



Fellow International Christian Educator,

By no means was I a perfect teacher. Thinking back to my earliest years in the classroom there were moments when I know I could have done better. Moments when I know I let down some of my students. Teaching is hard work, and all of us are growing in our calling every day. I often thought God gave me the students he did because he knew there was something more I needed to learn about love, patience, planning, prayer and stick-to-it-tive-ness through them.

James 2 tells us a lot about teaching various groups. Just look for the word “teach” in that chapter and then take a look at verses 7 and 8 specifically, “In everything set them an example by doing what is good. In your teaching show integrity, seriousness and soundness of speech that cannot be condemned...” When we fail to show things like integrity, seriousness and soundness of speech, there is forgiveness and grace; but as teachers, we must be the MOST teachable in the room, the first ones ready to learn and change as we grow.

If you read all of chapter 2 in James you will also notice a recurring “so that” theme as in verse 10: we teach to the best of our ability “...so that in every way they [our learners] will make the teaching about God our Savior attractive”.

Your classroom is holy. Steward it prayerfully, it’s yours for a season. Welcome your learners into it with love and care. Make God our Savior and his world attractive through your teaching.

Have a good February.

Tim Shuman for the International School Team

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

[Tim Thompson, Assoc Regional Director](#)

[Anne Jones, Exec Assistant](#) to Tim S

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

[Cindy Epp, Admin Assistant](#) to our team



UPCOMING EVENTS for YOU

1. [Join in the ACSI Day of Prayer](#). Will you participate in the worldwide #schoolsthatpray event? Check out [this resource full of ideas](#) on how to incorporate the day of prayer into your school and your classroom. See the [prayer map](#) and submit [your prayer requests](#).
2. [Join us at ICEC Africa in Rwanda](#). We have extended the early bird rate until 29 February so that more can register. ARE YOU COMING? The International Christian Educator Conference (ICEC) will take place on the campus of [Kigali International Community School](#) 1-4 April 2020. Each registered delegate from a member international school gets a [12-month subscription to ConNEXUS Premium](#).
3. Calling all leaders. Sign up now for the [International School Leaders Conference](#), 26-28 April 2020, in Dubrovnik, Croatia. Each leader will get a copy of the book "[The Longview](#)" by keynote speaker Dr. Roger Parrott.
4. [PreField Orientation](#), June 23-July 1, 2020. Heads of schools (or their designate) can attend PFO for free, join the PFO staff, and invest in their new hires. Do you have a plan for the healthy transition of your new hires in their first year? If a pre-job orientation is done well, we believe your new hires are more likely to stay longer on the field. [Learn more about how we can partner with you in this process.](#)

#SchoolsThatPray

DAY OF PRAYER

Tuesday, February 18, 2020

“...so that you
may overflow
with hope...”

Romans 15:13

RESOURCES & IDEAS

- Your School Can Flourish. Please visit the [ACSI Flourishing School Culture homepage](#) and learn how ACSI's latest research can help your school flourish. "A flourishing Christian school is a community of students, educators, and families that glorifies Christ and excels in knowing Him and making Him known. Though such a community happens entirely by His grace, it does not happen at all by accident."
- World Family Education. Thanks to our friends, Steve and Gill Bryant at [EuroTCK](#), I just learned about [World Family Education](#). It's full of free information and resources to help families find the "...best schooling choices available while living in another culture." The breadth of information is amazing, including Christian options. And may I say, the watercolor art makes it extremely friendly and interesting. Share with your families.
- Do you know a Christian-service family in your community that could use some expertise considering educational options for their school-aged children? [SHARE Education Services](#) exists to help English-speaking expatriate families living in Europe, Russia, Central Asia and the Middle East with their children's educational needs.
- Personalized College Guidance. Do some of your juniors or seniors need just a bit more (or a lot more) assistance navigating the world of college admissions? Some of your students and parents might benefit from the personalized services of [Global Student Solutions](#). GSS was started by a former leader in one of our member international schools.
- Pray for Teachers Month. SIMUSA made February their Pray for Teachers Month. With a few tweaks you could easily incorporate [their prayer schedule](#) into how you pray for your own teachers and teammates year-round.
- Are you looking for a Professional Development opportunity designed for internationals? Consider participating in one of ACSI Europe's twelve [online professional development courses](#). It's a joy to learn with other Christian educators from around the world.
- [Messiah College now offers a 50% discount for teachers in ACSI member schools](#) for ALL of their Graduate programs: Business Admin, Education, Higher Education, Strategic Leadership. Impressive.
- A NEW Global Christian Education, Master of Leadership, designed for international leaders like you just launched. [Prairie College's Master of Leadership](#) is "designed for educators who wish to expand their leadership abilities and are especially interested in Christian education in a global context, whether that means teaching a globally diverse classroom in North America or engaging in education around the world."
- Evaluating your international degree. Years ago, after I earned my master's degree from UK college, I needed to get it evaluated for use in the USA and for ACSI certification. The fee I paid was worth it. [WES](#) is one company that will do a Credential Evaluation for you. [Learn more here](#).
- [International School Leader e-magazine](#). This free online publication is "for senior leaders in the global international school market".

- Are you looking for a change? [Visit this site](#) that lists hundreds of teaching opportunities at ACSI international schools.
- Pray with us. Search for the International Schools Prayer Community on the [ACSI Community platform](#) and then click Join. If you serve in a member school you have access to all ACSI Community Groups.
- The ACSI Blog. [Have you read the latest ACSI Blog post?](#)

ARTICLES & BLOGS

- I'm pretty sure someone needs to read this article. [Caring too Much: Burned-Out Educators and Disengagement in Our Schools](#) from the [ACSI Blog](#).
- Looking for ideas to stimulate your teaching practice? Visit [the SolutionTree Blog](#).
- Check out John Stonestreet's post, [Why I'm Optimistic About Christian Education](#) in the US.
- You probably know this already, [Five Reasons Why You Should Hire Third Culture Kids](#). Still worth a read and a mention in your student recruitment efforts.
- This article makes me think of my own sons (and other staff kids like yours). [The Forgotten TCKs: How Can We Help Children Whose Best Friends Move?](#)
- Is Your School Better Because You Lead it? "It's my strong belief that to lead your school forward, you must consider this question daily." [This insightful ASCD article](#) by Baruti K. Kafele, asks some penetrating questions for reflective school leaders.
- Support Services for our college kids. I wish all colleges that accepted our international students [would read this article](#) and then strengthen their support services for them. In your experience, which colleges do this well?
- Here is the latest [ACSI Southern Africa E-Magazine](#).
- Nine Surprises. I have found the [Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation](#) and its Annual Letter and Annual Report very inspiring and thoughtful. Check out last year's 2019 Annual Letter here under the title ["We didn't see this coming. Nine surprises that have inspired us to act."](#) The 2020 report will come out soon and I anticipate even more things to think about and possibly discuss with your middle and high school students.

EVENTS for YOUR STUDENTS

- Consider sending some of your key student leaders (in Asia) to the [C3 Conference](#) for international Christian schools. "C3 Conference is a unique opportunity for high school students where they will develop a personal plan for spiritual growth, as well as develop a "student action plan" for their school." C3 will be held on the Taichung campus of Morrison Academy from 30 July to 3 August 2020 and is for students in grades 9-12. Check out [Promo Video 1](#) and [Printable Poster](#).
- [360 Leadership Institute](#). Here is another summer opportunity for student leaders, ages 15-18, at Trinity International University, 13-25 June 2020. This two-week institute will "...deepen students' Christian perspective on the world, build a community of friends, refine students' unique voice, and help them embrace their call to influence the world for Christ." College credit is included! The Director of the program is an MK and worked overseas at one of our international Christian schools.
- [Interaction International](#) will host three Cross-Cultural Transition Seminars this summer for your students experiencing re-entry transition. [Find out more about the seminars here](#). It would be good to push this out to your parent community.

STAFF RECRUITMENT RESOURCES

- [Quick Tips for Effective Teacher Recruitment](#) article in Education World. This is written by the Director of an international school.

- Are you taking advantage of your [eight free postings on the ACSI job board](#)? This is part of your membership benefits. Only ACSI international schools get eight free postings per year!
- Have you posted teacher openings with ACSI Southern Africa [Vacancies page](#) yet? Send your vacancies to annerie_vanderwalt@acsi.org.

BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS

- Last month I recommended the book [“The Giver and the Gift, Principles of Kingdom Fundraising”](#) by Greer and Weekley, an excellent look at both sides of funding.
- This month I am recommending to you a book that I’m currently reading: [“Personalized Learning in a PLC at Work, Student Agency Through the Four Critical Questions”](#) Oh how I wish I had been introduced to this kind of thinking during my classroom years! Here is a complimentary [podcast overview](#) of the 4 Critical Questions featuring an interview with our friend [Dr. Tim Stuart](#) (MK and ACSI international school graduate), author of the book I’m reading, and current Head of School at ICS Addis Ababa in Ethiopia.

HEADSHIP OPENINGS

Send me your head of school openings for inclusion here.

- Alliance Academy International, Quito, Ecuador. [Learn more here.](#)
- Bandung Alliance Intercultural School, Indonesia. [Learn more here.](#)
- Caspian Academy, Baku, Azerbaijan. [Learn more here.](#)
- Island Community School of Batam, Indonesia. [Learn more here.](#)
- Kiev Christian Academy, Kyiv, Ukraine. [Learn more here.](#)
- Northstar Academy, Online based in USA. [Learn more here.](#)