



## Message from your Divisional Director

### Fellow International Christian Educator,

It's 7 January 2021 as I write these opening words to you. I'll be honest, I'm not sure what to write this morning in light of what happened yesterday in this country and maybe that's a good thing as there will be no shortage of others who will comment, commentate, and foist their opinions today and for weeks to come. As for me, in the quiet of this morning, all that comes to mind are the words of a M.W. Smith song that I keep repeating in my heart, "Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy on me." Yes, I'm praying these words over my passport country right now, but more importantly, I'm praying them as Smith wrote them, "Lord have mercy on me!" This is a good time to do some internal examination and seek a closer walk with Jesus, remembering that he still reigns and that he ALONE is our Savior and King.

I know that many of you will likely have conversations in the coming days/weeks with your colleagues, students, friends, and neighbors from many lands and cultures asking you questions about events that have happened over here. Maybe a good place to start is with the words of our savior: "Jesus said, "My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jewish leaders. But now my kingdom is from another place." (John 18:36) This is the Lord Christ we follow and serve in these challenging days.

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

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

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

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

[Tim Thompson, Assoc Regional Director](#)

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## Coming Up

## **ACSI Winter Virtual Job Fair: 2-3 February**

Recruiters! Join us for the Winter Virtual Job Fair on February 2nd and 3rd from 7:00AM – 9:00PM EST. We were encouraged by the participation in the last virtual job fair in November as we hosted 125 job seekers which included 30 education majors, while the rest were experienced candidates averaging 5.3 years of experience. To register as an employer (International School or Mission Agency) please visit our event page [here](#). You will also be able to find more helpful information on how to register additional recruiters and setup your virtual “booth” which includes employer information and your interview availability. For additional information, please reach out to Caitlin ([caitlin\\_taylor@acsi.org](mailto:caitlin_taylor@acsi.org)).

For job seekers looking for a change still within international education, visit our Job Seeker page for the event [here](#).

## **Virtual International School Leaders Conference – 26-27 April**

Leaders in the EU, Africa, and Latin America! We’ve made the decision to convert ISLC 2021 into a virtual experience – yes, we will miss visiting Croatia, too! While we look forward to gathering in-person next year, we have created a virtual experience you don’t want to miss! This year’s [virtual two-day conference](#) will feature live-streaming content and discussion centered around **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, and Dr. Larry Taylor, President of ACSI. Registration information coming soon! Keep an eye on the [ISLC event page](#) and check out the draft schedule [here](#) in the meantime. For additional information, please reach out to Caitlin ([caitlin\\_taylor@acsi.org](mailto:caitlin_taylor@acsi.org)).

## **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.

## **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.

## **Early Education Virtual Conferences**

Cultivate your skills to teach young hearts at the Early Education Virtual Conferences. [Register](#) for one of our February or March dates now. Please note that all times are in Mountain Time (MT). Learn more [here](#). [Flyer for Distribution](#)

\*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

- Read Tim Thompson's latest international school accreditation newsletter [here](#).
- Some of you live in areas with the best coffee in the world. Just looking at [this website](#) fills me with happy thoughts on stressful days.
- My daughter-in-law gifted me with a copy of Dr. Randolph Richards latest book for Christmas, "[Misreading Scripture with Individualist Eyes: Patronage, Honor, and Shame in the Biblical World](#)". Some of you will remember Randy's keynote addresses at ICEC Africa and ISLC Europe not too long ago. I highly recommend his book to you as he unpacks collective vs individualistic approaches to scriptures. You have these issues in your school community right now. If you want a quick introduction to the book [listen to this Holy Post podcast interview](#) with Dr. Richards starting at minute 38.
- This article has a lot of good ideas in it for leaders. [How to Lead When Your Team is Exhausted – and You Are, Too](#).
- Many of you have dealt with the familiar question, "Should I go or should I stay?" This article from Christianity Today tells the story of others like you, [For Expats and M's, COVID-19 Was a Crossroads](#).
- I know that a lot of our readers are Canadians. Hi guys! With this in mind I would like to point all of you to the excellent work of the Canadian think tank [Cardus](#). Cardus has done some tremendous work "translating the richness of the Christian faith tradition into the public square for the common good". Their [research initiatives in education](#) are worth your time.
- 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 Academy in Mozambique. [Learn more here.](#)
- Christian International School of Prague, Czech. [Learn more here.](#)
- Holy Lands Ministry Schools, Israel. [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

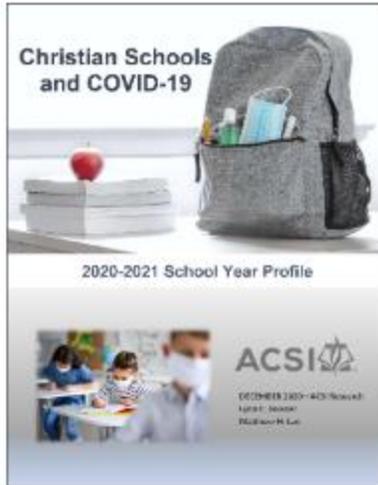


### FLOURISHING SCHOOL INSTRUMENT

#### COVID-19 Survey - USA Results

In early December, ACSI released [data](#) from its third national survey on Christian schools' responses to COVID. With over 730 US schools responding to the survey, findings showed that the vast majority of Christian schools delivered on their promise to open in-person this fall, and to do so safely and comprehensively. The [US report](#) shares data on enrollment trends, COVID disruption, distance learning planning and discounts, COVID modifications to sports and other activities, special education and student support, and faculty well-being (including schools' practices to support teachers this academic year). Click [here](#) to read the report.

**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](mailto:research@acsi.org).



## Leadership U

Apply now for a 14-month mentoring program for new and emerging heads of schools beginning in April through Leadership U. International leaders are encouraged to apply. 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,

## ACSI STUDENT ACTIVITIES

International Schools may participate in the upcoming STEM competition hosted by ACSI USA Student Activities Team and Grand Canyon University this winter. Learn more below...

[Sign Up](#) for FREE webinars hosted by ACSI and [GCU](#) in preparation for STEM Competitions premiering in 2021-22! The next session, "STEM Competitions", is on January 14, followed by "STEM 101-Session 3" on January 21!

To engage with other Christian STEM educators, [introduce yourself](#) and join

at <https://converge.education/>, and leave your email to receive updates in the coming months!

the [STEM Collaboration](#) group in the ACSI Community online!

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

## Career Service Awards

Nominate a teacher or administrator (educating preschool through 12th grade level) for an ACSI Career Service Award. Nominees must be entering formal retirement at the end of the 2020-2021 school year with many years spent in Christian schooling. Nominations will be accepted now through April 1.

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### Science Grade 1

3rd Edition

Draw your students into the awe and amazement of creation through God's eyes with the newly revised first-grade science textbook from Purposeful Design Publications.

**NEW**