

February 2019

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

From the Director—Philip Hills

You Can't Have One Without the Other

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From the Director—Philip Hills

You Can't Have One Without the Other

At a recent Christian school group Bible study, a student asked a compelling question that I believe many of our students are wrestling with, "Why do Christians hate gays?" The teacher who was asked was startled by the inquiry. This was certainly not anything that the school had taught. This open enrolment Christian school works hard to create a respectful, compassionate and love-based community.

More than likely the student was reflecting an opinion picked up in the media. The line of reasoning is that if Christians believe that the Bible teaches specific behaviors are contrary to God's will, that means that Christians must hate those who carry them out. The Christian response to this attitude is usually, 'Though we hate the sin, we always seek to love the sinner.'

I agree that we should indeed love all, as we ourselves are sinners (forgiven but still struggling to be free from its practice as believers). But I want to dig deeper into both the perception and our response. We are all missing something essential and even tend to say and do things that reinforce the opinion that the student expressed.

The problem is the relationship between righteousness and love. We tend to put these two as opposing forces. We have all heard that we should preach the truth in love. This gives the impression that truth and the righteousness it can produce can exist without love.

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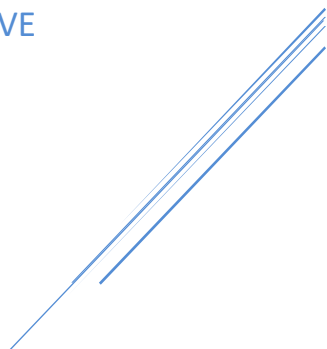
But righteousness is more than truth—it is belief in and application of truth. James warns that just knowing something, such as the Lordship of Christ, is not enough to save us. Action that reveals belief in the authority of Christ saves. In other words, the authenticity of our faith is proven by our behavior. Let me return to the student’s comment. Our children are living in a world that has lost an understanding of the relationship between righteousness and love. In their world (and ours) people treat those they define as unrighteous with hatred. I do not mean that they are necessarily making judgments based on God’s moral code. We know that everyone has a moral code. Without one, you could not have an opinion about anything. Just voting for the wrong party or candidate or holding a ‘culturally incorrect’ opinion now is considered an act of unrighteousness and one that warrants hatred.

So, it is not surprising that many of our students can’t reconcile our moral standards to the claim that we still love those who break them. The idea of a loving God with absolute moral standards can appear to some to be irreconcilable. He must either be loving and permissive or exacting and hateful. Many students in our schools have come to one or the other of these conclusions.

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But in 1 John, our God is called Light (the truth, righteous, holy, morally exacting and uncompromising) and Love. In other words, both perfect moral standards and love coexist. This is the reason that Romans matters so much to us. It explains how sinners like us can be declared righteous without God being permissive, and how God can perfectly judge

OUR STUDENTS NEED TO UNDERSTAND THAT LOVE AND RIGHTEOUSNESS COEXIST PERFECTLY.



The recognition of this is the beginning of freedom. Then we point them to Jesus.

If our students are to grow in Christlikeness, they must seek God’s love, reveal the reality of their faith by being committed to living righteously, and courageously reveal to others that only Jesus can lead us to authentic, free, joy-filled, Shalom-based living.

Oh, may the love of God be more to us than a good feeling. May it be a complex relationship of His law and His acts to free us from the consequences of our rebellion. This world needs people who love righteousness and love people enough to consistently point them to their Holy Judge who willingly became their sacrificial lamb.

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all sin without being hateful. Understanding who Jesus is and what He did is the key to reconciling His righteousness and love. He was punished for us. God’s justice was satisfied through the sacrifice of His perfect Son. This is the most profound expression of love that will ever be revealed.

God hates sin, so He must punish it—every idle thought and every major act of inhumanity. But He is love and that love drives Him to reveal to us the destructive nature of sin and then compels Him to allow His own Son to be punished for our redemption.

Our students need to understand that love and righteousness coexist perfectly. We join our Father when we help people see themselves from the outside in—as sinners in need of salvation.

Events

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

Event Resources

Looking for the resources from ACSIWC events? Send a request to the ACSIWC office by email to acsiwc@acsi.org.

Administrator/Board Conference

This year's **MB Administrator/Board Conference** will be February 14, 2019, at Linden Christian School in Winnipeg, MB. Check [here](#) for online registration and updated information.

District Meetings

The **MB meeting** will be held February 14, 2019, at Linden Christian School, Winnipeg.

The **BC meeting** will be held March 1, 2019, at Cornerstone Christian School, Abbotsford.

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.

The **Island PD Day** will be on February 15, 2019, at Phil and Jennie Gaglardi Academy in Comox, BC. The **PD North Day** will be on February 22, 2019, at North Cariboo Christian School in Quesnel, BC.

Go to our [website](#) for online registration and more information.

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Student Activities

We want our students to find peace with God, peace with each other, and peace with themselves. We want to equip our students to live the Shalom lifestyle, bringing redemptive hope wherever God chooses to use them.

The Spring Musicale, May 2–3 at Prairie College in Three Hills, is an opportunity to motivate your Junior and Senior High band or choir. Brochures have been sent to your school or check the ACSIWC [website](#) for information.

Teacher Conventions

The theme for this year's conventions is *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.

- MB: February 15, Linden Christian School, Winnipeg | [MB Teacher Convention Info](#)

Brochures have been sent to your schools. Check our [website](#) for more information or to register online.

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

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. The deadline for submissions for the March Communicator is February 22.

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Ambrose University

Ambrose University Winter Open House—February 13, 2019 at 4:00 PM, come and visit the Ambrose University campus, experience our community, and see for yourself what the city of Calgary and area has to offer! Activities for the day include: faculty meet and greet, applying for free, applying for scholarships and residence, and so much more.

Your First Class—March 2, 2019 at 9:00 AM, Ambrose University will host a Seminary Brunch for those interested in exploring our Seminary.

Peace River Bible Institute

Freshmen \$3000—PRBI's donor and friends strongly believe in investing in young people and want to support their desire to attend PRBI by giving them \$3000 towards their tuition. We have removed some of the financial barriers so that anyone can attend the 2019 school year! For more information go to our website prbi.edu or call 780.568.3962.

March 8–10/19 eView College TakeOver—Come experience more of PRBI by moving in for a few days! Come enjoy dorm life, classes, the college night life, and our annual Friday Night Live. More information to come!

School News

Hearing about what other member schools are doing helps us feel connected as an association. We encourage you to [email](#)



newsworthy information about your school to be included in this section of the monthly Communicator and on our Facebook page. The deadline for submissions for the March Communicator is February 22.

A highlight for **Cornerstone Christian Academy** in Richmond, BC during this time of year is their Intermediate-wide field trip to Missions Fest. Principal Leila Chin shares, "It's always exciting for our staff, students and parents to see what the Lord is doing outside of our community and seeing our awesome God at work in all parts of the world."

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Global Outreach

2018–19 ACSI Western Canada Project

Each year ACSI Western Canada chooses an education-based service project to support. For the 2018–19 school year ACSIWCC 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](#).

ACSI Global Day of Prayer

On Tuesday, February 12, 2019, thousands of school leaders, teachers and students from around the world will join together to pray for one another, their schools, their communities and the nations. This year we are praying for our students to be "rooted and established in love, [having] power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge..." (Ephesians 3:17–18, NIV). [Click here](#) frequently for updates, to learn more about the event and view highlights from earlier this year.

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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 highlight your stories to encourage one another. Please [email](#) stories and pictures to our office from recent mission trips and/or mission projects 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.

On April 29 a small team of Jr. High students will be heading out from **Fort Saskatchewan Christian School** to spend a week at the National House of Prayer in Ottawa. Students will be participating in various activities including 'The National Christian Youth Summit' and lunch with their MP. The team will be spending concentrated time in prayer for their nation's leaders. Please pray that students will not experience home sickness, and that they will be healthy, happy, and protected. Pray that the group would go with a heart to serve our nation.

Pacific Academy is involved with several short term missions initiatives this year. They have on-going, weekly teams going to Nightshift ministries in Surrey serving food and ministering to the homeless and marginalized. They also have teams of students and leaders going overseas in March 2019. These teams work with their partners in orphanages, churches, and schools in Albania, India, Mexico, Lillooet, BC (First Nations), Philippines, South Africa, and Uganda. Please pray for safe travel and Godly wisdom as they share the Gospel in word and in practical ways in these various locations.

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Teachers for Teachers

Teachers for Teachers is an initiative of ACSIWC to partner Canadian teachers with teachers in Uganda who are enrolled in the Transformational Teacher Training Program—a certificate program offered by ACSI. The goal of the initiative is to transform, inspire, equip, and mentor teachers.

Educating, equipping, and supporting Ugandan teachers is the best development investment we can make. It generates and inspires transformation in both the teachers and their students.

Ugandan Christian teachers need tools to know how to integrate biblical truth within their rigid curriculum. This program introduces them to a new mindset, but they need encouragement and support to continue growing in their understanding of Christian education.

Your sponsorship enables development of teachers who will begin to teach and mentor other teachers.

Students can't receive quality Christian education instruction without well trained and motivated teachers. The importance of investing in these teachers' education is a critical step in Christian education in Uganda.

For more information please [contact our office](#).

We Want to Serve You

ACSI Canada Bookroom

This year ACSI has moved away from printing a paper Purposeful Design catalogue and is providing an online version only. 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.

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.

National House of Prayer

If your school would like to participate in praying for our Nation, the National House of Prayer is a great opportunity to get involved. Check out their [website](#) for more information.

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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 philip_hills@acsi.org.

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