



An International Division Member Connection, September 2024

Fellow International Educator,

In case you haven't heard, a Presidential election is coming soon in my passport country (the U.S.). Like other election cycles worldwide, this one is fraught with uncertainty and division. And, of course, our citizenry now gets to listen to a litany of promises, platforms, and platitudes from politicians who want our votes. It's all a bit tiresome. Once again, I am reminded that this world is not my home (Hebrews 13:14).



In a recent team devotional, we examined the word "anointing" in scripture for a few moments. When we read Luke 4:16-20, the words that Jesus declared at the beginning of his earthly ministry and reign stood out to me in this current political moment. Look at Jesus' words:

"The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor. Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the



synagogue were fastened on him. He began by saying to them, ‘Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.’”

Wow. His explicit declaration contrasts with those of any politician living or long gone. And, of course, he was not looking for votes but simply stating his mission and purpose clearly. This is our anointed King; this is the one we gladly follow. Politicians will come and go. Our Lord reigns.

Wherever you are today, walk into your classroom, office, and ministry as his child and ambassador of his kingdom, and be about his business.

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](#)

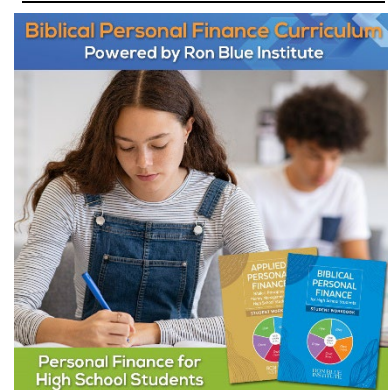
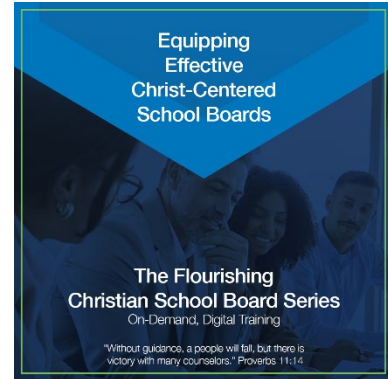
[Michael McNabb, Director of Accreditation, International Division](#)

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

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

Membership Renewal

With you, we are stronger together. Renew your ACSI membership for the 2024–2025 school year! For details on how to renew, visit our [website](#) or [contact the ACSI Care Team](#).



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!

Fixed Eyes

By Dr. Larry Taylor, ACSI President & CEO

Remember the story in Matthew 14 of Peter boldly getting out of the boat and walking on the water to meet Jesus? It was all good for about three seconds. Then, "when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord, save me!" (Matthew 14:30). The next word of the Scripture in verse 31 is "immediately." Jesus immediately helped him.

Right now, with a 24/7 news cycle of economic woes, war, and more, we can become just like Peter. In three seconds, we can lose our focus and begin to fix our eyes on the winds of this world instead of our Savior. Yet, thank God that when we call on Jesus, He is there for us immediately.

Jesus has been our anchor and strength at ACSI. As we begin to get out of our proverbial boat, our comfort zone, and chart new waters into the unknown, we have fixed our eyes on Jesus. By focusing on Him, we will see eternal outcomes like never before.

There are things we do know:

We know He is calling us to new fields of ministry. To advance Christ-centered education, we must remain innovative and relevant in schooling delivery models.

Continue reading [here](#).

Upcoming International Events

- Register your incoming hires to [PreField Orientation 2 Go](#) now. Read this [recent article](#) about PFO2Go.
- Need help finding staff for the 25/26 school year? Join us for the [2024 Job Fair Tour](#) and our [Virtual Job Fair Day](#).
- **International School Leaders, register now for ISLC Europe in Mallorca, Spain, on 27 to 30 April 2025. [LEARN MORE HERE](#).**
- **Latin American leaders**, we are calling together leaders from Accredited, Bilingual, and International schools for a new conference just for you on 02–05 April 2025 in Santa Domingo, Dominican Republic. [LEARN MORE HERE](#).
- **Mark your calendars for ICEC Asia 2025**, to be held in Malaysia on the campus of Dalat International School on 26–29 November 2025. Details are forthcoming.
- Check out the ACSI Europe [Student Leadership Conference 2024](#) in Budapest. All are welcome.

News, Articles, & Other Ideas

- ACSI's most recent posts and resources:
 - [Priorities for Christian Leadership](#) with Dr. Jeff Bogaczyk
 - [Back to School: A Letter to Me](#) with Dr. Jay Ferguson
 - [Cultural Integration of International Students](#) with Robin Hom
 - [Artificial Intelligence \(AI\) in Education](#) with ACSI & Cardus
 - (Video) [Shining a Light in Spain](#) with Jerry Nelson
- Please pray for your ACSI sister school in Austria and its Director, Marcus Assmann. [Future of a Christian school in Austria under threat](#).
- This podcast episode, [College Admission Olympics](#), features an interview with our friend Kristi Steele (KC360.co). This episode on college admissions for international kids should be shared widely with Guidance Counselors, parents of seniors, senior teachers and advisors, and senior students (juniors, too!). [Diesel & Clooney Unpack the World](#).
- How are you handling cell phones this year? This topic is a hot one all around the world. [Why Schools Should Ban Cell Phones in the Classroom – and Why Parents Have to Help](#), and [Cellphone Bans Can Ease Students' Stress and Anxiety, Educators Say](#).

- The opening lines of this song mention the struggle most of us have with our smartphones. [Honestly, I Think We Just Need Jesus](#). Maybe you could discuss this one in homeroom or chapel.
- [Michael and Kim Essenburg](#) care for international Christian schools and love to share flourishing tips and ideas with you.
 - [How clear are you on what it means for you to consistently experience passionate purpose?](#)
 - [What 11 things can you do to be less fragmented and busy AND more focused and impactful?](#)
 - [Leaders, how much time are you investing in high-value work, low-value work, and no-value work?](#)
- [TCKs – My Tribe](#). I enjoyed this short article from Alistair Reid, TISCA General Secretary.
- Sometimes I wish I had become an architect, [Top Five School Design Trends](#).
- Seriously? “Dolce & Gabbana [fragrances are not just for humans anymore](#), as the luxury brand introduced an “alcohol-free scented mist” for dogs.” What do the dogs think?

Headship Openings Only

- Christian Academy of Guatemala. [Learn more here](#).
- Christian English School, Italy. [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](#).
- Rain Forest International School, Cameroon. [Learn more here](#).
- Sahel Academy, Niger. [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.

Rejuvenating Others in Education

By Josh Worden

Dr. Jenny Sue Flannagan has been an educator for 32 years, but in a way, this past school year felt like her first.

Flannagan began as a science teacher in 1992 and is currently an Associate Professor in Regent University's Education Department, where she helps prepare the next wave of educators. This year, her passion for education was sparked anew when her daughter became a first-time kindergarten teacher.

"Listening to her talk about how much kids loved coming to school was so exciting," said Flannagan, who is one of the keynote presenters at ACSI's [Anchored events](#) for early educators in the 2024–2025 school year. "Seeing my daughter in the classroom made me remember what I can teach our students so they can experience something like she did this year."

Global Leader Update:

Dr. Agus Susanto,

Asia Pacific



Watch this video to hear an update for Dr. Agus Susanto, Indonesia Director, ACSI Global.

Join us as we pray for Dr. Susanto and Christian schools in the Asia Pacific Division.

Flourish Deeper

Keynote Speaker,

Brett Kunkle

And...They're Off!

By Dr. David Balik, VP of USA

You've put in countless hours to get ready and done the hard work over the summer to build momentum and influence, and now your school year is underway. Now what, right? 😊 If we aren't careful, the influence we have worked so hard to develop can slip away...

Jeff Henderson, entrepreneur, pastor, and author of the excellent book ['Know What You're FOR'](#), has an email [newsletter](#) that I subscribe to that you might want to consider subscribing to as well. Recently he wrote about ways in which we can lose influence if we aren't careful.

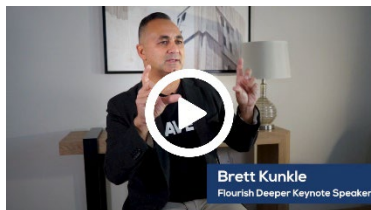
When a company (school) loses influence with its customers (parents), the business stalls. When a parent loses influence with their children, the relationship stalls. When a leader loses influence with

Like many other educators, Flannagan’s career path has been marked by moments like this that ignited—or reignited—her passion for education.

In the beginning, motivation came from family. Her grandmother, mother, and aunt were all teachers, and her father was a principal. She planned from an early age to follow them into education.

“I still have the chalkboard that I used to play ‘school’ on as a kid,” she said.

Continue reading [here](#).



Watch this short clip to hear Brett Kunkle speak on the influence of secular culture on our students.

Hear from Brett and other speakers at one of our many [Flourish Deeper](#) one-day professional development events.

their team, the team stalls. Influence is powerful. Without it, nothing positive happens and momentum is lost.

Here are three ways we lose influence:

1. Inconsistency loses Influence.

When we talk a good game but don’t walk that same game, we are inconsistent, and we lose influence.

Continue reading [here](#).



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

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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](#)

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Fixed Eyes Continued

We know we can't do this alone. There are like-minded organizations that will help us bring missional impact.

We know students deserve high quality, biblically based educational resources and programs. We must lean into technological advances and other tools to create world-class offerings.

We know better schooling happens with more equipped educators. We don't want teachers to just know about the Bible. We want them to integrate biblical worldview into every aspect of academic learning.

We have spent the past three years preparing the foundation for Vision 2030. Here are just a few of the items we have focused on:

- We adopted quality control parameters for financial stewardship providing ACSI with healthy cash reserves to weather economic conditions.

- We have invested in our people to ensure staff compensation is fair and we have the capacity needed for the journey ahead.
- We have implemented new automation and systems for important areas such as Accreditation to provide better service.
- We are creating a global infrastructure to serve every area of the world.

With the ACSI Board's blessing and approval in late July, we are embarking on the key performance indicator (KPIs) tactics knowing that, "The heart of the man plans his way, but the LORD establishes his steps," (Proverbs 16:9) and Jesus will be there to immediately help us.

Rejuvenating Others in Education Continued

In seventh grade, her science homework one day was to bring in a drop of water from outdoors.

"My teacher was going to show the life in a drop of water, and I thought he was crazy. There's no life in water," Flannagan said. "But he used that to show us how to use a microscope. When I fine-tuned that picture, suddenly there was stuff I had seen in a textbook. It was an 'aha' moment, and I realized I wanted to teach science."

Flannagan will try to help rejuvenate and encourage other educators this year in professional development environments, including at ACSI's Anchored events during the 2024–2025 school year.

She will incorporate intentionally hands-on activities and scientific research findings related to early education during the workshops.

One of the main lessons she reminds other educators is to not be afraid of failure.

"I've planned lessons even here at the university level that, in my mind, were great. Then I delivered them, and they fell flat," Flannagan said. "By reflecting, I can learn what went wrong, and there's value in that. I teach my own students that it's a great opportunity to show your own students that you're human."

Preparing teachers for this day and age will take some special care. Flannagan has seen that the new wave of teachers entering early education will be encountering a different landscape than she did in 1992.

"This incoming class of teachers will be challenged in educating students who are used to learning things instantaneously," Flannagan said. "Students today get frustrated when they can't find an answer to something immediately."

In Flannagan's view, helping students learn to ask questions and patiently seek answers is now more important than ever before. At the same time, technology and research have expanded

what educators can learn about their own craft.

“There’s just so much research coming out about how students learn and how to design learning experiences,” Flannagan said. “Signing up for opportunities like the Anchored events allows educators to connect with experts in the field and hear from colleagues.”

A list of the Anchored workshops and conferences can be found [here](#).

ACSI’s Anchored events will take place in 18 different states from August 2024 through April 2025, including one virtual conference. For more information, contact early_education@acsi.org.

And...They're Off! Continued

2. Inaccessibility loses Influence.

John Maxwell teaches leaders to walk slowly through the crowd (think hallways and classrooms!). It’s why, in my opinion, speakers who stay in the green room at conferences forfeit influence by withholding access.

3. Insecurity undermines Influence.

The insecure person often masks their insecurity with hubris, and as Ryan Holiday says, "Ego is the enemy."

Chances are, if we’re struggling in a relationship at work, home or in life, influence has broken down. The good news is, there are many ways we can protect and preserve our influence! We’ll look at examples of how to protect and preserve our influence in the October edition of INSIDER.

Stronger together!