



An International Division Member Connection, November 2024

Fellow International Educator,

About two years ago, I noticed a large clump of debris piling up in the creek that runs through the rustic park near our home in Colorado. I assumed it was from some minor flash flooding, so I wrote to the Parks Department to alert them so a clean-up effort could be organized. The response from the city surprised me. No, the piles were not caused by flash flooding; a colony of beavers had moved in and built a dam (and no cleanup would be organized). That began a fascination on my part that has lasted to this day. Since then, I've observed hundreds of trees chopped (chewed?) down and dam after dam built, up and down the creek. I wish I were still teaching 8th grade; this would make for fantastic science walks. The funny thing was that in my two years of observation, one thing eluded me for the longest time. I never saw a single beaver. I didn't doubt they were there because I saw the evidence: bite marks on trees and stumps, chips on the ground, felled trees, cut branches moved into place, dams built and rebuilt, but no beavers! And then suddenly, a few months ago, near dusk, I finally saw a beaver and not just one. There they were, a male, a female, and their cute little pup, but just that once.



Since joining ACSI Global, I've often told people that the best part of my job is having a front-row seat to see God at work through international Christian schooling. Over and over, at every school I visit, it's not hard to see God at work in your school. He builds, He creates, He tears down, and He restores. But like my colony of beavers, I don't see HIM with my eyes, but I know He is there because I see the evidence of his work in and through you, His servants. We know this because in John 5:17, "Jesus said to them, 'My Father is always at his work to this very day, and I too am working.'"

While I have your attention, would you take a moment and send me a note about how you've seen God at work recently in your school? I love stories like that. Go ahead and share it with your Director, too.

I had the very recent opportunity to see God at work on recent visits to:

- Bundang International, South Korea. Hi Wendy and BIS friends.
- Seoul Central International, South Korea. Hello, Kristina and the SCI crew.
- Logos International, Cambodia. Hello, Pam and the LIS team.
- Hope International, Cambodia. Hi, Adam and everyone that I met at HIS.

Keep at it today.

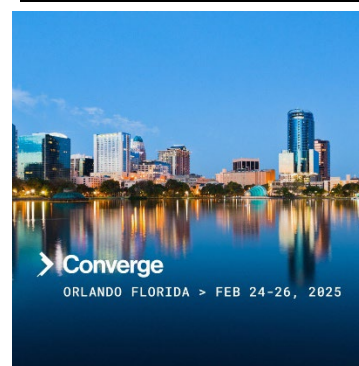
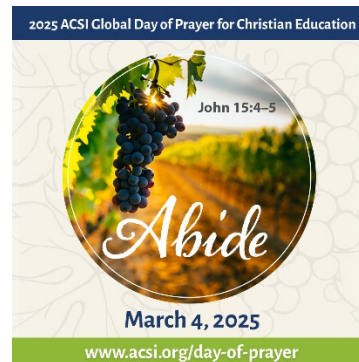
Tim for the [international school team](#)

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

[Chelsea Allen, International Schools Activity & Events Coordinator](#)

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

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



Share Your Story

We're always on the lookout for inspirational stories about Christian schools around the world. How is God moving in your school community? Please take a

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

moment to share your story with us by filling out [this form](#). We want to highlight the amazing things taking place at your school!



Upcoming International Events

- Are you hiring staff for the second semester? [PFO2Go](#), our online course, can help prepare them to transition to your country and your ministry. This [recent article](#) unpacks PFO2Go for you.
- The Job Fair Tour registration is closed, but you can still sign up for the [Virtual Job Fair Day](#), but you need to act fast.
- **International School Leaders, register now for ISLC Europe in Mallorca, Spain. Join us from 27 to 30 April 2025. [LEARN MORE HERE.](#)**
- **Latin American leaders, register now for the ABI Conference.** We are calling international and national leaders from Accredited, Bilingual, and International schools in Latin America to come together on 02-05 April 2025 in Santa Domingo, Dominican Republic. [LEARN MORE HERE.](#)
- **Mark your calendars for [ICEC Asia 2025](#),** which will be held in Malaysia on the campus of Dalat International School from November 26 to 29, 2025. Details are forthcoming.

News, Articles, & Other Ideas

- ACSI's most recent posts and resources:
 - [Financial Health in Christian Schools](#) with Schuyler Lehman
 - [Cultural Leadership: Why Having the Hard Conversations is Critical to a Christ-Centered Culture](#) with Mike Allen
 - [Developing a Flourishing Culture Through Responsiveness to Special Needs](#) with Tyra Harnishfeger
 - [Christian School Leaders' Perspective on Identifying and Hiring High-Quality Teachers](#) with Alison Johnson, Rian R. Djita, Ph.D., and Matthew H. Lee, Ph.D.
 - Have you ever wished you could ask another international Christian school a question on a pressing topic in your school? Now you can. With your ACSI login, you can join the International School group at [ACSI Community](#) and hear from one another on all sorts of topics. The only missing piece...is YOU. Join in today.
- This is precisely why we do what we do. Please read this recent ACSI article, [Teaching the Nations](#), featuring Dr. Jon Hill, Director of Rosslyn Academy in Nairobi, Kenya.
- This thoughtful article from ACSI's Director of Research, Dr. Rian Djita, is worth your time. [Bridging the Gap: How Research Can Advance Christian Education](#).
- Read the report on the [ACSI Student Leadership Conference](#) in Budapest. Many of your schools attended.
- This is a brilliant list of [book recommendations](#) for families raising TCKs.
- I love [this testimony from Paivi Pasanen](#), who is standing firm for her faith in Finland despite persecution.
- [Michael and Kim Essenburg](#) care for international Christian schools and love to share flourishing tips and ideas with you.
 - [International Christian school leaders, what can you do today to think more effectively? \(Hint: Use ChatGPT!\)](#)
 - [International Christian school leaders, what can you do to consistently experience a safe, nurturing, Christ-centered environment?](#)
- ROI should not be the first consideration when choosing a college, but this infographic is still informative. [Which College Degrees Have the Best Return on Investment](#)
- I got my Master's Degree from the UK. Later, I had to get my transcript evaluated for the US. [WES offers degree evaluation](#) if you need your non-US degree evaluated.
- Do you know that beaver's teeth are orange? Want to learn more about beavers? [Check it out here](#). You'll love it.

Headship Openings Only

- Brasilia International School, Brazil. [Learn more here.](#)
- Christian Academy of Guatemala. [Learn more here.](#)
- Doulos Discovery School, Dominican Republic. [Learn more here.](#)
- Faith International Academy, Philippines. [Learn more here.](#)
- Hillcrest International School, Indonesia. [Learn more here.](#)
- International Academy of St. Petersburg, Russia. [Learn more here.](#)
- International Christian School – Uijeongbu, Korea. [Learn more here.](#)
- Mountainview Christian School, Indonesia. [Learn more here.](#)
- Tien Shan International School, Kazakhstan. [Learn more here.](#)

If you have a head of school opening, please let me know. Check our [member school vacancy page](#) and the [ACSI Career Center](#). If you are interested in a position at an international school, check out the latest non-USA opportunities [here](#). Check out the latest ACSI [Job Flash](#) that goes out to thousands. Learn how you can get your needs included in the Job Flash [here](#), scroll down for Job Flash.

Guiding Hearts and Minds

By Emily Pigott, ACSI Director of Student Leadership & Learning

As Christian educators and school leaders, we have a great responsibility to shepherd the hearts and minds of our students. In a world filled with uncertainty and conflicting messages, our willingness to engage in intentional conversations—even on tough topics—can be a lifeline of hope for those in our care.

As we approach this November and all that it will bring, our willingness to guide our students through what they are seeing and hearing will make an indelible impact on their lives. By courageously entering tough conversations, we remind our students that the truth of God’s Word touches every part of their lives, even the hard parts.

When we anchor these conversations in Scripture and approach them with empathy, we provide students with biblical truth and the reassurance that they are seen, heard, and loved. These moments of openness and vulnerability can be transformative, helping students feel grounded in their faith and supported as they try to make sense of the story unfolding around them.

As educators and followers of Christ, we are equipped to speak about difficult topics with wisdom and grace. Creating space for honest, compassionate dialogue reminds our

students that God is present in every aspect of their lives, offering hope, healing, and guidance. By our willingness to engage with our students in this manner, we are providing them with the hope that they can navigate life's challenges through the Truth found in God's word.

Stronger Together

We Are Stronger Together

By Christi Lynn, VP of Communications and Engagement

Hurricane Helene and Milton both left debris and devastation behind, leaving area schools without power, water, and a place to have a normal school day. While ACSI received many reports after the storms, Asheville Christian Academy (Swannanoa, NC), Augusta Christian Schools (Martinez, GA), Curtis Baptist School (Augusta, GA), and Tri-County Christian School (Spruce Pine, NC) have been the most damaged. Yet, we are stronger together.

Through the ACSI Cares Crisis Response Fund, individuals and schools have given in support of these recent recovery efforts. ACSI has already disbursed initial dollars to help immediate needs and will continue to pass along donations in the future.

Beyond giving, ACSI member schools have taken this moment to help their students live out their faith through creative and innovative ways, such as making cards of encouragement, collecting babysitting money, or having a bake sale. Ninth graders from Faith Christian Academy in West Virginia sponsored a dress-down/bake sale and gave all their proceeds of \$1,165.72 to crisis response. Some schools have given \$5,000, while individuals have given heartfelt gifts of \$25.

It's not too late for your school to pray, give, or serve! Updated information is at acsi.org/crisisresponse. ACSI is stronger together as we care for one another.

ACSI Announces Key Changes in Staff Structure

By Brittany Steward

ACSI is glad to [announce a couple of key changes in its staff structure](#), including the promotion of Former Instructional Designer for Professional Development Jennifer

ACSI Launches "Faith Teaches" This January

By Christi Lynn

As part of Vision 2030 efforts to raise awareness about Christian education, ACSI is developing resources and collateral around a new campaign concept called "Faith Teaches," which

What Are You Really Buying When You Hire a Consultant?

By Mission Advancement

When your nonprofit faces the challenge of launching a capital campaign, the decision to hire a consulting firm can feel daunting. You've likely asked yourself:

Bollinger to Director of Digital Professional Development, and the hiring of Kristy Henriques as the new Director of New Business Development for Sevenstar, a ministry of ACSI.

Bollinger, who has served ACSI for 13 years, will lead efforts to provide quality digital, on-demand professional learning content for Christian educators.

“My vision is for ACSI PD to be the primary resource for Christian educators seeking ongoing education,” she said. “This will feature a user-friendly platform that fosters engagement and learning. My passion is to develop biblically based, exceptional content for our Christian schools.”

Henriques, who formerly served as the Director of Digital Media at Leading the Way, joins ACSI to build, support, and lead Sevenstar's sales and marketing efforts by strategically expanding course enrollment in both the school and family areas.

“I'm so excited to be part of an organization that is helping students grow both intellectually and spiritually through online education,” she said. “It's been wonderful to join such a great team at

is being made available to ACSI member schools in November at acsi.org/faithteaches. “Faith Teaches” encourages that every moment adds to an eternal investment of a child’s faith formation sparked by the intentional, collective influence of parents, churches, and schools.

While campaign pieces are being made available in November, the emphasis will begin early 2025 during National School Choice Week, January 26 to February 1.

Here’s how Christian schools can utilize these resources:

For Schools: Inform. Infuse. Invest.

Schools can help raise awareness in their school community by downloading the Christian Education Awareness School Guide, ensuring their spiritual formation journey is strong, and by training staff to integrate biblical worldview in all aspects of academics through professional development, such as [Rooted Educator Worldview Summit '25](#).

Continue reading [here](#).

- Is it worth the investment?
- Can your team handle it alone?
- What do I get with a consultant?

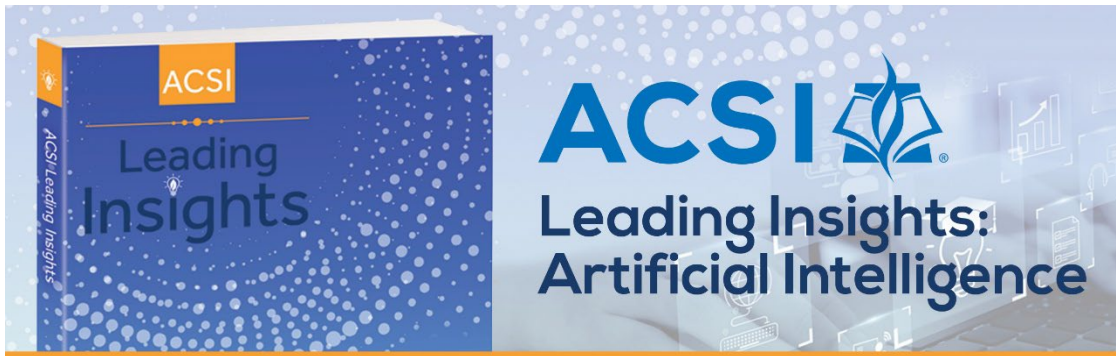
Understanding what you’re truly buying when you hire a consultant is key to making an informed decision.

Here’s a quick overview of what to consider:

1. **Expertise and Time:** Hiring a consultant is more than just paying for hours worked. You’re investing in specialized knowledge and strategic focus that can streamline your campaign and help avoid costly mistakes.
2. **Proven Track Record:** A strong consultant brings a history of success. Look for firms with a proven methodology and case studies that demonstrate their ability to achieve fundraising goals similar to yours.

Continue reading [here](#).

Sevenstar and I'm eager to contribute to the ongoing success and growth of Christian education.”



[ACSI | Association of Christian Schools International](#)

Post Office Box 62249, Colorado Springs, CO 80962

Connect with us on social media and fellow Christian educators through the [ACSI Community!](#)

We respect your privacy. We do not sell, rent, or abuse our customer email list.

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

[MANAGE SUBSCRIPTION PREFERENCES](#)

ACSI Launches “Faith Teaches” This January Continued

For Parents: Grow. Know. Show.

Schools can empower parents to make wise educational choices with the downloadable parent guide and point them to helpful resources and links.

For Churches: Pray. Promote. Participate.

Relationships with local churches are vital. A local church can host a Christian Education Awareness Sunday on February 2 or anytime where parents in their congregation can understand Christian education options.

Join the “Faith Teaches” chat on ACSI Community to learn helpful tips and glean ideas from other school leaders.

What Are You Really Buying When You Hire a Consultant? Continued

3. **Avoiding Pitfalls:** The right consultant will help you navigate the common challenges of capital campaigns, providing tailored solutions that align with your organization’s unique needs.
4. **Practical Tools and Reporting:** Effective consultants equip you with the tools and transparent reporting needed to manage your campaign efficiently, ensuring you stay on track and informed throughout the process.
5. **Building Capacity:** Beyond the immediate campaign, a good consultant strengthens your organization for the future, offering training and knowledge transfer that enhances your team’s fundraising capabilities.

So, how do you evaluate consulting firms to determine if you should hire one? Or, which one you should hire? For a deeper dive into how to make the right choice for your organization, read our full article, [‘What are you paying for when you hire a consultant?’](#)