



Fellow International Christian Educator,

For nearly 25 years, I lived and worked outside my passport country. During that time, my status was dependent on the continual renewal of a two-year visa. Living as a long-term guest in a country sets up an interesting dynamic in one's mind (at least in my mind it did), something that I was almost unaware of until I moved back to the country where I held citizenship.

You see, living abroad I had limited rights. Don't get me wrong, life in Germany was wonderful but I was not a citizen, and that brought limits. For instance, I couldn't vote, I had to stand in different governmental lines, I had to engage with officials in slightly different ways, and as a guest, knowing that my status could easily be taken away, it caused me to behave as a good guest should.

This guest posture actually aligns well with Peter's words to exiles (expats?) living abroad. This should speak to all of us in international schools, "Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul. Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation." 1 Peter 2:11-12 (ESV)

Sometime in my first full year back to my passport country, it suddenly hit me. Hey, I'm no longer a guest! I'm a citizen here. I can vote. I have full rights! No more visas! And on and on. But then comes the question, with all those new rights of citizenship, why do I still feel like I don't belong? Well, that would take a lot longer to unpack than this newsletter allows, and thankfully some of you know exactly what I'm talking about. This brings to mind something that should be comforting to all of us internationals no matter where we are located...

"For here we have no lasting city, but we seek the city that is to come." Hebrews 13:14 (ESV) "But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ," Philippians 3:20 (ESV).

[See many more related verses here.](#)

Do you sometimes feel uncomfortable with the place you currently call “home?” I certainly do and lately, this season of pandemic and unrest in my country only seems to accentuate that discomfort. That feeling of not belonging is not necessarily a bad thing for believers in Jesus. Our citizenship truly is elsewhere. In the meantime, let’s live as honorable helpful guests no matter where we are so that citizens around us will see our good deeds and glorify God.

Amen.

In this August newsletter, you will see several new ACSI USA initiatives. I’m pointing them out to you because they are more accessible to a global audience than ever before and thereby worthy of your consideration.

Tim

Tim Shuman for the International School Team

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

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

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URGENT PRAYER REQUESTED

- We received word that Sahel Academy in Niamey, Niger, has once again experienced a devastating flood of their entire school campus from the nearby swollen Niger river. Some of you will recall this happened in 2012 and many of you stepped up with financial gifts at that time. This time, the river was higher and more powerful and broke through the fortifications that were put into place after 2012. The best way to follow the situation and see photos is to visit [Sahel Academy on Facebook](#). Obviously, they need our prayerful support, but they will also need financial help to move to temporary facilities as the clean-up begins. You can [give here](#) by selecting “Enable a Project” and put in project code: “NE 97260”. Seeing [their location on google maps](#) may also help you visualize the situation.

COMING UP

- ***NEW* GLOBAL LEADERS NETWORK MEETING on FRIDAY, 11 SEPTEMBER.** This new global webinar is calling all school leaders (USA and International) to join in on the topic of leader well-being with Dr. Don Lichi (past ICEC speaker), Emerge Ministries. This free webinar will be offered live at two different times making it possible for international leaders to participate. [Learn more and register here.](#)
- **PFO2Go online.** One administrator in Central Asia wrote this about PFO2Go, “It was a great course for our new staff and many of them expressed their appreciation for learning the three tracks. Well done on all the presentations by all the presenters. We found that PFO2Go was valuable for everyone who attended, and the administration is considering it a must-attend-training for all staff.” One school in Latin America has the great idea to take their new staff through PFO2Go later this fall after school starts. Learn more and register at the [PFO2Go website.](#)
- **ACSI Student Leadership Conference Europe** is open to student leaders from national and international Christian schools and will take place virtually on 21-25 September in the Central Europe time zone. [Learn more here.](#)
- **ACSI International School Virtual Job Fair on 17-18 November 2020.** We are excited about bringing you a virtual job fair this fall that will allow you to set up video chats with candidates all over the world. Watch [this demo video](#) to see how the fair will work. (Note, when the video host mentions “students” think of this as “job seekers”.) This list of [recruiter FAQs](#) will also help you understand the event. [Registration is now open!](#)
- We will kick off **Heads Continental Connection** zoom meetings soon for leader support in the regions. Stay tuned for more information.
- [ICEC Africa in Rwanda](#) is still tentatively planned for 28-31 March 2021.
- [International School Leaders Conference](#) is on the calendar for 25-27 April 2021. We have a binding contract with the hotel in Dubrovnik, Croatia.
- Save the date: **ICEC Asia** 24-27 November 2021. Details to be confirmed.

ACSI USA EVENTS for your consideration

- [ACSI USA is offering their PD Forum](#) event on a virtual platform this fall. The PD Forum will be offered live six times from September through November in all of the four US time zones. International schools are welcome to attend. The theme of the Forums is Understanding Well-Being.
- ACSI USA is also kicking off **RECONNECT**, a virtual High School Leadership Conference, on 22-24 November. Speakers include Kathy Koch (past ICEC speaker), Sean McDowell, and Alan Shlemon. International schools are welcome to join in. [Learn more here.](#)
- One of the things we are learning from our recent COVID response surveys of international schools is that nearly 60% of you offer **Early Education programs** at your schools. If you are an EE teacher or an EE leader, we want

you to [take a look](#) at what ACSI has for you. While much of it is US based, there are applicable materials and events, both in-person and virtual, that will encourage you in your calling.

RESOURCES

- 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.
- Are you looking for a **new Bible study**? Check out this biblical studies webinar: The Gospel of Education with ACSI's own Dr. Vernard Gant. [Learn more here](#).
- Visit our **NEW International Accreditation webpages** here. See if your school is listed among the ACSI accredited schools.
- Be sure to stay up on ACSI Blog posts and podcast. [See the resources here](#).
- This article really made a lot of sense to me; I bet it will to you, too. [COVID and culture shock feel the same to your brain and here's why](#).
- This helpful article comes from our friends at TeachBeyond and is worth your consideration. [Where is God in Distance Learning?](#) Thank you Russ Kraines for sharing with us.
- KC360 is once again offering a Virtual College Fair for your high school students on 22-24 September. [Learn more here](#) and see the list of Christian colleges participating.
- Consider joining the virtual MK Education Summit (formerly IMKEC) on September 9-12. MK Ed Summit is an annual conference of mission agency reps, school reps serving the MK/TCK population, and education support organizations that meet to discuss current issues, share resources, and agree on areas to better advocate for our MKs and their families. Visit [MK Education Summit](#) on Facebook groups to learn more. [Register here](#).

Headship Openings Only

- Caspian Academy, Baku, Azerbaijan. [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](#).
- 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](#).

We will list any headship openings in this newsletter.



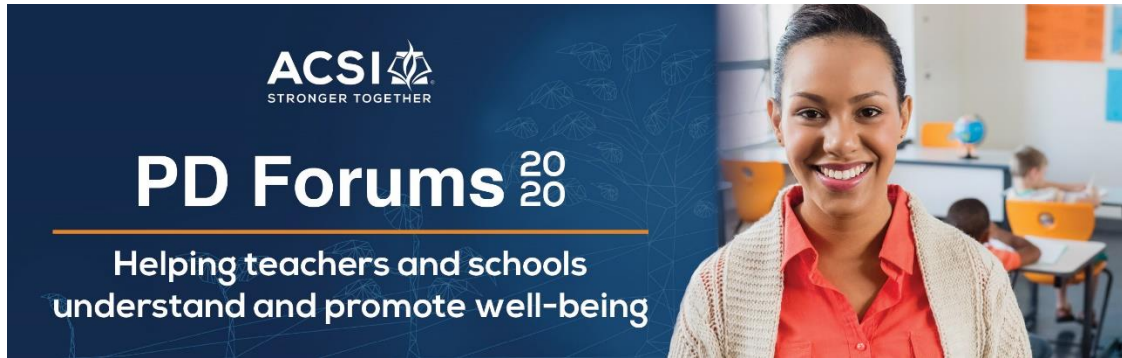
Worldviews & Cultural Fluency PD Program (Free Access!) ACSI has partnered with The Colson Center to provide a new, 10-hour digital Professional Development program designed to assist Christian school educators in teaching worldview, culture, and cultural engagement. These five online modules are [available for free!](#)



PFO2Go is an online course that prepares Christian educators and staff for service in Christian international schools abroad. It is designed to help new staff start their assignment with more confidence, transition more successfully, and work with Third Culture Kids more effectively



If you are involved in recruiting staff for your international school, our two-day, virtual job fair will give you a unique opportunity to interact with hundreds of experienced and new teachers, administrators and others from around the world. Going virtual means we will be able work with you to share the service opportunities and needs at your school with more people than ever before!



Virtual Professional Development Forums The well-being of educators is predictively linked to flourishing outcomes in Christian schools. At the Virtual PD Forums, we will take a deep dive into the theme of Well-Being through rich peer engagement. We will hear from speakers Rex Miller and Kevin Baird, authors of the book, "[WHOLE: What Teachers Need to Help Students Thrive](#)," and wellness professional, Ginger Hill. We hope you can join us! [Register Today](#).



Flourishing Schools Institute - Transform Your School Culture to Flourish! The [Flourishing Schools Institute](#) will provide rich perspective on what a flourishing school culture truly looks like based on research-validated constructs.

These Institutes will equip leaders to apply principles and processes in everyday leadership, bringing their entire team on the journey to flourishing!



Improve student achievement through fall testing, as well as remote or periodic assessment options. [Learn more](#).

