



Fellow International Christian Educator,

I recently attended an open Zoom conversation with a large group of international school heads mostly from Europe and Latin America on the topic of well-being for leaders. This was not an ACSI thing or even a Christian thing, it was simply a group of weary school heads who gathered to hear a short presentation and then discuss how everyone was doing emotionally, physically, and mentally, and to share some ideas for self and community care. These are challenging times for leaders everywhere and it was certainly evident in that call.

At one point, the featured presenter, a clinical psychologist, looked at his screen and said, "Everyone is sagging on this zoom." It was true. I saw it with my own eyes as I flipped through 75 or so postage-stamp-size faces on my screen. The hour-long sharing was open, honest, and authentic. One leader shared how tired he was, another admitted to the group she was having trouble sleeping at night. One leader lamented, "My crystal ball has gone out of focus!" All true and all highly relatable.

I'll admit some good tips and ideas came out for self-care, but for me, I left the meeting just a little bit down about the whole experience. There was so little hope, there was certainly no prayer, no calling on God's care for his people.

Lately, I've "parked" in Psalm 86, reading it morning after morning. You need to read the entire chapter but listen to these few key phrases while thinking about the challenging times we are all facing:

- Incline your ear, O Lord, and answer me, for I am poor and needy (v1)
- Be gracious to me, O Lord, for to you do I cry all the day. (v3)
- Gladden the soul of your servant, for to you, O Lord, do I lift up my soul. (v4)
- There is none like you among the gods, O Lord (v8)
- Teach me your way, O Lord, that I may walk in your truth; unite my heart to fear your name (v11)
- For great is your steadfast love toward me (v13)

I believe it was Josh Keegan, Superintendent of the iSC schools, who said in another recent zoom conversation with ACSI school leaders, "In reading through the Psalms, it's like God has been reading our emails" (my paraphrase). That's the kind of Zoom call I really love, one that points me back to Jesus.

Go in peace. I urge all of you to find some refreshment after this school year closes.

Tim Shuman for the International School Team
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Events

- Be sure check out each **ACSI Town Hall** (live or recorded). [Visit the Coronavirus Resource page](#) to see upcoming and previous webinars. The work continues this summer with the following webinars featuring [Dr. David Mulder](#), Dordt University.
 - July 14 – Student Engagement in Distance Learning
 - July 16 – Designing for Learning in the Online Classroom
 - July 21 – Creating Instructional Media
 - July 23 – Authentic Assessment in the Online Classroom
 - **Announcing PFO2Go.** We are working hard to launch a new online and simpler version of PreField Orientation called “PFO2Go.” PFO2Go is an online course designed to equip new hires to successfully transition to their international school. This course will be available anytime, anywhere, and is designed to include a mentor from each hiring school to guide the learner through the process. It will cover the three main topics of Culture, TCKs, and Transition via a series of short videos and activities. Look for a special announcement near the end of June or early July.
 - Our annual **International School Job Fair** is tentatively scheduled for 5-13 November 2020 on the campuses of Liberty University, Baylor University, and Grand Canyon University. For the fairs to go ahead, we will need to see the resumption of easy international travel, the lifting of quarantine requirements when entering the country, and an easy way to hold the fair in a social distancing environment. Stay tuned.
 - **Virtual Job Fair.** With the “iffy-ness” of our live job fairs, we are also working hard to bring you a virtual job fair this fall and perhaps a second one around February or March 2021. To be honest, we do not view this virtual option as simply a substitute for the live fairs but will be a feature moving into the future. We hope to push this virtual fair worldwide across the ACSI network.
 - [ICEC Africa in Rwanda](#) is still tentatively slated for 28-31 March 2021.
 - [ISLC. International School Leaders Conference](#) is still on the calendar for 25–27 April 2021. We have a binding a contract with the hotel in Dubrovnik for this gathering.
 - Save the date: **ICEC Asia**, 24-27 November 2021. Details to be confirmed.
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Resources & Ideas

ACSI Developed Resources

- International leaders, please consider joining in the discussions happening on both the ACSI [International School group](#) and the [International School Administrator](#) group. There are so many good ideas coming in from around the world, especially on reopening school in the fall.
- Counselors, you need to check out the new [School Counselors community page](#) that already features 84 members and 48 subject threads! Get on board.
- Our office recently launched a [JOB VACANCY webpage](#) dedicated to YOUR international schools.
- Check out the recent [ACSI US Schools Response to COVID-19 survey and report](#). An International school supplement will be coming soon.
- ACSI Blog post: [Blended Learning: Looking Ahead to Next Year](#) with Dr. Erin Wilcox.
- Are you watching the news from the US these days? If so, take a look at the latest ACSI Blog post: [Marked “Urgent”: Unity within Diversity in our Christian Schools](#).
- In case you missed it, we recently hosted an hour-long conversation with Dr. Jan Dormer, Messiah College, on “Meeting the Needs of English Learners and Their Parents During Online Instruction.” Find the video and a handout called, “Orientation for Parents of English Learners” [on this resource page](#).

Other Resources

- Earlier, I mentioned Dr. David Mulder, Dordt University. Check out his excellent blog post, [So Many Thoughts: Planning for Fall](#).
- Sharon Rosa, Kiev Christian Academy, is offering you [this video](#) she made for KCA seniors on how to “RAFT” meaningfully in this season of separation.
- Have you developed a Child Safety plan for your online learning? This article, [Safeguarding Considerations for Online Learning](#), is well-worth your time.
- [Resources for Re-Opening](#) from The Baylor Center for Christian Education.
- Baylor is also offering a series of summer academies called [Classroom Redesign Virtual Learning Academies](#) for Lower, Middle, and Upper School cohorts in July.
- [Signs You May Be Burning Out – and What to Do About It](#) from Bloomberg
- The June issue of [International School Leader](#) e-magazine is out. Cover articles include Not Wasting a Crisis, Preparing for Reopening, Leading a School Within a Group, and others.
- [Twinkl offers a lot of free resources](#) for teachers. It’s mostly lower grades and includes a Christian Ed section.
- [Hamilton Trust in the UK](#) offers similarly free materials for teachers from the British perspective.
- I know this article is partly (mostly?) an ad for how teachers use Microsoft TEAMS to [connect powerfully with their students in the sudden shift to remote learning](#); however, it was still a great read and might give you some new ideas.
- [Best Practices in Online Learning](#) from Dr. Mark Beadle, Sevenstar Academy. A ton of stuff here.

- [What Good Leadership Looks Like During a Pandemic](#) from Harvard Business Review. Excellent stuff.

Odds and Ends

- I LOVED watching this video by TIE-Online called [Every Voice Counts – International School Students Share](#). The idea here was to hear from students in international schools around the world.
- You know the work of the [Barna Group](#), but have you ever heard George Barna's own faith journey and how he got into polling? Check out this interview with Barna done by my friend John Snyder on [The Walk with John I. Snyder](#) podcast and hear Barna's take on the American church today.
- [ExpatUP.org](#) is a new video course designed for international schools. "It will walk you through a process that will help you reclaim the losses and make the absolute best of this messy situation."
- How is your reading doing these days? Dig into this interesting article, [A Christian Reading Manifesto](#).
- [TikTok Passes 2 Billion downloads](#). This article gives a quick overview of the popular app and also references resources from our friends at [www.axis.org](#)
- Speaking of AXIS, many of you will remember Mr. Gary Alan Taylor who spoke at various ICEC events. Gary Alan recently launched a new website called, The Sophia Society, "a sacred space to explore, experience, and cultivate intimate union with God." [Give it a look here](#).

Head of School Openings

Send me your head of school openings for inclusion here:

- Caspian Academy, Baku, Azerbaijan. [Learn more here](#).
 - Christian Academy of Mozambique. [Learn more here](#).
 - Christian International School of Prague, Czech. [Learn more here](#).
 - Hope International School, Phnom Penh, Cambodia. [Learn more here](#).
 - Kiev Christian Academy, Kyiv, Ukraine. [Learn more here](#).
 - Pan American Christian Academy, Sao Paulo, Brazil. [Learn more here](#).
 - Rift Valley Academy, Kijabe, Kenya. [Learn more here](#).
 - Whitman Academy, West Amman, Jordan. [Learn more here](#).
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