

April 2019

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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The Most Powerful Way to Experience the Presence of God

The degree to which we are willing to suffer is directly proportional to the reward we believe will result for our suffering. This is a well established principle of life. When we start a new exercise routine or begin a diet, we do so believing that our efforts will be rewarded. Whether we stop or continue depends on the results that we get. Some of us are developing high level skills and practice every day to achieve an ability to perform that we know would be impossible without disciplined training. On a higher plane of existence some of you have persevered through incredibly difficult relational commitments believing that your willingness to suffer in them will eventually lead to changes in yourself and others that will redeem and restore the relationship.

I have come to appreciate that there is no deep experience of God apart from willingly suffering in His service. Jesus led the way in this. In addition to being willing to endure the cross and all its shame, He also endured the broken realities of everyday life. He was willing to do the basest and lowest status jobs to serve a stubborn and foolish group of followers. But He suffered willingly so that His relationship with His Father could continue to flourish. The suffering led to incalculable and unending joy.

The apostles modelled this for us also. All of them gave their lives to advance the gospel. Paul lived a life of suffering that featured almost every hardship a human can endure. He also gave up comfort, status and safety in his wild abandonment to

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knowing Jesus. And he claimed the achievement of total contentment in any and every circumstance as a result of the choices he had made and the hard road he had chosen. He wanted the gain of the presence of God more than anything this world could offer him, and he was willing to suffer the loss of all things for the gain of the resurrection from the dead.

This leads me to conclude that if we really hunger for the presence of God and understand that suffering is ordained as the



root to this bliss-filled unending experience, we won't just accept suffering, we will seek it out! I am not saying that we will seek out suffering for its own sake. I am saying that our longing for a deeper experience of God will be so ultimately compelling that we will go in whatever direction God tells us will lead to this outcome. And suffering is the most direct route to God.

I am deeply concerned, as I have written before, that we are serving a generation of students who deeply hunger for the presence of God, but are not being taught that suffering is ordained by God as a primary means to lead them to Him. They are certainly being influenced by the world in this regard.

There was a recent New York Times article that suggested that because suffering is useless we should prescribe drugs to sufferers so they would feel happy all the time, despite what they were enduring.

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But the teaching in some churches does not help either. The prosperity gospel which is less favoured now (though very popular in other parts of the world), presents the idea that suffering is meaningless in spiritual terms; God does not will for us to suffer so we should pray it away. If it does not go away, that is a clear sign that there is something wrong with us and God is not pleased with us. That thinking was used to justify the Pharisees' hatred of Jesus at the cross. "If God is

for you Jesus", they cried, "let Him deliver you from the cross." How could He be the Messiah, they reasoned, if God would not deliver Him from intense suffering?

There is a new version of the prosperity gospel that some of our students are being seduced by. This version focuses on desire. If God gave you a desire for something, often in the form of sexual desire, then clearly He wants you to fulfill it. I have spoken to students who told me they believe that God would not want someone to suffer the absence of sexual or relational intimacy for a whole lifetime. But returning to Paul's example and more than this, Christ's, they both had to fight desires and leave them unfulfilled in order to experience the higher joy of the presence of God. Jesus was tempted in every way our students are but without sin. And if we minimize the battle He fought against sin because, after all He was God, remember that during His greatest temptation in the garden He sweat blood. I have never sweat blood in my battle against sin (and too often have not fought at all to my shame).

Our students who want more of God need to be taught that they will suffer in order to achieve their objectives. Those who want to live a godly (God's presence) life will suffer as Paul teaches Timothy. Students who don't yet care about the things of God and who are motivated to take the least painful and lowest cost paths to find contentment, need to be encouraged to consider what Jesus offered them and how through faith and obedience they can experience God in richer and richer ways.

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And let us, as their teachers, not be afraid of suffering. Some of us have suffered greatly already as we fight to maintain the right to teach children that Jesus loves them. In Alberta many Christian schools have letters on file that declare that they will receive no more funding after this year unless they change some of their biblical teaching. We must consider faithfulness to

Christ more important than institutional existence. Our students must be taught, through our example, to be willing to carry our crosses, joyfully experience the confiscation of our property and be persecuted for righteousness sake. It appears that unless God answers my prayers and changes the direction of the culture and country, our students will have to suffer much to be faithful witnesses to their generation. They will only willingly do this if they believe that the reward is worth it.

And Jesus is worth it.

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.

Exhibitor Opportunities

Reach educators in Western Canada! ACSIWC invites exhibitors to participate at our conferences and conventions.

Why exhibit at an ACSI event? Exhibiting provides a unique opportunity to reach more than 500 individual educators and 80 schools. You can generate sales leads, enhance your image and visibility, demonstrate your product, and personally meet your customers.

ACSI member colleges and universities have an exclusive invitation to exhibit at Student Leadership Conferences. This gives your institution the opportunity to meet with high school students and answer questions they might have about what is offered at your college or university.

We encourage you to take advantage of the exhibitor opportunities while they last as we have a limited number of spaces and they will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis. To secure your space, please register through our [website](#) as soon as registration opens.

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Administrator/Board Conference

Save the date for the 2019 **AB Administrator/Board Conference**, November 22–23, in Banff, AB. Our keynote is Stephen Reel, Executive Vice President/Acting CEO of Association of Christian Schools International. Check [here](#) for registration and conference information as it becomes available.

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.

Our **Summer Institute** for educators will be July 2–5, 2019, at Pacific Academy in Surrey. There will be new learning, good discussion and practical initiatives with a focus on integration of biblical worldview. Registration deadline is April 26. Check the [website](#) for registration and course details

Save the date for our 2019/2020 PD Days. Check our [website](#) often for information updates.

- **Island PD Day:** February 7, 2020, Campbell River, BC
- **PD North:** February 21, 2020, Williams Lake, BC

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. Check the ACSIWC [website](#) for information.

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Teacher Conventions

Our Teacher Conventions are focused on ways to continually improve as Christian schools. Save the date for our 2019/2020 conventions. Brochures will be emailed to your schools this spring. Check our [website](#) often for updated information.

- **BC:** October 11, 2019, Port Coquitlam
- **SK:** October 17–18, 2019, Regina
- **AB:** October 24–25, 2019, Sherwood Park
- **MB:** February 13–14, 2020, Winnipeg

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 May Communicator is April 18.

Peace River Bible Institute

Freshmen \$3000—PRBI's donors 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](#) or call 780.568.3962.

Israel and Portugal are our destinations for our Reach Program 2019/20. Come join us in an exciting and adventurous year of study and serving overseas. For more information visit our [website](#) or call 1.780.568.3962

We have a new class, Visual Arts In Worship! We focus on the fundamentals of sketching and acrylic painting, with the goal of growing in artistic skill and glorifying God through our giftings while growing in godly character. For more info visit our [website](#).

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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 May Communicator is April 18.

Morweena Christian School has an all-school chapel every Thursday morning. Most weeks, this chapel time is student-led by their high school Spiritual Life Committee. In this picture, the students are doing a sword drill.

Global Outreach

Day of Hope

Each school year ACSIWC selects a specific “Classrooms for Africa” project to promote and support. Various member school communities raise funds for the project throughout the year. Ninety-five percent of the money raised goes towards that specific project. Five percent is used for administration costs. The current project involves providing much needed desks for classrooms.

The goal is to raise a total of \$20,000 through teacher convention offerings, individuals, and school fund-raising during this school year. This will equip 25 classrooms with desks and seats for 1,000 students. The cost of seating one student is \$20.

Through convention offerings, we have raised \$10,000, enough to provide desks for 500 students leaving \$10,000 to go to reach the target by June 2019.

If you, your class or school need more information please email info@classroomsforafrica.org. A video is available for streaming and a downloadable brochure and PowerPoint at: www.classroomsforafrica.org/desks

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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.

Students from **Saskatoon Christian School** will be traveling to Bolivia April 14–25. They would appreciate prayer for safety and student transformation.

Olds Koinonia Christian School would appreciate prayer for their Mexico mission team leaving on April 18. It is an exciting time for Principal Dwayne Brown as he leads a team of 32 students and adults for this 11-day trip.

Elaine Baillie from **Fort Saskatchewan Christian School** will be teaching a workshop on Prayer for the Nation to approximately 100 students from across Canada attending The National Christian Youth Summit in April. She will also share about some of the prayer initiatives the school has carried out. Elaine is always so excited to have the opportunity to engage students in prayer for Canada. Among those 100 students is a combined team, from Fort Saskatchewan Christian School and Medicine Hat Christian School, staying at the National House of Prayer for the week, starting April 29.

Continue to pray for **Pacific Academy** and their ongoing ministry with Nightshift Ministries in Surrey.

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.

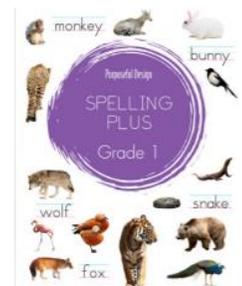
For more information please [contact our office](#).

We Want to Serve You

ACSI Canada Bookroom

Purposeful Design Publications has released its new Spelling Series! This series will be replacing the current Spelling 1–6 program. The former program will only be available while supplies last. [Email the ACSI Canada Bookroom](#) for more info or to preview a sample.

Spelling Plus Grades 1–6: A revision (and retitling) of PDP Elementary Spelling to more accurately reflect that this series is far more than just a spelling textbook. Spelling Plus will easily integrate with any language arts series while providing in-depth and research-based instruction. Student: \$24.50 | Teacher: \$120.30



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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.

Alberta Youth Call 2 Prayer

ACSI in Alberta is partnering with the Alberta Youth Call 2 Prayer to host a province wide day of prayer. The invitation is being extended to all our K–12 Schools, Colleges and Universities to gather on their campuses for a concentrated time of prayer on Tuesday, April 9. Let us commit to gathering together in our individual classrooms or in a school assembly, to seek God regarding the outcome of our provincial election on Tuesday, April 16 and the future governance of the Province of Alberta.

If you would like to participate, email this completed statement to [Elaine Baillie](#): (school name) will be participating in the Alberta Youth Call 2 Prayer day of prayer for the election on their campus Tuesday, April 9. (Number of staff and students) will be praying.

Cardus Job Opportunity

Are you or someone you know the next Vice President of Research at Cardus? Perhaps you have a name to recommend. If not, join Cardus in sharing this opportunity with your community and network. Cardus is looking to hire this position starting 2019 in their Hamilton or Ottawa office. An invitation document is posted on their [employment page](#).

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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Contact Us



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