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Message from your Senior Director

Fellow International Christian Educator,

International travel is back in a big way, and I'm happy to report that after nearly three years of being grounded to "Zoom only" travel, your ACSI international schools team* is headed to a school near you.

Part of your and my calling as international educators is a willingness to travel long distances. If Facebook is any indicator, many of you took long-haul flights to visit friends and family over the Christmas break. Air travel is exciting, but parts of it can be lonely too. Do you know what I mean? There's that moment on every overseas flight that occurs about midway over the ocean. It's shortly after the inflight meal has been served and cleared, the cabin lights have been dimmed, and the strangers around you are nodding off to sleep. It's right then that I sometimes feel far from the loved ones I just said goodbye to and more like a lonely dot moving high above the earth.

This is when I take a moment to reflect and remember: "The Lord himself will go before you. He will be with you; He will not leave you or forget you. Don't be afraid and don't worry." (**Deuteronomy 31:8.**) "For He will command His angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways." (**Psalms 91:11.**) "The Lord keeps you from all harm and watches over your life. The Lord keeps watch over you as you come and go, both now and forever." (**Psalms 121:7-8.**)

Of course, those promises apply equally to your daily ground commute (your walk, or your bicycle, subway, bus, or car ride) to school. Today, as you head back to your classroom, office, or dorm may you be aware of God's presence in your life.

Blessings for the new year. See you somewhere.

Tim

Tim Shuman, Senior Director, International Division, for the [International School Team](#)

Follow on social: [@tpshuman](#) [@acsiintschools](#) [@acsiglobal](#) [@acsiusa](#)

*Your international schools team:

[Tim Shuman, Senior Director, International Division](#)

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

[Tim Thompson, Director of Accreditation \(International/Global Division\)](#)

[Kimberly Park, Executive Assistant](#)

Coming Up



- [ISLC 2023](#) in beautiful Dubrovnik, Croatia is right around the corner. We are excited about the delegate count that includes leaders from all over the world - including our ACSI President, Dr. Larry Taylor. Check out this [video message](#) where he gives our conference a shout out (3:12 minute mark)! Please make plans to join us in just a few months on 23–26 April 2023. [REGISTER HERE](#). You don't want to miss this one!
- **DATE CHANGE:** Please mark your calendars for [2023 ICEC Asia](#) now taking place on **26-29 November 2023** in Jakarta, Indonesia. Registration details to come.
- Save the date. ICEC Europe, in Prague CZ, 20-23 March 2024. Details to come.
- [PFO2Go Online](#) course is available now for your second semester hires. From a December 2022 PFO2Go participant, *"I so thoroughly enjoyed the content. Between the speakers and the participants guide, I have thought more deeply about what I will be facing on the field, and what I will be facing internally within myself. I would recommend this course because it helped me to prepare my mind for what we are about to encounter and helped us to know that our fears and our excitement are both very normal and not something to be ashamed of."*

News, Articles, & Other Ideas

- ACSI update:
 - Take a moment and [watch this short video](#) of ACSI's President Dr. Larry Taylor bringing you the latest news from ACSI.



- ACSI's latest resources:
 - Please read the latest [International Division Accreditation Newsletter](#) from Tim Thompson.
 - [Kingdom Education for the King](#) by Dr. Larry Taylor.
 - [2023 ACSI Day of Prayer](#). Please mark your calendars and plan to participate.
 - [Inspired to Teach](#) is a new ACSI resource designed specifically for Christian educators. Be sure to pass this on to your teachers.
 - If you're interested in tracking ACSI's work on USA legal issues for Christian schools, visit the [ACSI Public Policy and Legal Affairs](#) pages to access a myriad of resources. [Visit this page](#) for up-to-date reports from our Washington DC office.

- “My heart also goes out to teachers and school leaders who [...] find themselves disoriented, perhaps intimidated and frightened by a strange and constantly changing world.” [Frightened of a Changing Culture?](#) by Dr. Barrett Mosbacher.

- “Yes, let's equip the next generation for the challenges ahead, [...]. But above all, teach them to smile. Give them a cheerful confidence and ground them in a happiness worth spreading.” [Don't Let the Culture War Steal Your Joy](#).

- [This teaser clip](#) of the late Sir Ken Robinson's TED talk about kid's creativity is quite good, but the full talk, [Do Schools Kill Creativity](#), is even better – full of challenge and even some laughter. This could make for a good faculty discussion.

- Leaders, are you following the work of [ISC Research](#)? Their [Heads UP series](#), podcasts and YouTube pages, and articles are worthwhile following.

- [Screen Time & Preschoolers](#) is the topic coming up 11 January at the next [SHARE](#) webinar. Be sure to share this with your parent network right away. This is viewed best in the Europe/Africa time zones.

- [Child Safety Protection Network](#) (CSPN) Kenya Regional Conference is coming up in May 2023. Theme: Protecting Children Together. [Learn more here](#).

- MK Caregivers Summit ([MKCS](#)) will be held in March 2023. [Learn more about the conference here](#).

- This helpful [Excursion Risk Management](#) presentation is from our friends at [Boarding Training Australia](#) (BTA). While BTA works primarily with boarding programs the principles in the presentation apply to any school excursion or field trip. At 2:46, Steve Florisson mentions and recommends the online RISK ASSESSMENT app [Safetyculture.com](#) that schools can use prior to any outing. Well worth checking out.

- ...And if you do have a boarding program, be sure to check out these [free BTA resources](#).

- For teachers of music theory class and piano teachers, [The Making of a Steinway Piano](#) (Video). Wow!! Long but worth it.

- This article made me laugh and say, “EXACTLY”, to myself several times. You'll know what I mean when you check it out. [IKEA's Crimes Against Cartography](#).

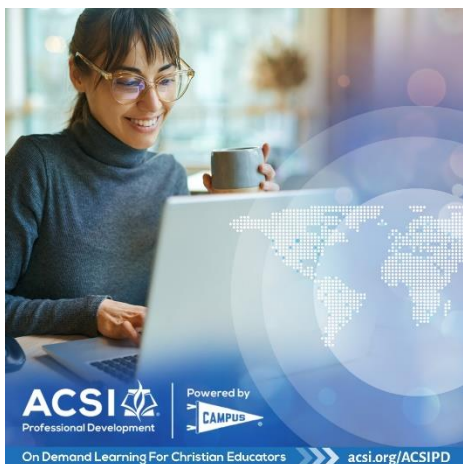
- Not all of you get to enjoy snowflakes like us in the northern hemisphere right now, but maybe [these stunning closeup photos](#) will provide you some chilly enjoyment. I just shoveled some of those beauties off of our little driveway.

Headship Openings Only

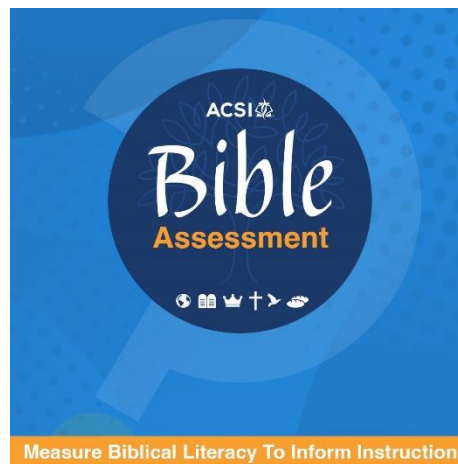
- Asuncion Christian Academy, Paraguay. [Learn more here.](#)
- Carthage Classical Academy, Tunisia. [Learn more here.](#)
- El Camino Academy, Bogota, Colombia. [Learn more here.](#)
- Evangelical Christian Academy, Spain. [Learn more here.](#)
- Faith International Academy, Philippines. [Learn more here.](#)
- Mountainview Christian School, Indonesia (2023). [Learn more here.](#)
- Ukarumpa International Academy, Papua New Guinea. [Learn more here.](#)
- Yongsan International School of Seoul, Korea. [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](#). The ACSI job board is currently showing almost [6919 resumes](#) from job seekers, up again by approximately 75 since early December 2022! Use the filter to see the most recently updated resumes.

Announcements



We have moved our current Connexus Premium platform to **ACSI PD powered by Campus**. This upgraded platform will provide well over 500 hours of formal instruction for Christian educators while continuing to add new content. Go [here](#) to learn more.



ACSI announces the ACSI Bible Assessment (ABA) as a stand-alone, standardized (normed) test. Learn more [here](#).



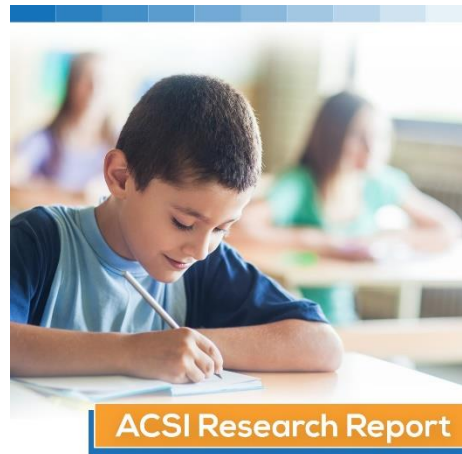
You can watch our recent [Maximize Your Membership](#) video about the 2023 Day of Prayer and download a PDF about it [here](#).



We have updated our **Accreditation** protocol, called ***Inspire***. Click the image above or watch the video about it [here](#).



We're always on the lookout for inspirational stories about Christian schools around the world. What exciting things are happening at your school? Take a moment to [share your story](#) with us by filling out this [form](#). We want to highlight the amazing things taking place at your school!



New report on Christian schools during COVID released

Recently, ACSI released a new report on Christian schools during COVID that found Christian schools flourished, despite the challenges of the pandemic, by consistently maintaining high levels of academic excellence, responding quickly to students' learning needs, and experiencing student enrollment growth. Find the report using [this link](#).



Happy New Year! Your ACSI Student Activities [team](#) looks forward to serving you in 2023!

Middle School Leadership Development [Virtual Adventure](#) and [Spelling Bee Kits](#) are still available for purchase. Both events are on-demand and provide your school with all the resources needed to facilitate an event on your campus this school year. You don't want your students to miss it!



The Power of Focus

Can you believe the New Year is here? Does 2022 feel like a dream or was it a blur? We can often lose focus when we consider the rapid changes and challenges occurring in culture. **Focus is defined as the center of interest or activity, having or producing clear visual definition.** Even the lens on a camera can become loosened and out of focus due to vibration or shaking. If you are paying attention to world events at all, you recognize there is a global shaking occurring, especially in the realm of Christian education. Just as you would adjust the camera focus by screwing the lens in or out until you find the sweet spot, we can do the same personally and professionally.

How do we do recalibrate our focus? We are challenged once again to focus on the One who called us to and equipped us for Kingdom education. **We prioritize our first love by spending quality time in prayer, developing a strategic plan, planning and prioritizing tasks, maintaining a Philippians 4:8 perspective, and serving people.** The new year is a great opportunity to evaluate and reorient ourselves and our teams. ...

–Suzie Mohler, Ed.D., Senior Coordinator, Western Division

[Read the Rest of this Message Here & Learn about Networking and Professional Development Opportunities](#)

******[Go here to sign up for one of our Spring EE Conferences](#)

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