



Message from your Regional Director

Fellow International Christian Educator,

It's that time of year again. The season of goodbyes. If you are in an international school, you know it, you feel it. I will never forget my first high school graduation ceremony at Black Forest Academy. Coming as I did from an American suburb in 1986, I was not prepared for what I saw. First, there were the usual celebrations with tons of smiles, photos (35mm film back then), cheers of joy, and the tossing of mortar boards into the sky, but later as the day wore on, there were tears—lots and lots of tears and conversations that I didn't fully understand at the time. Now I do, I really do.

Things have changed a bit since then, but back in the 80s and 90s international school graduations often featured something called "The Wailing Wall". If you attended or worked at one of those schools, you know exactly what I'm talking about. It was a deep and meaningful ritual of goodbyes that only international teen MKs and TCKs going through it can fully describe or appreciate. It's that moment just before the students are cast to the four corners of the earth, and here they stand at that precipice saying goodbye to deep friendships and familiar things that they may or may not ever see or experience again.

Over my nearly two and a half decades at Black Forest Academy, I have said goodbye to hundreds and hundreds of students and staff—mostly taking it all in stride. Until one of my best friends, Bill, left to pursue God's next calling on his life far away from me and the school. And that's when I realized in my bones, "OH! So that's what our students (and my own sons) feel at every graduation. Ouch!" This was when I discovered how it's possible for pain and joy to exist so near each other in the relational ministry that you and I have been called to.

Bill's departure was yet another lesson for me in learning to move toward the pain—to recognize it, work through it, and do the deep work of saying goodbye—as the students do on grad day! You too need to learn this lesson if you haven't already*. During this upcoming season of goodbyes, I encourage you to be there, be fully present, don't avoid it, draw near, say the goodbyes, shed some tears, and take Jesus with you as you go—because he's going wherever you're going and wherever your students and colleagues are going. "And behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Matthew 28:20b.

[*How to Leave Well: Build a RAFT](#)

Tim

PS. We are happy to announce the birth of little Daisy Grace Taylor to Caitlin and Ryan Taylor. Naturally, Caitlin is currently on maternity leave from ACS! Global and loving it!

Tim Shuman for the [International School Team](#)
Follow on social: [@tpshuman](#) [@acsiintlschools](#) [@acsiglobal](#) [@acsiusa](#)

[Tim Shuman, Regional Director, International Schools](#)
[Caitlin Taylor, Global Activity & International Events Coordinator](#) to Tim S
[Tim Thompson, Associate Regional Director](#)
[Kimberly Park, Executive Assistant](#) to Tim T

Coming Up

- [PFO2Go Online](#) now includes a section on Child Safety. Register your incoming staff now. Leaders, let us know if you need access to review the course.
- Our [Fall 2022 Job Fair Tour](#) is ready to go with stops at GCU, Baylor, and Liberty universities (in that order). You can register now.
- Save the date for the [2022 Fall Virtual Job Fair](#) on 15–16 November. We are researching new platforms to host the fair. Details to follow.
- [ISLC 2023](#). Wherever you serve, please make plans to join your fellow leaders at the International School Leader Conference (ISLC) in beautiful Dubrovnik, Croatia on 23–25 April 2023. I'm pleased to announce that Dr. Roger Parrott, President of Belhaven University will be joining us. Check out his new book [Opportunity Leadership](#).
- Please mark your calendars for [2023 ICEC Asia](#) in-person in Jakarta 23–25 November 2023. Details to follow.

News, Articles & Other Ideas

- Heads of School, read our “Salary and Benefits in International Schools” report on page 15 in the latest [ACSI Research in Brief](#). See another mention [here](#).
- ACSI is launching a “Maximize Your Membership” series of webinars this month. Check out upcoming topics [here](#).
- English teachers. I admit poetry has not been a serious interest of mine, but if I had had a Christian teacher or professor like Malcolm Guite I think poetry could have played a more prominent role in my life. [In this lecture](#) (lecture makes it sound boring, it's not!) Dr. Guite gives an outstanding example of how to naturally integrate faith and poetry. Who knew a rainstick could move us.
- Speaking of poetry, our friend Sean Beckett, Christian poet, and the instructor is offering a Young Poet's Mentoring Program this summer—for free! Please pass this on to one of your promising students. Sean is taking applications now until late May. [Learn more here](#).
- If you are interested in US school news from a Christian perspective check out [Schooled](#) by World News Group.
- This brand new book, [Faith on the Move: A Devotional for MK/TCK Teens in Cross-Cultural Transition](#), would make such a great GRAD gift for your seniors! Highly recommended. Contact [Interaction International](#) for bulk orders.
- “I have a new hobby. I love to make teenagers cry.” This one is good for us all. [I Am Proud of You](#).
- This makes so much sense to me, so why didn't I work harder at it? [Being bilingual slows down brain aging](#).
- This 60 second video of [Echinopsis Cactus Flowers Opening](#) is brought to you by your creator God and a videographer that knows how to do slowmo. Enjoy.
- This [2015 live recording](#) of MW Smith's song Agnus Dei, filmed in Lviv Ukraine, is incredibly moving in light of the last two months of war in the region.

- [Belhaven University](#) is offering an impressive undergrad scholarship for your [high school graduates](#) and graduate scholarships for [your current faculty and leaders](#) seeking a M.Ed., EDS, or EDD.
- Last month we mentioned the [Oaks Christian Online's](#) online learning solutions. If this is interesting to you, please reach out to them and have an open conversation about your needs and how they can partner with you. [Contact them today.](#)

Headship Openings Only

- Caspian Academy, Azerbaijan. [Learn more here.](#)
- **NEW.** Crossroads Christian Academy, Panama. [Learn more here.](#)
- El Camino Academy, Bogota, Colombia. [Learn more here.](#)
- Evangelical Christian Academy, Spain. [Learn more here.](#)
- Faith International Academy, Philippines. [Learn more here.](#)
- International School of Lima, Peru. [Learn more here.](#)
- Holy Lands Ministry Schools, Israel. [Learn more here.](#)
- Hope Academy, Bishkek. [Learn more here.](#)
- **NEW.** Lazarus Academy, Honduras. [Learn more here.](#)
- Quisqueya Christian School, Haiti. [Learn more here.](#)
- Ukarumpa International Academy, Papua New Guinea. [Learn more here.](#)
- **NEW.** Bandung Alliance Intercultural School, Indonesia. [Learn more here.](#)

The ACSI job board is currently showing nearly 250 international [job openings](#).

If you have a head of school opening coming up, please let me know. Be sure to check our [member school vacancy pages](#) as well as the [ACSI Job Board](#).

ACSI Announcements



There are only about 100 seats left for FSi Chicago in West Brook, IL. June 21-23! Make plans to join us for a transformative experience and then stay for a personal vacation while visiting Navy Pier or other fun sites. [Register now.](#)



Watch for your ACSI School Membership Renewal email arriving in June! To prepare for renewal season, please update your enrollment numbers and key school contacts. We now have a [short video tutorial](#) available to assist you. You may also [download the PDF User Guide](#). If you need assistance or have questions, please contact the ACSI Care Team.

Also, consider **Gifting ACSI Individual Memberships** to retiring educators so that they can stay connected. Learn more [here](#).

From the Early Education Team—

Rich soil, seeds, small hand shovel, water and gloves. What comes to mind with these supplies? Perhaps a prop box for a classroom center? Or, perhaps, supplies for an outdoor classroom? Recently I used these supplies for planting a vegetable garden and am excited for the bounty of cucumbers, peppers, carrots, tomatoes and squash that I can share with family and friends. Preparing this garden had me thinking about the planting of seeds in the hearts and minds of children and the harvest of souls for Jesus.

[Read More](#)



Have you seen the new Language Arts, K-3rd or Science, grades 1-3, third edition textbooks? Preview them now and Spring into Savings with the [Purposeful Design Publications Annual Textbook Sales](#) now through June 30th.

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