



Message from your Divisional Director

Fellow International Christian Educator,

Since my last Snapshot I've done some prayerful thinking about the right posture for the Christian in society and her/his relationship to governmental authority. A few years into my teaching profession (at an ACSI international school) I started to have a tinge of regret that I hadn't trained as a Social Studies/History teacher because I saw how those teachers, more than most, really started the shaping and preparing of young people to enter culture and society for positive civic impact and engagement. Even more than that, I saw how teaching that subject in an international setting would be so enriched when that class is full of different origin stories and citizenships. Imagine (I know some of you experience this right now) discussing and teaching different models of government, histories, cultures, and systems of justice in your setting where these various models are not just theoretical "out there somewhere" things, no, they are lived out in the lives of the young people and even the instructor right in the class.

And then the other day, during my weekly virtual men's group, one member read the following passage just before we spent time praying for our country. These five verses seemed to capture, beautifully and powerfully, the posture that us Christ followers should seek to emulate as positive contributors to society.

Be subject for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether it be to the emperor as supreme, or to governors as sent by him to punish those who do evil and to praise those who do good. For this is the will of God, that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people. Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God. Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor. 1 Peter 2:13-17 (ESV)

Oh wow! If I were a Social Studies teacher today I think I might post these words permanently on my classroom wall, alas I'm not one of those teachers, but some of you are. I would love to hear if you have used this passage recently in your current events discussions.

One last thought, it seems to me that Peter's words were a little bit easier to work out when I was a guest in a foreign country and on my best behavior than now living in the country of my born citizenship. What changed? Should there be a difference? This is yet another good reminder that this world, and its various regimes and borders, is not our true home and that no matter where we are, we live as guests on our best behavior. Your thoughts?

My prayers are with you! *Pray for us too.*
Tim

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

- Our [Winter Job Fair](#) is happening TODAY and TOMORROW! 2-3 February 2021. It's too late for your school to sign up but you can participate individually if you are considering a new opportunity at an ACSI international school. [Check out the job openings here.](#)
- [International School Leaders Conference](#), 26-27 April 2021, is going VIRTUAL and that means we can pull in leaders not just from the EU, but also Africa, and Latin America. Naturally, leaders in Asia are absolutely welcome to join too keeping time zone differences in mind. This two-day conference will feature live-streaming content and discussion centered around the theme of Christian School Leadership in a Time of Pandemic and Emerging Recovery. Participants will enjoy both pre-recorded content and live discussion with amazing keynote speakers Dr. Michael Lindsay, President of Gordon College, Dr. Roger Parrott, President of Belhaven University, Dr. Larry Taylor, President of ACSI, and Dr. Lynn Swaner, ACSI Chief Strategy and Innovation Officer. For full details visit [our conference webpage](#) and for any additional questions, please reach out to Caitlin (caitlin_taylor@acsi.org). [REGISTER NOW.](#)
- [PFO2Go Course](#). PFO2Go (PreField Orientation) can be taken anytime, anyplace. If you are a head of school or head of recruitment, please reach out to us for access to view the course content.
- Mark your calendar. ICEC Asia is slated for 25-27 November 2021 and we are going virtual. Please be patient as we build out all details.
- Mark your calendar. ICEC Europe, 7-9 April 2022, is currently planned to be held in-person in Prague, CZ. However, there remains some caution with much depending on the status of the virus and vaccine distribution. Virtual is a backup possibility.
- Join in with the ACSI USA Free Webinars. [Learn more here.](#) Next one up is "Well-Being, Spiritual Health" on Tuesday 17 February. All webinars are recorded and later posted on the ACSI Webinar page.
- [ACSI USA's recent Live PD Forum](#) on well-being is now available for use anytime, anywhere – for individual or groups. See *details on how to access the PD Express format below.

***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

- This winter I am making my way through this important book and I recommend it to you, "[Misreading Scripture with Individualist Eyes: Patronage, Honor, and Shame in the Biblical World](#)". [Dr. Randolph Richards](#), Provost at Palm Beach Atlantic University, unpacks collective vs individualistic approaches to scripture. Can I tell you a secret? You have these cultural issues in your school community right now.
- Things are happening quickly in the US these days. The ACSI Legal Legislative office just released a [Perspective on President Biden's January 20, 2021 Executive Order on SOGI](#). While this is a USA legal issue, I feel that this is something you should be aware of. In addition, this practical guide may be helpful to your leadership. [Protecting Your Ministry from Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Lawsuits](#).
- I thought this 7-minute radio story from World Magazine, [Helping Kids Navigate Pandemic Emotions](#) may be helpful to you. You can read the transcript if you don't have time to listen to the story.
- John Dickson's podcasts bother me. And I mean that in the most positive way. His thoughtful episodes bother my thinking, my walk with God, my interaction with the world in all the right, God-honoring ways. Many of you will remember John speaking at one or more of our ICEC conferences. [Click here to see a list of his latest episodes](#).
- Our friend, Paul Campey, Partner at [Resolve Consulting Group](#), wrote this wonderful article entitled, [Seeking God's Will in Board Meetings of Christian Organizations](#). This would make for an excellent board meeting discussion.
- Speaking of Boards and School heads, are you aware that ACSI's Legal Legislative Department has collected nearly 400 articles, checklists, and templates for your use? The breadth of articles surprised even me, and I'm an ACSI employee! [Go here to check it out](#), you will need to login with your ACSI Community account to see it.
- Dr. Jan Dormer, Messiah University and friend of ACSI Global has just released her newest book, [Language Learning in Ministry](#). You may recall her other important book for schools, [What School Leaders Need to Know about English Learners](#).
- [Telios Law Sojourner Scholarship](#) is offering a merit-based scholarship opportunity for third-culture missionary kids, for use at a Christian college for up to four years. This may be a great opportunity for one of your upcoming graduates.
- [Dallas International University](#) is offering a 50% tuition remission for students who are children of those serving/working full-time for a faith-based non-profit sending agency. [Find the scholarship information here](#).
- If you are looking for strong Bible, Theology, Ministry, or Mission content courses for your staff, please look at Ridley College's lineup of their certificate courses (remote learning). This link will take you directly to [Ridley's group license page](#). I'm sure once submitted these courses should easily qualify for ACSI Bible CEUs.

- The ACSI Career Service Award is now taking nominees. International schools are encouraged to participate. [Learn more here.](#)
- Be sure to follow our new International School [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#) feeds.
- 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

- Black Forest Academy, Germany. [Learn more here.](#)
- Brasilia International School, Brazil. [Learn more here.](#)
- Caspian Academy, Baku, Azerbaijan. [Learn more here.](#)
- Christian International School of Prague, Czech. [Learn more here.](#)
- Haven of Peace Academy, Tanzania. [Learn more here.](#)
- Holy Lands Ministry Schools, Israel. [Learn more here.](#)
- Hope International School, Phnom Penh, Cambodia. [Learn more here.](#)
- Whitman Academy, West Amman, Jordan. [Learn more here.](#)

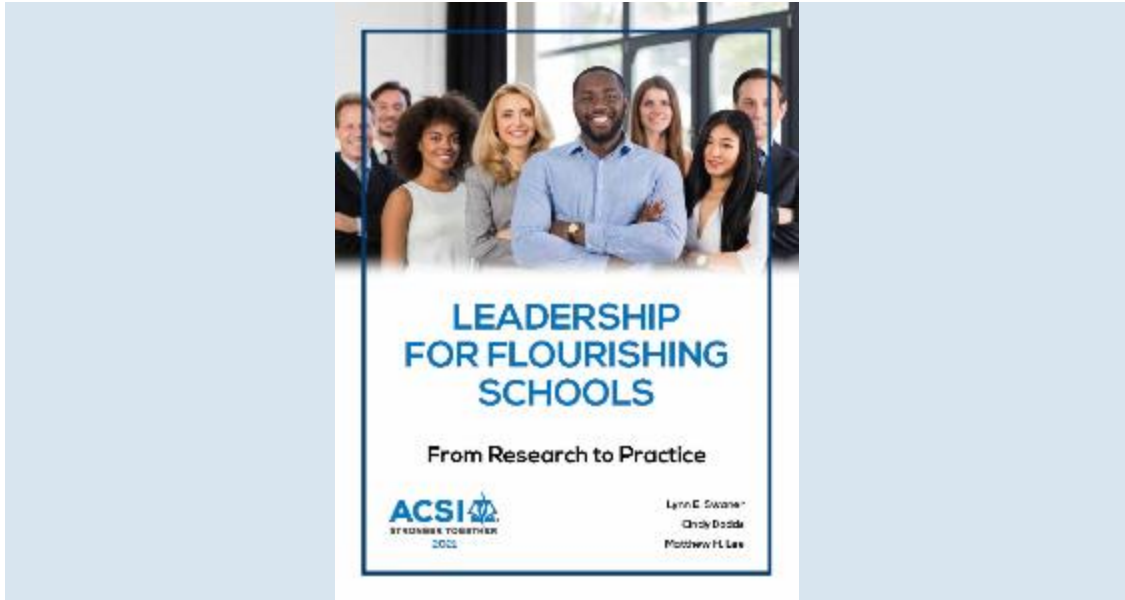
Be sure to check our list of [member schools' job opening links](#) as well as the [ACSI Job Board](#).

ACSI News

ACSI
STRONGER TOGETHER

It's Time to **Flourish**

What an extraordinary season it's been, but we serve an extraordinary God! In this new year as you train the next generation to know and love an eternal Savior who is the same yesterday, today and forever, we invite you to understand and learn how to flourish in your family and school community the way God intends. Learn more at acsi.org/flourishing.



ACSI's Flourishing Schools Research in 2018 was groundbreaking and yielded the first ever measure and model of Christian school flourishing. A new report, [Leadership for Flourishing Schools: From Research to Practice](#), answers the question of how these findings can be utilized by school leaders—including heads of school, administrators, and school boards—to develop their own practices that lead to flourishing-related outcomes for their schools. The report also provides two sets of self-reflection guides—one for school leaders and one for school boards—with questions that can be used individually and collaboratively to strengthen leaders' foundational, relational, and strategic practices for flourishing.



The ACSI [Day of Prayer](#) is an annual event that advances Christ-centered education by advocating through prayer. There is no doubt that this school year has been unique and often challenging, but God desires for His people to flourish despite the surrounding circumstances. Therefore, we encourage you to [join ACSI](#) as we unite globally to pray for Christ-centered education on Tuesday, February 23, 2021.

Message from the Early Education Team

We pray you will join us and fellow colleagues as we learn together at our upcoming virtual events:

[Virtual Early Education Conferences](#) We have three Virtual Early Education Conferences coming up in Feb and March so that you can choose to sign your team up for the one that best fits with your center's schedule. Your team will receive biblically based instruction on pertinent topics important to you. Not only will we learn from Dr. Milt Uecker on how to nurture your classroom and embrace your purpose to flourish, we also have many great Breakout Sessions for you and your team to choose from!

[Director's Day](#) is on February 26th and we pray you have already signed up to come and connect with other EE leaders and learn from Betsy Winkle about the neurological impact of trauma on children and strategies to support children in the school setting, imbedded with the truth that we are all created in God's image.

[READ MORE](#)

Leadership U

[Apply](#) now for a 14-month mentoring program for new and emerging heads of schools beginning in April through Leadership U. Learn more [HERE](#).

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!

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