



An International Division Member Connection, September 2023



Fellow International Christian Educator,

20 years ago this month, I experienced a burnout-related crash at my international Christian school. At that time, I was 17 years into my service at Black Forest Academy and 4 years into headship, and things were going quite well, or so I thought.

I loved working at BFA, and I loved leading our team and doing important work for God in community. From my perspective, things were humming along nicely. However, in my enthusiasm to lead, I was pushing myself beyond what was reasonable and that meant ignoring the stress in my body and most unfortunately leaving God to the sidelines. I was attempting to outpace all others including God. And then one day the Lord allowed a much-needed shock to my system to get my attention. I won't go into those details here because you can read [that story](#) for yourself. But looking back now, it reminds me, dear educator, to urge you at the start of this new school year to monitor the dashboard of your spiritual, emotional, and physical life and make your walk with God a priority every day. As Paul says in Acts 20:28a, "Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers." Did you see that? Take care of yourselves,... and then take care of your flock. And who's your flock? Those are the students in your class, or on your dorm floor, your own children, or the staff team(s) you lead.

On a different topic, I highly recommend that each one of you read this timely article aimed at those who just moved overseas written by our friend MaDonna Maurer. [LAND: A Resource for Newcomers](#). Someone please be sure that your newest staff get MaDonna's resource. Take care of this flock too.

We hope to see many of you at ICEC Asia in November or at ICEC Europe in March. See links below.

Blessings upon you,

Tim for the international school team.

Tim Shuman, Senior Director, International Division, for the [International School Team](#)
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*Your international schools team.

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

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

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

[Michael McNabb, incoming Director of Accreditation, International Division](#)

[Kimberly Park, Accreditation Specialist, International Division](#)



- **Register NOW** for [ICEC Asia 2023](#) in Jakarta, 26–29 November 2023. Registration closes on November 3. Please be sure to also sign up for one of our three PreConference courses. **We are accepting your workshop submissions NOW.** [Click here to get your workshop included](#) at ICEC.
- **Register NOW** for the [International Schools Job Fair Tour](#) in November 2023. Liberty University on 7 November, Dallas Baptist University on 9 November, and Grand Canyon University on 13-14 November.
- Save the date. [ICEC Europe, 20-23 March 2024](#) in Prague CZ to be held at the beautiful [Vienna House by Wyndham](#) in Prague.
- **Announcing a mid-summer price discount** and an all-new track on [PFO2Go](#). A track on Cultural Intelligence™ has now been included. PFO2Go is our asynchronous online course designed to help your new hires transition to your school. And if you have questions about PFO2Go, we have answers – [check out our FAQs](#).

NEWS, ARTICLES & OTHER IDEAS



- ACSI's posts and resources:
 - [Letter to a New Christian School Teacher](#) – Penny Clawson
 - [Flourishing Schools: From Insular to Engagement](#) – Jerry Nelson
 - [Introduction to Leading Insights: Biblical Worldview and Spiritual Formation](#) – Lynn Swaner
 - [The Flourishing Faith Index, Measuring Biblical Worldview and Spiritual Formation in Christian School](#) – ACSI Research Team
 - ["The Open Generation" New Barna Research on Today's Teens](#) – Lynn Swaner interviews David Kinnaman (Podcast)
- I thought this post was particularly good for this time of year, [Back to School Prayer Guide – 2023 Edition](#).
- Check out [Sarah Butterfield](#)'s blog. [In this post](#) she shares about moving overseas as an TCK and later enrolling at an international Christian boarding school. You have a young TCK Sarah enrolled in your class right now.
- The latest issue of the International Teacher Magazine [is out now](#). This one emphasizes music in the international school.
- Guidance Counselors this is for you:
 - [Heavy Burden. Student Loan Debt Hits Some Christian College Students Particularly Hard](#). How are you helping your seniors and their parents think through this? And check out the [Most Popular US Undergraduate Degrees from 2011-2021](#).
 - This infographic is super interesting for your international students heading to the US for college! [Where Do International College Student in the United States Come From?](#)
 - Staying on the Guidance Counselor topic: KC360 VIRTUAL COLLEGE FAIR Sept 25 – Oct 7, 2023: Colleges and universities are looking to connect with you and your students to tell you about their scholarships, programs, majors, and campus life. [Register TODAY](#) as a Monthly Navigator (free!) for viewing access September 25 – October 7, for exclusive interviews from college admission representatives looking specifically for students from schools like yours! More details [here](#).
- Michael and Kim Essenburg care deeply about international Christian schools...
 - [What's your international Christian school for?](#)
 - [What's 1 step you can take toward flourishing?](#)

- [To what extent do you intentionally use your school's accreditation recommendations to help others flourish?](#)
- This one really clicked with me: [Why Fidgeting is Good for You](#). I often encouraged my students to quietly doodle during appropriate instructional times. I did so because I know how much doodling helps me concentrate and remember better - even in church! [See a few of my sermon doodles](#).
- History teachers? Music Appreciation teachers? This international [musical time machine](#) might be a fun addition to your lessons. For example, what music was Brazil or China listening to in the 1910s, 1940s, 1960s, or present?

Headship Openings Only

- Chiang Rai Christian International School, Thailand. [Learn more here](#).
- Faith International Academy, Philippines. [Learn more here](#).
- International Christian School of Vienna, Austria. [Learn more here](#).
- International Christian School, Pyeongtaek, South Korea. [Learn more here](#).
- International Community School – Singapore. [Learn more here](#).
- Kigali International Community School, Rwanda. [Learn more here](#).
- Mountainview Christian School, 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](#). The ACSI job board is currently showing almost [7374 resumes](#) from job seekers! Use the filter narrow your prospective search for new staff. If you are interested in a position at an international school check out the latest non-USA opportunities [here](#).



The challenge on our fundamental conviction of the Imago Dei—image-bearer of God—is relentless. As you well know, this is especially evident when dealing with LGBTQ+ issues. I recently wrote a [letter](#) that expresses our current concerns, frames our position, and encourages you. I hope you will take the time to read and process the key points. Please know that I pray for you regularly—your Christ-like servant leadership is impacting the eternal destiny of children and families!

How Shall They Hear...?
By Jerry Nelson, Chief Ministry Officer

Can someone have a biblical worldview without reading the Bible consistently? Is it possible that we are promoting a system of thought without verifying our students are well acquainted with the source on which the system is built? Is it possible that our students are hearing about Christ (praise God for that!), but rarely reading his words for themselves?

Take a moment to reflect on the structure of your spiritual formation program—your chapels, small group sessions, Bible curriculum, mission, and service opportunities. How much of that time is dedicated to reading whole passages of Scripture aloud? How much time is spent reading the words of Jesus, following the arch of his activity?

Paul charges Timothy to do this very thing, “Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to preaching and to teaching.” (1 Timothy 4:13) John says in Revelation 1:3, “Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy...”

If we believe the words contained in Scripture—those sixty-six books passing the rules of canonization—are the very words of God, then they have inherent power when spoken aloud...

[Continue reading here.](#)

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How Shall They Hear...? Continued

The Word of God spoken in public will accomplish the will of God, because it will find its intended target like a GPS-guided missile. We have this assurance in Isaiah 55:11. The writer of Hebrews reminds us that the Word of God is “living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword.” (Hebrews 4:12) It critiques our thoughts and the intents of our hearts. No one is left the same when the Word of God is spoken. It cuts and divides, forming two groups each time it is spoken: those who embrace the truth—being drawn into deeper relationship with Christ through repentance, and those who suppress the truth—being confirmed in their damnation. There is no middle ground.

By no means does this negate the role of private daily devotions or the role of Pastor/teacher. Both are essential to our maturation as believers and conformity to Christ.

But let us not forget that the Holy Spirit's role is to lead us into all truth. It is the Great Teacher. The Holy Spirit and the Word of God work in tandem to bring us into conformity with God's will. We have assurance that the Word of God, if read faithfully, is sufficient to communicate the means to salvation.

Benefits of public (whole passage) reading:

- It is a declaration of the supremacy of God's Word over the word of men.
- It convicts and calls the lost to Christ and challenges incorrect thinking about Christ and his Word.
- We unlock the (untold) blessings of God because we are walking in obedience to His commands.
- It binds believers in community. Hearing the very words of God at the same time reminds us of our responsibility to each other and increases our accountability.

We are living in a time and place where we can no longer assume that those we encounter have heard those Bible stories that have shaped many of our lives. Parents are flocking to our schools in droves. What shall they hear? The words of God or the words of men?

Stronger Together!
