



Message from your Regional Director

Fellow International Christian Educator,

Last month I mentioned gratitude for online tools like Zoom that allow us to express our calling as educators in this challenging pandemic environment. Yes, it is a gift that allows us to teach, have strategic conversations, and even talk and see family members on the other side of the earth. It's truly amazing. However! Since then I've also experienced how utterly inadequate Zoom can be sometimes.

On a recent group call, one of the members shared some heartfelt thoughts that included tears and a few silent pauses as she gathered herself and her words. In those awkward moments, I know we were all wishing someone could do the most natural thing and move next to our friend, give her a Kleenex, and put a comforting arm around her. Alas, no one could! Instead, we all sat there blinking into our little Zoom windows unable to cross the miles to express nearness. We recovered, but in those quiet moments, I thought how much I dislike this medium right now, and how utterly inadequate Zoom can be. Can you relate? Of course, you can - we all can, and it hurts.

As I reflect upon this painful reality that affects those of us who work and live abroad, I cannot help but remember the nearness of Jesus. Dear Scattered Ones (I'm using Peter's salutation from 1 Peter 1:1-2 to address you), as the holiday season nears and travel and physical connections remain limited, be encouraged by these precious promises from God's Word:

- "The righteous cry out, and the Lord hears them; he delivers them from all their troubles. The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit." Psalm 34:17-18
- "Seek the Lord while he may be found; call on him while he is near." Isaiah 55:6
- "Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near." Philippians 4:4-5
- "Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times and in every way. The Lord be with all of you." 2 Thessalonians 3:16

And finally, for this holiday season,

- The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” (which means “God with us”). Matt 1:23

Merry Christmas

Tim

Tim Shuman for the [International School Team](#)

Follow on Twitter: [@acsiintschools](#)

[Tim Shuman, Regional Director, International Schools](#)

[Caitlin Taylor, Global Activity & International Events Coordinator](#) to Tim S

[Tim Thompson, Assoc Regional Director](#)

[Kimberly Park, Exec Assistant](#) to Tim T

Coming Up

- Recruiters, [join the winter Virtual Job Fair](#) on 2-3 February 2021! The first virtual job fair in November was a success with 125 registered job seekers signing up for multiple job interviews. Of that number nearly 30 were college education majors, while the rest were experienced candidates averaging 5.3 years of teaching and leading!

Feedback on the virtual fair from recruiters included:

- “Getting several appointments with good contacts while having no travel or hotel costs made this first ever ACSI Virtual Recruiting Event a great value for us. This was a very worthwhile recruiting fair, and it will only get better as time goes on.” – Creative Access Country
 - “The virtual fair format really filters the candidates in a way that the usual, in-person, college fairs do not. Instead of spending the day having to let people know that our institution can only accept those with degrees in Elementary or Secondary Education with teaching certificates, those were the ONLY candidates I spent my time and energy on.” – Panama
 - “This year’s virtual fair allowed our school to connect with qualified, experienced candidates from all over the world.” – Taiwan
 - “I have been recruiting in these job fairs since we first began years ago, and I think I had more positive interviews that could lead to staff joining our team than in any of the other face-to-face fairs.” – Colombia
- [PFO2Go Course](#). Some of you are bringing on new staff for the second semester of the school year. PFO2Go can be a part of your new staff orientation plans starting right now! If you are a head of school or head of recruitment, please reach out to me for time-limited access to learn more about the course.

- The [International School Leaders Conference](#) is still on the calendar for 25–27 April 2021 in Dubrovnik, Croatia. We will make a final decision to hold in-person or go virtual early in 2021.
- **Save the date: ICEC Asia 24-27 November 2021.** Details to be confirmed.
- [ACSI USA's recent Live PD Forum](#) on well-being is now available for use anytime, anywhere – for individual or group participation. See *details on how to access the PD Express format below.
- ACSI Early Education. Calling all Kindergarten and Pre-kindergarten teachers and leaders! Please check out the ACSI EE [conferences](#) and [free webinars](#). It is recommended that you also join the ACSI EE Community Group.

***PD Express** is a digital professional development offering for teachers on the theme of Well-Being. With 1 CEU worth of rich content from health and wellness experts, PD Express allows administrators flexibility in hosting their own in-house PD by choosing a date that works best for their staff (available throughout the 2020-2021 school year).

- **What's included:** 1 CEU worth of recorded content from health and wellness experts | A Facilitator Guide for a representative from the school to utilize in guiding conversation times | The bundle offer of a 50 % discount for a one-year subscription to ConNexus Premium on-demand CEUs, ACSI's digital library with over 500 hours of PD content
- **Register:** First, please fill out the [interest form](#) indicating the date on which you'd like to conduct PD Express

Resources

- A teacher at Mercy Ships Academy, one of your ACSI sister schools, was featured in an article in Christianity Today. [She Knew She Was Called to Serve. Then COVID-19 Came.](#)
- Are you looking for a Masters degree that's right up your international and Christian education alley? Consider a Master of Leadership in Global Christian Education with Prairie College. Canadian made, 100% online. [Learn more here.](#)

- Consider taking [Introduction to the Bible](#) a free introductory course at Ridley College. Australian made, 100% online.
- Are you considering a change in ministry location? Consider attending the ACSI International School Job Fair in February. [Visit the fair Job Seeker page here.](#)
- This line, “Technology interruptions break our hours into confetti”, really caught my attention because it felt so true. [Which of these 6 time traps is eating up all of your time?](#)
- Check out episode 17 from [Christian Schools Australia](#) where our friend Dr. Daniel Pampuch puts a compelling case forward that schools, to retain their Christian distinctive, must be explicit and intentional about the essential elements of Christian schooling.
- Be sure to track with ACSI’s own [blog and podcast here](#). The latest podcast is on [Women’s Leadership in Christian Education](#).
- If yours is a school for MKs with missionary opportunities for service, you might consider getting your school posted on [OSCAR](#) to get exposure to UK personnel looking to join your team. OSCAR stands for “One Stop Centre for Advice and Resources – Empowering and Connecting Christians for Mission and Ministry”.
- Are you taking full advantage of your free job postings on the [ACSI Career Center](#)? I just learned that we have +12,000 registered job seeker emails in our system! As a member school you are able to reach those job seekers with an add-on called “Job Flash”. [Learn more here.](#)
- Does your Boarding/Dorm staff have a well-thought-out, professional development plan? ACSI has been working with [Boarding Training Australia](#) to offer free, personalized, online training for your boarding program personnel. Please reach out to me to learn more.
- Do you have a burning question that you wish you could ask other educators and leaders? Have you ever wondered how others are handling your tricky situation? Are you looking for new ideas? Bring your questions (and your perspective) to one of [ACSI’s many Community Groups](#) and join in the valuable interaction with other Christian educators around the world.

- If your marriage is falling apart...If you are suffering from debilitating anxiety and depression... If you are burnt out, discouraged and disappointed... There is hope and healing. Please reach out to [His High Places](#), a biblical Christian counseling service for Christian workers (scholarships available). They have experience with international Christian educators.
- How can we pray for you? Please join us in praying for international schools on the [ACSI International School Prayer Community](#). You can post prayer requests and share God at work stories through this community.

Headship Openings Only

- Brasilia International School, Brazil. [Learn more here.](#)
- Caspian Academy, Baku, Azerbaijan. [Learn more here.](#)
- Christian Academy in Mozambique. [Learn more here.](#)
- Christian International School of Prague, Czech. [Learn more here.](#)
- Holy Lands Ministry Schools, Israel. [Learn more here.](#)
- Hope International School, Phnom Penh, Cambodia. [Learn more here.](#)
- International Christian School – Pyeongtaek, Korea. [Learn more here.](#)
- Kiev Christian Academy, Kyiv, Ukraine. [Learn more here.](#)
- Whitman Academy, West Amman, Jordan. [Learn more here.](#)

Be sure to check our list of [member schools' job opening links](#) as well as the [ACSI Job Board](#).

ACSI News

Membership

Don't lose access to ACSI member benefits!

If you haven't renewed your ACSI membership, you will lose access to resources such as the Community forum, special member pricing, or important white papers by December 11 as your sign-in will no longer be operational. There's still time to [renew online](#). Contact the Care Team (careteam@acsi.org) with

Fall 2020 issue of *Research in Brief* Released

ACSI Research released the Fall 2020 issue of *Research in Brief* (RiB) this month. RiB is published twice per year and highlights the latest findings in Christian education research to inform best practices in Christian schools. To read more, click the button below.

any questions or your divisional director with any financial concerns.

[Click Here](#)



While our primary objective is to help Christian schools make disciples of Jesus Christ, ACSI raises the bar by balancing rigorous research-based best practices with time-tested biblical principles to create a flourishing academic experience that will transform how a Christian school community lives out their faith beyond their time in the classroom.

[STRATEGIC PLAN](#)



How is your school community FLOURISHING TOGETHER during this challenging year? If you're interested in answering this question for your students, faculty, staff, leadership team, and overall school culture, there's still time to register for and administer the [Flourishing School Culture Instrument \(FSCI\)](#) this school year (cost of \$699 for ACSI members, \$1250 for non-members). The new online platform allows you to administer the FSCI at any time of your choice this spring, with results available immediately upon completion. The FSCI identifies meaningful strengths and growth opportunities and provides your school's scores across 35 constructs linked with flourishing, as benchmarked against Christian schools nationally. Results for your school can help to inform strategic planning, accreditation, and programs, and can help you focus on important areas to target during this year of COVID-19 disruption. For more information, visit the [FSCI website](#) or email research@acsi.org.

Updates



[Sign up](#) for FREE webinars hosted by ACSI and [GCU](#) in preparation for STEM competitions premiering in 2021-2020! The next session, "Building STEM Focused Lessons," is on December 3!

To engage with other Christian STEM educators, [introduce yourself](#) and join the [STEM Collaboration](#) group in the ACSI Community online!

Have questions? The Student Activities [team](#) is here for you!

Accreditation Newsletter

View the most recent regional newsletters from the Office of Academic Services with the latest information on accreditation, certification, and CEUs here: [Academic Services Newsletters](#).

GIVING TUESDAY

Global Focus on Giving Tuesday

December 1 marks Giving Tuesday around the world. For the first time, ACSI is participating in this event and is focusing on global efforts. You can still support our global Christian school efforts until Dec. 7th.

[Learn More](#)

Divisional Events

CONVERGE 2022 (Global Christian School Leadership Summit)—Save the Date!

Save March 8-10, 2022, on your calendar for CONVERGE 2022 (the new name for the Global Christian School Leadership Summit, which was held in Orlando in 2017

and San Antonio in 2019). In 2022, the event will be held in San Diego at the Town and Country Resort, with the theme CONVERGE 2022: *Leading Courageously, Renewing Hope*. ACSI is one of twelve sponsoring associations for the event, along with eleven other organizations in the US, Canada, Australia, and the UK. In addition to marking the date on your calendar, visit the event website, at <https://converge.education/>, and leave your email to receive updates in the coming months!

Register Now



It's Fall Preview Time



Sign up for a preview now at your.acsi.org/preview

Preview the new Elementary Language Arts textbook series or the upcoming Science Grade 1. [See our digital samplers.](#)

[Tim Shuman, Regional Director, International Schools](#)
[Caitlin Taylor, Global Activity & International Events Coordinator](#) to Tim S
[Tim Thompson, Assoc Regional Director](#)
[Kimberly Park, Exec Assistant](#) to Tim T

Association of Christian Schools International | 731 Chapel Hills Drive, Colorado Springs, CO 80920
Click [here](#) to change your Subscription Preferences or to [Unsubscribe](#)