



### *An International Member Connection, November 2023*

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#### **Fellow International Christian Educator,**

I will be presenting a workshop entitled, “Unstringing the Bow” at ICEC Asia in just a few weeks. In it, I will unpack a stress-related setback that I experienced years ago while leading Black Forest Academy and the subsequent recovery and lessons learned. One of the lessons I learned is the critical importance of friends in our lives while serving in the demanding world of international Christian education.

Counterintuitively, I was once told that international schools (yes, even Christian ones) can be lonely places for some staff. One might assume that simply answering God’s call to join the staff of an overseas international Christian school would automatically include meaningful friendships, but that is not always the case. Yes, occasionally friendships can happen easily and quickly, but more often it takes intentional effort that can take much longer than anticipated. And then there’s the flip side in our international settings: just when you establish a meaningful friendship, your expat friend is called away and you are left with an ache in your heart. Many long-serving staff know this pain intimately.

The point I’m trying to make here is that a friend or group of friends is critically important to your well-being, your work, and your walk with God, and very much worth pursuing and then pursuing again if necessary. It’s so important that if you currently have a lack in this area, you should be PRAYING now to the Lord specifically for a friend. I truly believe the Lord loves to hear you pray for this (I’ve prayed for it myself). And then you also need to do your part, by keeping your heart open, looking for opportunity and living as a friend yourself.

For those of you blessed by the kind of life-giving friendships that I’m talking about, please be on the lookout for those on your staff who might need your care, especially as we get closer to Christmas break.

I encourage all of you to read [How Jesus Modeled True Friendship](#), and then watch this short spoken word presentation called, [We Need Friends](#). And finally, visit the [Friendship Initiative](#) at Ev. Alliance UK. I think it would be brilliant to work through some of the articles provided and intentionally seek to apply them in your community because again, friendship is critically important.

Blessings upon you,

Tim for the international schools team.

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

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Your international schools team.

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[Caitlin Taylor, Administrative Assistant, International Division](#)

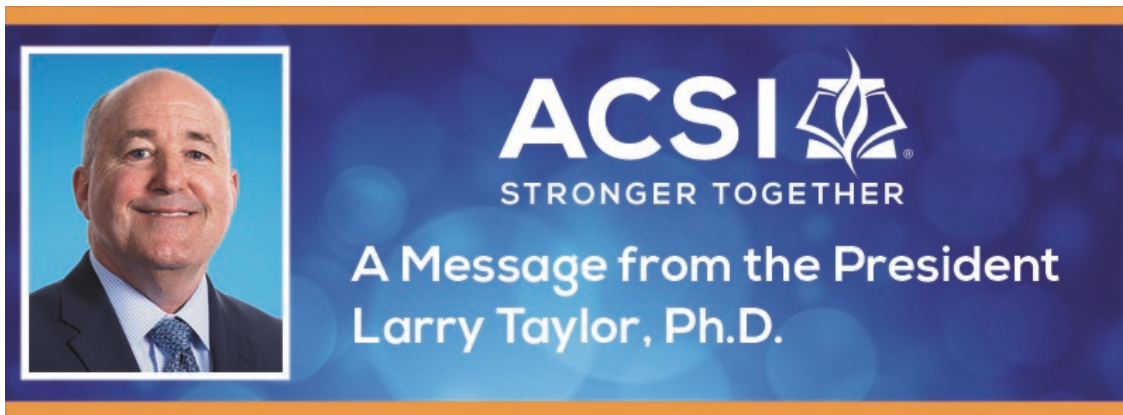


- Registration for [ICEC Asia 2023](#) is now closed. We are looking forward to an amazing time of fellowship, networking, and learning with well over 500 participants from approximately 40 schools in 17 countries. Being together with Christian teachers and school leaders will be a little taste of heaven. If you missed it, don't worry...
- 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](#). We are looking forward to a wonderful team of keynoters as well as peer-to-peer workshops. Submit your [workshop proposal](#) today.
- [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](#).



- ACSI's most recent posts and resources:
  - [Bullying in Schools: Why It Matters More Than Ever](#) – Paul Coughlin
  - [Christianity, Liberalism, and the Necessity of the Christian School](#) – Dr. Matthew Lee
  - [Questioning: Deconstruction or Discovery](#) – Stefan Wilson
  - [Year Four to Five: Navigating an Inflection Point in Leadership](#) – Lynn Swaner
  - Take a look at [the latest non-USA job openings](#) on ACSI's Career Center. You can get your openings listed, too. Posting a job is free with your membership.
- Many of your graduates will pursue bachelor's degrees in the US. Here is a thought-provoking ranking of [Median Student Debt for a U.S. College Degree](#). Read the entire article to also see the median debt for a master's degree.
- I have always enjoyed the materials from CPX. Here is a set of free resources for high school classrooms to help students explore the [Big Questions](#) of the Christian faith.
- Barrett Mosbacker, The Christian School Journal, challenges us with [5 Minutes to Ruin Your Reputation](#).
- You have international students and families that are dealing with this fascinating phenomenon. [I'm stricter in Italian – the multiple personas of multilingualism](#). Can you relate? Want to go deeper? Check out this TED talk: [How Language shapes the way we think](#).
- Michael and Kim Essenburg love international Christian schools and want to see them flourish.
  - [Teachers, how can you model resilient well-being?](#)

- [International Christian school leaders, how can you get prepared for the inevitable bad stuff?](#)
  - [Haphazard, ho-hum, hero, or hypocrite—leaders, which word best describes you in terms of your modeling of flourishing?](#)
- From TIE, this article written by two leaders at Concordia International School in Shanghai covers the important topic of [Artificial Intelligence Policy Creation Guidelines for International Schools](#). Are you working on similar policies for your school?
- This may or may not be a surprise to you, but this [world map showing where you can drink the tap water](#) impacts many (most?) readers of this Insider.
- This feels right to me, how about you? [Digital Bible readers read more – but understand less](#).
- This made me smile! Maybe next time I get to Tokyo [I'll visit this museum](#) that features rocks that resemble human faces. I'm in, are you?



Here is a brief thanksgiving message from Dr. Taylor. We pray that your Thanksgiving is a blessed time with family and friends, knowing we serve a faithful Father who loves us!





We have a new format for Maximize Your Membership. Starting this month, we will feature the link to the Maximize Your Membership webinar in this monthly ACSI Insider.

We have shortened the video to provide relevant information while saving you time!

The webinar link will still be in the ACSI community. You can click [here](#) to view past webinars on topics such as Certification, Student Leadership and Learning opportunities, member benefits, and more.



Click on the video above to learn more about ACSI Certification.

### **ACSI's Flourishing Faith Initiative: New Research and Resources for Schools**

In what ways and to what extent does spiritual formation take place in Christian schools? Which practices are most strongly related to promoting spiritual formation and biblical worldview development in students? Following the groundbreaking work in developing the industry-standard Flourishing School Culture Instrument

(FSCI), ACSI Research sought to develop a similar survey instrument for understanding and measuring spiritual formation and biblical worldview development. In 2022, thanks to generous grant funding, ACSI Research developed, piloted, and refined its Flourishing Faith Index (FFI), with nearly 10,000 participants representing 33 Christian schools of diverse size and geographic location...

Continue reading below...

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### Member Benefits from Strategic Partners

Many reasons exist for schools to become ACSI members that you are probably aware of, such as cutting-edge professional development opportunities like the Flourishing Schools Institute, the invaluable insights of our Thought Leadership research, and the timely Public Policy & Legal Affairs webinars (US-centric) and conferences that we offer, just to name a few.

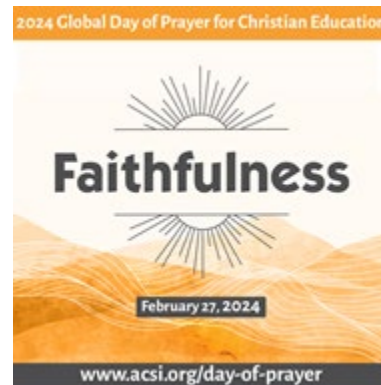
Through our Strategic Partners program, which includes businesses and organizations such as Friendly, Joshua Expeditions, and Alliance Defending Freedom, among many others, you can also receive discounts on products and memberships.

You can see a complete list of our strategic partners [here](#).

We'd love to have you join our family. If you have any questions about becoming an ACSI member, don't hesitate to [contact us](#) today!

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We strive to send valuable, timely emails to our members and friends.

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