

## LT Script for Video

### Dear ACSI Community:

We have all been immersed in the national racial-related tension and dissension. NFL Hall of Fame Football Coach, Tony Dungy, a long-time friend said it best, *“America is in a very sad place today. We have seen a man die senselessly, at the hands of the very people who are supposed to be protecting our citizens. What happened to George Floyd was inexcusable and it should never happen. Justice needs to be served...”*

The video of George Floyd is painful to my soul; and the widespread violent protests around the country sting my heart. We believe that God’s Word openly addresses the issues of our day...and, that what we are experiencing calls for continued prayer, conversation, and a genuine pursuit of Biblical reconciliation. It is a transformed heart, the internal character, by the power of God that enables a person to sincerely love deeply.

In Dr. King’s famous letter written from the Birmingham, Alabama jail cell he defined the difference between *“negative peace”* and *“positive peace”* knowing that not all “peace” is good. Dr. King writes in this letter that many people settle for *‘a negative peace’ which is the absence of tension...he compares this to a ‘positive peace’ which is the presence of justice... peace without justice is not good peace...*

Our commitment at ACSI is to devote ourselves to King’s definition of *‘positive peace’*—the presence of justice. But, that means that we have to be willing to face the tension...tension resulting from tough conversations...If we can’t create space in our Christian schools to facilitate dialogue, to allow students, teachers, and parents to wrestle with these issues...then who can?...One of Dr. King’s primary strategies was: **Dialogue over Monologue**. I believe Dr. King’s desire for dialogue is as relevant today as it was on April 16, 1963 when he wrote this letter.

What an opportunity we have to take students, faculty, and families to a deeper level...and we must. There is no other ministry that has students 8-12 hours a day. We have the time...we must have the will and the resolve to carry this through. Christian schools cannot fit every cultural issue into their training, but this is beyond a cultural issue—this is about humanity, the sanctity of life, and foundational Biblical principles.

Our goal is to remain steadfast in preparing Christian thinkers and advocates to be ambassadors of influence throughout all sectors of society. Developing depth in thinking and action is no easy task, but this is precisely our objective. Dr. King states,

***“Rarely do we find men who willingly engage in hard, solid thinking. There is an almost universal quest for easy answers and half-baked solutions. Nothing pains some people more than having to think.”***

With this said, I want to invite you, your staff, and trustees to the table of dialogue...I know that everyone is worn out from the COVID-19 situation...but, another crisis has erupted in our country...and really, around the world... the ‘pandemic’ of racism and racial related tension and dissension is a deadly virus...perhaps even more toxic than COVID-19...so, I have assembled a small group of leaders who will help facilitate some tough conversations...some dialogue...**Please connect to the link for the dates of these Virtual Town Halls...**

We will discuss strategic steps to assist schools in developing diversity related initiatives: including personnel positions focused on diversity; professional development for faculty, staff, students, and parents; curriculum changes, and special Racial Relations forums for your school community.

I will close with one of the most powerful commandments in all of Scripture:

### John 13:34

**A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another.**

Please read the attached letter, and join us for the national and global dialogue—God bless...