



An International Division Member Connection, October 2024

Fellow International Educator,

“We give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly mentioning you in our prayers, remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.” 1 Thessalonians 1:2-3 ESV

One of the perks of our job in the ACSI International Division is seeing God at work at your schools. And I know that Michael McNabb, Kimberly Park, and Chelsea Allen would say the same thing. It has been one of the greatest blessings of our lives to visit many of your schools, spend time with your teachers and leaders, and interact with a few of your amazing students on campus. It was the same last week when I spent several days at one of your sister-international schools, Dalat International School, in Penang, Malaysia.

The last time I visited Dalat was 2016, 8 years ago. Last week, I was amazed at the transformation on that campus in those few years. God has blessed them with many new facilities, so much so that they can now host the next International Christian Educator Conference in Asia. After seeing the campus with my own eyes, I agree, and I can't wait for many of you to visit Dalat, too, in November 2025 at



[ICEC Asia](#). It's going to be great.

Of course, facilities only tell one part of a school's story. Excellent facilities are incredibly important, but they're just bricks and concrete without God's favor. Thankfully, it's not hard to see how God is using his people at Dalat and at your school to minister to students and their families in real and tangible ways.

As we do for Dalat, we thank God for you, mentioning you in our prayers (this year, we are praying for four international schools each week), and remembering your work of faith, labor of love, and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. (Excuse my paraphrase of I Thess 1:2-3.) If you have something for us to pray for, don't hesitate to contact [Chealsea Allen](#); she will immediately put that into our team's prayer chat group.

Blessings upon you wherever you are,

Tim for the [international school team](#)

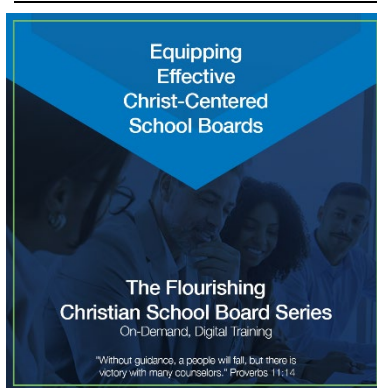
[Tim Shuman, Senior Director, International Division](#)

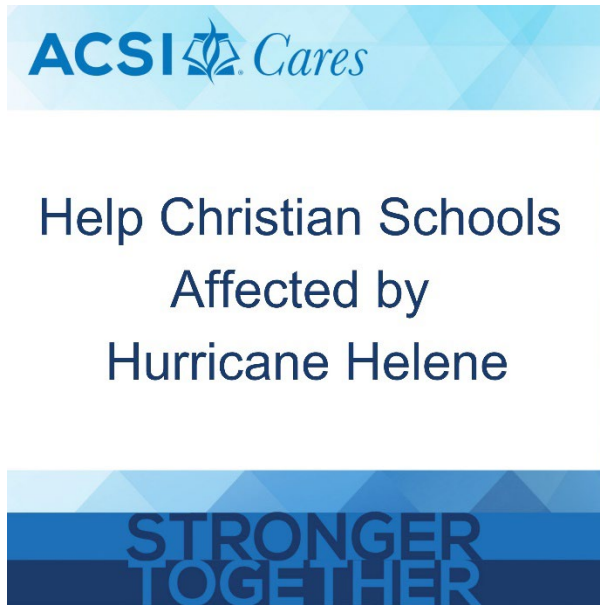
[Chealsea Allen, International Schools Activity & Events Coordinator](#)

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

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

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





ACSI Cares for our member schools impacted by #Helene. You can give to the [ACSI Crisis Response Fund](#) or text CARES to 719-631-2787 knowing that we will mobilize financial aid to schools.

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 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

- [PFO2Go](#), our online course for new expat hires, remains available throughout the year for anyone to take. Are their potential candidates interested in joining your, or another, international school? PFO2Go can help them assess whether entering your overseas ministry is for them. Read this [recent article](#) about PFO2Go.
- It's not too late to sign up to join the [2024 International School Job Fair Tour](#) and our [Virtual Job Fair Day](#), but you need to act fast.
- **International School Leaders, register now for ISLC Europe in Mallorca, Spain 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:
 - [Avoiding Getting Lost in the Weeds: A Few Thoughts on Teaching Christianly with Dr. David Mulder](#)
 - [Spiritual Formation in the Home](#) with Dr. Rian Djita and Dr. Michael Lee
 - [The Mental Health Landscape of Adolescents: Developing a Comprehensive School-Based Suicide Prevention and Awareness Program](#) with Nancy Gillespie
 - [Cultural Integration of International Students](#) with Robin Hom. This article takes the viewpoint of an American school that receives international students. Perhaps it is helpful for you too.
- Our friends at [SHARE](#) are putting on a live and virtual three-day event for students and families seeking guidance on post-high school options. [Learn more here](#) and pass this on to your parents and high school students.
- We know that recruiting staff is your number one need. TIE shared the results of a survey they took to see what was happening in the recruiting world. The results may be helpful to you. [Survey Results: A Shift in Recruitment and Job Seeking Practices](#)
- Speaking of recruiting, have you taken advantage of your 8 free job posts this year on the [ACSI Career Center](#)?
- [Michael and Kim Essenburg](#) care for international Christian schools and love to share flourishing tips and ideas with you.
 - [What happens when teachers consistently model Christ-centered passionate purpose?](#)
 - [How clear are you on the connections between your job and the achievement of the mission and outcomes?](#)

- [What are 7 experiments you could do to further experience passionate purpose?](#)
- [Completing action steps or accomplishing outcomes—which do you primarily focus on for a school improvement goal?](#)
- I enjoyed this article from my dear friend Howard Dueck, [Jesus in the Classroom!](#) Let this line convince you to read it: “The joy and love in the classroom lubricated the learning process.”
- While [this article](#) highlights the changing colors of the leaves in the U.S., the science behind how and why leaves change color worldwide is always fascinating. Yay for Life Science teachers!
- My wife and I have never forgotten what it was like to drop off our TCK sons at college a continent away from us. MaDonna Mauer brought it all back to mind with her article, [A Day in the Life of Me: That Hard Goodbye](#).
- If you are like me, you have a bag of electrical plug adapters. I love this clean webpage that helps you know exactly which plug you need for your next trip – [CheckPlug.com](#)

Headship Openings Only

- 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](#).
- 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](#) 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.

ACSI President & CEO Update, Quarter 4, 2024



Click the video above to hear an update from ACSI President & CEO, Dr. Larry Taylor.

Powered by Prayer

By Lainie Montgomery

Some of us are naturally morning people, while some are not. However, if we are being honest, most of us use something to power us through our day. For some, it may be an early morning workout; for others, it may be a cup (or two) of their favorite coffee; and for some, it may be a good breakfast. Those rhythms seem to make a difference in our day.

Advice for New Christian School Leaders



Dr. Dave Mulder on Networking at FSi

ACSI Caribbean Celebrates 25 Years Supporting Christian Schools

By Hohna Hartley

It has been a season of celebration for ACSI's Caribbean team. In August 2024, the office hosted its annual convention celebrating 25 years of uninterrupted service, equipping Christian schools in the Dominican Republic and Puerto Rico.

ACSI Divisional Director for Latin America Stuart Salazar reflected on the special,

However, if we are really looking for power to get through the day, James 5 shows us the way. Verse 16 says the prayer of a righteous person (a person in right standing with Jesus) has great power and produces wonderful results. Do not miss that! Our prayer has power because of the person to whom we pray! Max Lucado said, “Our prayers may be awkward. Our attempts may be feeble. But since the power of prayer is in the one who hears it and not in the one who says it, our prayers make a difference.”

Let’s take a quiz! Which of the following is true?

- Prayer is how Christians communicate with the living God.
- Prayer is a command to obey for our good.
- Prayer is an act of worship.
- Prayer fosters community.
- Prayer aligns our hearts with God’s will.
- Prayer provides comfort, direction,



Watch these additional videos:

Public Policy and Advocacy Summit Highlight Reel
- [Watch here](#)

Dr. Larry Taylor and John Stonestreet Discuss Rooted
- [Watch here](#)

ABI Conference 2025



committed relationships that have thrived throughout the region over the years.

“We celebrated in this past convention 25 years in which, in the uninterrupted way, the educators and Christian educators in Dominican Republic have committed to meet every year at the beginning of the school year—to be trained, to be inspired, to be challenged, and to stay faithful in what we do in Christian school education,” Salazar said.

Former ACSI Caribbean Director, Lester Flaquer, has witnessed first-hand the growth that has taken place at the annual convention.

“At the beginning, we had 70 people—directors from different schools. Nowadays, we have over 900 people coming ... it is amazing to see that ... they do not get tired of what's happening,” Flaquer shared.

Continue reading [here](#).

and assurance that
God is with us.

- Prayer is powerful.

Continue reading [here](#).

World Vision[®]



Ignite



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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](#)

If you no longer wish to receive ANY of ACSI's emails, please globally unsubscribe [here](#).

Powered by Prayer Continued

Each statement is true, which leads me to this question. How is prayer a consistent part of our lives and a central part of our students' experience? Prayer is a teaching best practice. We have no idea who is praying for the students the Lord has entrusted to our care. Here are a few ideas to help you prioritize prayer in the classroom:

- Start class by praying for the students in your room and thanking the Lord for the unique way He made each one. It highlights His character and their intrinsic value.
- Provide a way for students to share prayer needs and pray for one another. It highlights empathy and the value of community.
- Teach your students to pray Scripture. Often, we do not know how or what to pray, but we can be assured that when we pray the Word of God, we are praying the will of God. It highlights the promises, commands, and Truth of Scripture.

Prayer is a gift you can enjoy personally and give generously. Power up your day in prayer!

ACSI Caribbean Celebrates 25 Years Supporting Christian Schools Continued

Impact in Numbers

There are currently 60 schools within the ACSI network in the Dominican Republic and an additional five schools in Puerto Rico. Looking to the future, ACSI Caribbean leadership plans to expand its tradition of educational and relational support, cooperating with even more schools to identify their next steps toward more Christ-centered education, focused on biblical integration and student discipleship.

The uninterrupted commitment to equipping and serving Christian schools is paying off. Currently, ACSI is impacting 21,861 students and 1,792 teachers in the Caribbean.



Salazar, Flaquer, and Regional Director for ACSI Caribbean Karen Ovalles, are quick to credit a collaborative and supportive culture that has connected ACSI and associated schools over the decades.

During his leadership of ACSI Caribbean, Flaquer established relationships with Christian school leaders, investing in them and providing guidance for how to operate truly Christ-centered schools. As a result, a bond of trust and cooperation has grown between ACSI and school leaders.

“We have a philosophy that when you are part of the association, when you're part of a Christian school and you enter into another Christian school and you see a good idea, you know, stealing is not forbidden,” joked Flaquer. “So, we ‘steal’ a good idea, and we help each other.”

Though his tone was lighthearted, Flaquer and his colleagues are serious about the culture of mutual support that has developed through the years among ACSI schools in the Caribbean and specifically in the Dominican Republic.

Salazar admires the way the schools relate to each other. “They are a fellowship, a true network ... they love one another,” he said.

Ovalles added, “It’s not just a work of three or four people. No, this is many people here thinking at the same time.”

Flaquer, who also serves as Headmaster of Logos Christian School in the Dominican Republic, tells of a time when a fellow Christian school was planning to close its doors due to financial hardship. Flaquer met with the school’s leadership and shared how his own school had

managed its finances with success. The school took Flaquer's advice and chose to keep their doors open. That was 14 years ago. Now, nearly a decade-and-a-half later, that school continues to minister to students and impacting generations with Christ-centered education.

A Firm Foundation

Though no one knows the future, the team at Caribbean ACSI intends to continue building on the firm foundation it's had from the start. From the beginning, the mission has been to help Christian school leaders adopt a philosophy of education that goes beyond morals and values and is built on the foundation of Christ at the center of all creation and all learning.

"We try to reclaim every inch of this world to the sovereignty, to the reign, of Jesus Christ," Flaquer said. "That's the core of what we do."