



An International Member Connection, January 2024

Fellow International Christian Educator,

Greetings in Jesus name! I hope you are entering 2024 with joy and with an expectant heart for more of Jesus in you and around you. This month our Insider opening is written by our good friend and colleague Dr. David Balik, Vice President for ACSI USA. I think you will find it encouraging.

One more thing: due to a glitch in our mailing system last month, most of you did not receive our December 2023 Insider newsletter, but you can [view it right here](#).

Blessings upon you,
Tim for the [international school team](#).

Perspective
By Dr. David Balik, VP USA

per·spec·tive
/pər'spektiv/

1. a way of thinking about and understanding something (such as a particular issue or life in general).

The word perspective has a Latin root meaning "look through" or "perceive." It's the lens through which you view all things in your life. Your perspective is shaped unconsciously by your past life experiences, how you were raised, and the values, beliefs, and messages you received from important people in your life.

I don't know about you, but when I hear the phrase "Happy New Year," my mind immediately goes to upbeat thoughts of celebrations, goals, new opportunities, and a fresh start of sorts. What it doesn't immediately go to are thoughts of sickness, disease, and heartache. The reason I say this is



because many of us are either dealing with a difficult situation right now or have a family member or close friend who is going through a challenging season. It takes the “happy” out of Happy New Year, doesn’t it? Perspective.

Continue reading [here](#).



Click the image above to view a message from ACSI President and CEO, Dr. Larry Taylor.



[Other in-person or virtual events >](#)



- **REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN** for [ICEC Europe, 20-23 March 2024](#) in Prague, CZ. You can book your rooms **NOW** at [Vienna House by Wyndham](#). PLEASE submit your [workshop proposal](#) today. Check out our excellent keynote lineup here: [ICEC Europe](#).
- Stay tuned for dates and locations of 2024 Job Fair Tour and Virtual Job Fair.
- [PFO2Go](#), our online course for new hires at international schools remains open for your participation year-round. If PFO2Go is new to you, please [check out our FAQs](#).
- **Leaders mark your calendars for the International School Leaders Conference (ISLC) Europe, coming up on 27-30 April 2025**
- Check out the next [Converge conference](#) on 24-25 February 2025
- Have you considered sending your student leaders to the Europe [Student Leadership Conference 2024](#) in Budapest?

NEWS, ARTICLES, & OTHER IDEAS



- ACSI's most recent posts and resources:
 - [The Heart of Successful Succession](#), Peter Greer, ICEC Europe 2024 Keynoter
 - [This page](#) is chock full of some outstanding and new ACSI video podcasts. Highly recommended!
- Well-being. I know this to be true, that having a hobby outside of work does indeed make a difference. [Studies Show You Can Manage Stress and Beat Burnout by Doing More of This Away from Work](#).
- [Michael and Kim Essenburg](#) love international Christian schools and want to see them flourish.
 - [Leaders, what role do your international Christian school's purpose statements play in decision-making?](#)
 - [Leaders, how can you help your colleagues deeply understand what an ACSI Inspire self-study is and the role it plays?](#)
- This panel discussion from our friends at [Gravitas](#) is valuable: [Will AI Make Graduates of Christian Schools Redundant and Replaceable?](#)
- Reagan Rose got me thinking about my social media activities with his latest post: [I changed My Mind About Social Media: Why I Decided to Quit](#).
- There are some good articles in the latest issue of the International Teacher Magazine. [ITM January 2024 issue](#).
- I love this: [How Different Languages Laugh Online](#) and it's not LOL.
- And I REALLY love this: [Mouse Filmed Tidying up Man's Shed Every Night](#). You gotta see it to believe it.

Headship Openings Only

- Cairo Covenant School (starting June 2025), Egypt. [Learn more here](#).
- Christian English School, Italy. [Learn more here](#).
- Faith International Academy, Philippines. [Learn more here](#).
- Hillcrest School, Jos, Nigeria. [Learn more here](#).
- Hillcrest School, Papua, Indonesia. [Learn more here](#).
- International Academy of St. Petersburg, RU. [Learn more here](#).
- International Christian School, Pyeongtaek, South Korea. [Learn more here](#).
- International Christian School, Uijeongbu, South Korea. [Learn more here](#).
- Kigali International Community School, Rwanda. [Learn more here](#).
- Mountainview Christian School, Indonesia. [Learn more here](#).

- Rain Forest International School, Cameroon. [Learn more here.](#)
- Sahel Academy, Niger. [Learn more here.](#)
- Sekolah Pelita Harapan, Lippo Village, Indonesia. [Learn more here.](#)

If you have a head of school opening coming up, please let me know. Be sure to check our [member school vacancy page](#) as well as the [ACSI Job Board](#). If you are interested in a position at an international school, check out the latest non-USA opportunities [here](#). You can get your important job openings to feature in the next ACSI [January 2024 Job Flash](#), learn how you can get your need posted to thousands [here](#), look for Job Flash.

Maximize Your Membership



You can click the image above to watch this month's Maximize Your Membership webinar on ACSI Professional Development, with ACSI Director of Professional Development, Dr. Edward Bunn.

To view past webinars, visit this [link](#).

Rooted Educator Worldview Summit

It sometimes feels like secular culture is winning. But Scripture draws us back to a pivotal premise—God's truth prevails. In June 2024, Christian school educators and leaders from across the world will meet at the Ridgecrest Conference Center, nestled in the rolling hills of Black Mountain, North Carolina, for a new educator worldview summit. Together, participants will seek to answer the

Thanking God for His Faithfulness

By Christi Lynn

No matter what age you are teaching, prayer is an important aspect of spiritual formation. From a young preschooler learning to say a simple thank you to God, to an elementary student growing confidence in praying in front of others, to a middle or high schooler gaining greater understanding of intercessory prayer, this spiritual discipline is worth investing time and effort in. One way to generate focus on

question, “How can we more effectively engage students in the spiritual formation journey and help develop deeper roots in the flourishing soil of a biblical worldview?” Learn more and register [here](#).

prayer is by participating in the ACSI Global Day of Prayer on February 27, 2024.

Lainie Montgomery, ACSI Director of Spiritual Formation, says that “While we may pray every day with our students, we set aside a Global Day of Prayer to pray for Christian Educators and Education happening around the world. The beauty of this day is that you can create a plan that is as simple or elaborate as you want.”

[Continue reading below.](#)



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Perspective Continued

A dear friend of mine, and a friend to all of us at ACSI, is fighting cancer now. Dr. Stephen Reel, formerly VP USA and Acting CEO at ACSI, who now serves as HOS at Mitchell Road Christian Academy in Greenville (SC), was recently diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL). He was in the hospital up until recently and is now receiving out-patient treatments at home. Stephen has always modeled to me—and to many—what it means to live an authentic, faith-filled life, and he continues to be a godly example even amid many tests and difficult treatments for this terrible disease. Perspective.



He texted me this the other day:

A verse the Lord gave us this morning has been inspirational:

Keep me safe, O God, for I have come to you for refuge. I said to the Lord, "You are my Master! Every good thing I have comes from you." I will bless the Lord who guides me; even at night my heart instructs me. I know the Lord is always with me. I will not be shaken, for He is right beside me. No wonder my heart is glad, and I rejoice. My body rests in safety. You will show me the way of life, granting me the joy of your presence and the pleasures of living with you forever.
—Psalm 16:1-2, 7-9, 11 NLT

I especially love the words, "He is right beside me." What more could we want?

While he admits to having had some down moments along the way (and who wouldn't, right?), what Stephen understands at his core—and it's something we should all more fully embrace as we look to 2024—is that biblical perspective moves us from how we're feeling to what we know to be true! Focusing on the truth of God's Word—and His faithfulness in our lives—reminds us we are not alone. Perspective. That He is our refuge and strength, always ready to help in times of trouble (Psalm 46:1). Perspective. And His grace is sufficient for you ... for His power is made perfect in weakness (2 Cor. 12:9). Perspective. Amen?

The hard truth is that "Happy New Year" is a relative term, isn't it? It's all about our perspective. So, whether you, a loved one, or a colleague is dealing with something now, there is a strong likelihood that you will have to face some additional, yet unknown, challenges in 2024.

The good news? "Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight" (Hebrews 4:13). There isn't a day or a tear that God doesn't know about. He sees whatever we're going through ... and He knows. God's Word also reassures us the Lord hears His people when they call to Him for help (Psalm 34:17). God knows every prayer spoken, and He hears the cries of our hearts. Our prayer for you as you begin 2024: "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope" (Romans 15:13). Perspective.

Please lift our brother and sister, Stephen and Melanie Reel, in prayer before Him in the coming days and weeks.

From all of us at ACSI, thank you for all that you do to advance the Kingdom of God through Christian education. We love and appreciate you very much!

Happy New Year!

Thanking God for His Faithfulness Continued

This year's theme is Faithfulness with the key theme verse from Isaiah 25:1, which says, "Lord, you are my God; I will exalt you and praise your name, for in perfect faithfulness you have done wonderful things, things planned long ago."

"This is an opportunity for your entire school community to get involved in praying for Christ-centered education," ACSI President & CEO Dr. Larry Taylor encourages. "We pray that this day will be a catalyst for prayer to be an ongoing strong spiritual discipline to create prayer warriors like Hannah and David."

ACSI provides helpful resources online to plan and promote this day within your school community. A prayer guide, available in multiple languages, has prayer station ideas, Bible verses based on the theme of faithfulness, and a simple planning outline. Also, there is an interactive prayer map to submit prayer requests and then pray for others listed on it from around the globe. Additionally, promotional graphics are available as free downloads at <https://www.acsi.org/day-of-prayer>.