



September 2018

We encourage you to forward this update to faculty, staff, board members, or other interested parties.

From the Director—Philip Hills

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From the Director—Philip Hills

Renewing our Commitment to Faithful, Life-Changing Service to our Students

My wife and I drove away as the tears came. It was a moment we never thought would come and certainly not in the way it came. After 17 years of caring for her down's syndrome brother, Bob, we had just moved him into a group home. Before her mother died, my wife had promised that she would look after her brother till his final day. This is not the way it ended, though. So, my wife wept when she had to explain to her confused brother that this was his home now, and then turn around and leave him, while he pleaded to take him with her.

But she could not continue to care for him. He has Alzheimer's and had deteriorated to such a degree that she could no longer do the heavy work of his daily care. He needed a team of trained caregivers now.

The tears she cried had joy mixed in with the grief. She knew this was God's timing. Over the last 17 years she had served Bob and put his interests before her own, while raising our children, caring for my aging parents who also lived with us, and earning a master's degree while working full time! Even when diagnosed with cancer three years ago, she carried out all her care duties without complaint (between trips to the cancer clinic). And most of this time I was away working with ACSI. My wife, Karen, has lived a miraculous life.

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And now the hard part was over. My mother had moved into a supported living home a month earlier and now God had released Karen from being Bob's primary caregiver. She had been faithful. And when she could no longer bear the load, God brought others to help.



That first week in July was one of the most joyful we have ever had together. Some of you know the deep joy of finishing a long-term obedience.

I begin this school year with our very personal story as a way of encouraging you all to faithfulness this year. I have written often enough about the 'cross road' that we are all called to walk with Jesus. We are all under greater pressure to take easier roads. But the narrow road, entered by the singular gate, is the best one. The hard work is more than worth it. The reward at the end of the road is way out of proportion to the cost.

I guarantee all of you will run into some kind of trouble this year. Jesus promises it. But He will do for you what He did for Karen—walk with you, strengthen you, get you out of bed for another day of serving Him by serving

others. He will get you Home soon enough. But in the meantime, there is good, hard work to do.

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This year you will be used by God to bring children into a deeper understanding of themselves, the world and our God. Some will be redeemed by this knowledge. Others will have it planted in the good soil of their lives so that it can bear fruit some day later. All the work will have eternal importance. You are the most blessed people on earth doing the most important work—disciplining children in our schools.

No wonder it can be so hard at times and involve so much opposition from the world, because it is the most powerful way to make God's kingdom come. Therefore, press on. Don't be discouraged. Cry out to God when you feel that it is more than you can do.

And one day, like my wife, Karen, you will look back and know that you were faithful to your long obedience. And the joy you will experience will make every hard day appear as an opportunity to make your happiness in Christ deep and ever expanding in His visible presence.

**WE ARE ALL UNDER GREATER
PRESSURE TO TAKE EASIER
ROADS. BUT THE NARROW ROAD,
ENTERED BY THE SINGULAR GATE,
IS THE BEST ONE.**

New This Year

ACSI Community

Connexus has been replaced with Community. Your new easy-to-use Community opens the door to ideation, collaboration, and innovation with your peers around the world making us all Stronger Together. Take a moment to check out the [new site](#). Please note that you will have to log in and reset your password.

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ACSI Canada Bookroom

Welcome to a new school year! We look forward to serving you this year and wanted to update you on a couple of things:

1. Purposeful Design Catalogue—This year ACSI has moved away from printing a paper catalogue and is providing an online version only.
2. The Bookroom hours are as follows:

Monday and Wednesday: 8:30–4:00 PST

Friday: 8:30–3:00 PST

If you need assistance outside of these times please call the BC Office 604.851.6983

Please visit our [Google site](#) to download the order form, catalogue, and samplers of new product. You can also visit our [website](#) to order online.

Events

Find information and register for events on our [website](#). The ACSI Events Calendar for 2018/2019 is posted on our Home page.

Administrator/Board National Conference

It is with great pleasure that we announce the first ever Canada-wide ACSI Administrator Board Conference, November 23–24 at the Banff Park Lodge in Banff, AB.

Each year leaders from Western Canada have gathered in the Rockies to learn about excellent leadership practices for Christian schools. This year we look forward to colleagues from Eastern Canada joining us in Banff.

If ever Canadian students needed a clear and compassionate presentation of the biblical worldview, this is that time. Students are growing up in a fragmented and increasingly angry age. Christian schools offer Shalom, the promise of a fully harmonious world in which every element interacts without friction. We want to equip our students to live the Shalom lifestyle, bringing redemptive hope wherever God chooses to use them. Our conference will focus on this Shalom worldview.

[Check our website](#) for online registration and conference information. Watch for brochures being mailed to your schools.

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District Meetings

District Meetings are designed to connect, inform, and inspire. Each meeting features time for leaders to share the current realities of their schools. In addition, the latest information about educational trends is provided. This includes political, cultural, spiritual, economic, and legal data that is relevant to Christian schools. Guest speakers are also brought in to make presentations on current Christian educational practices. Administrators are encouraged to continually improve their schools for the blessing of their students and the glory of God.

The **BC meeting** will be held October 4 at Cornerstone Christian School, Abbotsford.

The **MB meeting** will be held October 12 at Linden Christian School, Winnipeg.

The **AB meeting** will be held October 18 at Glenmore Christian Academy, Calgary.

Agendas will be sent to member schools approximately one month before the scheduled meeting. Updated information is available on our [website](#).

Professional Development

In keeping with our mission to enable Christian educators to effectively prepare students for life, ACSI offers professional development specifically designed to benefit teachers and administrators within our member schools. It is also a good opportunity to meet with colleagues and continue to build a support network for your school. Watch for details about our PD days coming up in February in Comox and Quesnel.

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Student Activities

Our students are enduring profound levels of conflict. They are depressed and anxious over uncertainty about their future and confused about their identity. They know that there are two messages out there that are in opposition to each other—the idea that only we know who we really are, and the idea that we are made in God’s image.

Into this context we want to bring God’s Shalom. We want our students to find peace with Him, peace with each other, and peace with themselves. For this to happen, they need to understand the Bible's Shalom worldview.

At this year's Student Leadership Conferences, we will consider what this Shalom worldview is and how we can live it out in all aspects of life.

The dates and locations for this year’s **Fall Student Leadership Conferences** are as follows:

- AB: September 20–21, Camp Caroline | [AB Student Leadership Info](#)
- SK: October 10–12, Dallas Valley Camp | [SK Student Leadership Info](#)
- MB: October 10–12, Cedarwood Camp | [MB Student Leadership Info](#)
- BC: October 22–23, Summit Pacific College | [BC Student Leadership Info](#)

Brochures have been sent to your schools.

ACSI members, join the Student Activities group on ACSI [Community](#) for discussion and information.

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Teacher Conventions

The prophet Isaiah looks to a future ruled by One, the Prince of Shalom, who will bring harmony between all elements of creation. How do we prepare our students for this world? As Christian teachers we must embrace the idea that perfect peace and an end to all conflict is possible.

The theme for this year’s conventions will be *Shalom* (Isaiah 9:6). We will consider what the Shalom worldview is and how we can reveal it to our students in all areas of school activity. We are excited at the prospect of being able to help our students see the real glorious future God will soon bring upon the earth and how they can prepare that world through their faith, gifts and works.

Brochures for all conventions will be sent to your schools. Check our [website](#) for more information or to register online.

ACSI members, join the ACSI [Community](#) for discussion and information.

- BC: October 5, Cornerstone Christian School, Abbotsford | [BC Teacher Convention Info](#)
- AB & SK: October 18–19, Glenmore Christian Academy, Calgary | [AB Teacher Convention Info](#)
- MB: February 15, Linden Christian School, Winnipeg | [MB Teacher Convention Info](#)

College Corner

If any of our member colleges have an upcoming open house or other event that would be of interest to our students, please let our office know so that we can include the information in upcoming issues of the Communicator.

School News

We would like to encourage you to [email](#) newsworthy information about your school to be included in this section of the monthly Communicator.

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Global Outreach

School Global Outreach News

One of the reasons our schools are so strong is because of their passionate concern for exalting Jesus among the nations. We will be highlighting your stories in the Communicator to encourage each other with how our schools are doing this. Please

forward stories to our office from recent mission trips and/or mission projects if you would like to share what your school is doing in support of reaching the world for Christ.

School Mission Trips

Many of our schools will be sending student groups on mission trips this year. Please send us your school name and the dates and destination of your trip so we can pray for you as you travel and spread God's love around the world.

2018–19 ACSI Western Canada Project

Each year ACSI Western Canada chooses an education-based service project to support.

Last school year students and teachers of ACSIWC schools raised over \$17,500 for Classrooms for Africa's Dust to Desk Project. This provided furniture for 900 students in needy Christian schools in Uganda. We thank all who participated—you have made a big difference!



For the 2018–19 school year ACSIWC will continue to support the Dust to Desk Project. The goal is to raise \$20,000 which will provide seating for over 1000 students. For example, the cost of a four-student desk is approximately \$80.

The donations collected at the ACSI Teacher Conventions will go toward this goal. More information will be available at the conventions.

To donate online go to <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/dn/6391>. Under the Funds option choose "Classrooms for Africa Desks".

A promotional PowerPoint and a video are available for schools and teachers to use for their students and school communities. For more information please [email](#) or check out the C4A [website](#).

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We Want to Serve You

Keep Us Informed

Please notify us ASAP of administrative changes (principals, heads of school, email addresses, addresses, phone numbers, and fax numbers) in your school. This is very important in helping us keep in contact with you.

Your Feedback is Important to Us! We welcome your feedback concerning this newsletter or any of the information in this newsletter. Please contact us with questions, comments, or suggestions by sending an email to phil_hills@acsi.org.

Contact Us



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