.

Our creator God is so big and impressive that teaching the next generation about His world is absolutely worthwhile. Whatever your subject matter, I genuinely hope you have a similar passion for teaching your students about God's remarkable world and guiding them into their place within it ([Psalm 78](#)).

Let's meet at one of our upcoming events and conferences this fall: [Job Fair Tour](#), [ABI](#), or [ICEC Asia](#).

ISLC 2025 in Mallorca was a tremendous gathering, with leaders from 32 countries and 38 schools in attendance. It was a challenging and encouraging time of networking and learning with fellow leaders worldwide.

*Missy is a middle school teacher at BFA and co-host of a podcast called [ReStoried](#).

Blessings to you wherever you are in the world,

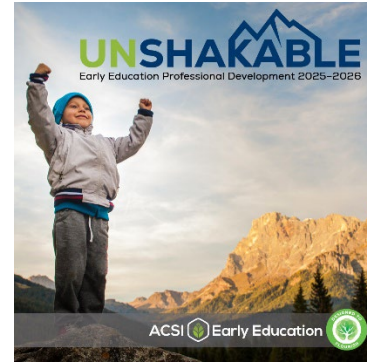
Tim, for the [international school team](#)

[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](#)

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](#).

Upcoming International Events

- Please plan on attending or sending your teacher recruiter on the next [Job Fair Tour](#). The dates are set, and the tour lineup is another good one. See you at Liberty, Grand Canyon, and Dallas Baptist this October.
- The [ABI Conference](#) will be held from November 12 to 15, 2025, in the Dominican Republic. Dr. Jon Eckert, of Baylor University, will be the featured speaker. Educators and leaders from Accredited, Bilingual, and International schools are invited to attend. New details are being formulated now.
- [ICEC Asia 2025](#) is ready for registration! Join us from November 26 to 29 on the campus of Dalat International School. We are delighted to have Dr. David Smith from Calvin University as a special keynote speaker. Be sure to check out our pre-conference courses. Finally, if you are interested in presenting, we are ready to receive your workshop submissions [here](#).
- [PFO2Go](#) offers a special promo rate for your incoming new staff between now and July 1. Sign them up today and save. Read some of the course [reviews](#).

News, Articles, & Other Ideas

- ACSI's most recent posts and resources:

- Enjoy ACSI's latest [Research in Brief](#) for Spring 2025
 - [The Mental Health Landscape of Adolescents: Developing a Comprehensive School-Based Suicide Prevention and Awareness Program](#) with Nancy Gillespie
 - [Best Practices in Science](#) with Monique Martin
 - [It Takes a Village to Form a Christian Scholar](#) with Dr. Derek Schuurman
 - [No Longer An Option](#) with Dr. Scott Rodin
 - Read this inspiring story about [Dalat International School](#), host of [ICEC Asia 2025 conference](#).
 - (Video) Dr. Larry Taylor interviews [Ben Carson on education, family, and courage](#).
- 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?](#)
 - [When doing school improvement, how can you find low cost/high impact things you can do?](#)
 - [How can you mend your resilient well-being?](#)
 - [Leaders: At your international Christian school, who's the focus actually on when it comes to holistically flourishing in Jesus? Students? Staff? Leaders?](#)
 - Please check out Michele Phoenix's latest book, "[Pieces of Purple: The Greatness, Grit, and Grace of Growing Up MK](#)". "Pieces.of.Purplef is an ode to the beauty and complexity of Third Culture Kids. It goes beyond the usual inventory of TCK strengths and challenges, uncovering foundational truths that shape this

community's sense of self, world, and God.”

- [Can we talk about Christian school chapel?](#) is the start of an ongoing dialogue on LinkedIn seeking to answer the question, “Who’s doing it well?” Some great ideas have already been posted. It would be nice to see some interaction from international schools.
- Our friend Mona Stuart posted an essential article in TIE, "[Keeping the Lights On: Supporting Communities Through Sudden Departures](#)", in response to recent reports of families impacted by USAID cuts.
- Christian Network Europe (CNE) featured an interview with Laszlo Demeter, our ACSI Europe Director. [Enjoy it here](#) or on your favorite podcast app, and an interview with Christine Chiner, [Christian Schooling is a big struggle in France](#).
- "[The God of Technology](#)" is a good short read by Dr. Chris Hobbs, Indian Rocks Christian School.
- If you teach geography or love it, this [country size comparison](#) app is really fun.
- Here’s a webpage that gives you [ways to say “No”](#) with every refresh.

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](#).

- Mountainview Christian School, Indonesia. [Learn more here.](#)
- Oaxaca Christian School, Mexico. [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](#).

International School Leader Conference – Europe 2025

The hallways were abuzz at the ACSI [International School Leader Conference](#) in Mallorca, Spain. More than 100 school leaders representing 33 countries (including Albania, Nigeria, Portugal, and Uzbekistan, to name a few!) joined together to network and hear from leading thought leaders. Keynote speakers included Peter Greer, CEO of Hope International, Dr. Karen Wrobbel, Director of the International Cohort at Gordon College Graduate Leadership, and P. George

Dr. Michael Lindsay on the Biggest Challenges Today



Watch the video above to hear Dr. Michael Lindsay on the biggest challenges Christian educators face today. Dr. Lindsay is a keynote speaker at the 2025 Public Policy and Advocacy Summit 2025 in Washington, D.C. [Early Bird registration ends soon!](#)

Summer Is the Time: Build Your Plan Before the Bell Rings

By Mission Advancement

Summer isn't just a break in the school calendar—it's rare and valuable margin, a strategic opportunity to lay the groundwork for a stronger year ahead. Before the bell rings and the pace of the school year returns, development leaders have a window to step back, reflect, and design a thoughtful plan that prioritizes mission and relationships.

At Mission Advancement, we encourage Christian

Tryfiates, ACSI Vice President for Public Policy & Legal Affairs.



Participants discussed how to stay true to their mission, how to lead with prayer, and the importance of approaching leadership through the lens of longevity.

Learning From Failure, With Dr. Brian Dougherty



Hear from Dr. Brian Dougherty, Head of School at Heritage Christian School, on how he has learned from failure as a leader.

Watch these additional videos:

Dr. Larry Taylor & John Stonestreet Discuss Ongoing Formation – [Watch here](#)

ACSI Apologetics Conference 2025 Recap – [Watch here](#)

schools to approach development planning with clarity and intentionality. The strongest fundraising efforts aren't built in the rush of fall—they are rooted in a clear vision, authentic engagement, and a plan for long-term growth.

Start by revisiting your case for support. Has it evolved? Are you clearly connecting your school's vision with the transformational impact on students' lives? A compelling story, shared consistently, lays the foundation for every conversation you will have in the year ahead.

[Continue reading here.](#)



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

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Summer Is the Time Continued

Next, segment your donor base thoughtfully. Identify major supporters, loyal families, alumni, and grandparents—and consider how you will engage each group differently.

Development is most effective when stewardship and cultivation are personalized, not one-size-fits-all.

Finally, map your calendar with relational moments, not just events but opportunities for intentional, tailored cultivation. Where will donors see the mission in action? How will you connect their generosity to visible outcomes in the life of your school?

Fundraising is not a seasonal task—it's a year-round ministry. By using this summer margin to plan with clarity and purpose, you set the stage for a year of deeper relationships, greater generosity, and a stronger community united around your school's mission.