

A C S I   A n n u a l   R e p o r t   2 0 0 3



Transforming  
Character



It is a special privilege to share this annual report with you—to present quantitatively the work of the Association of Christian Schools International. We are grateful for God's blessing and for the opportunity to engage in our enabling mission within the Christian school movement worldwide.

Last July it was a wonderful honor to formally celebrate our 25th anniversary, a time to reflect on our heritage and to look forward with anticipation to our future. We were privileged to share our focus for the future as articulated in the ACSI Matrix for Effectiveness, a four-point initiative that we're hoping will define this association and the Christian school movement worldwide.

First and foremost, we want to assure that ACSI member schools are effective Christian schools; that is, they are schools intent upon achieving their God-led, and carefully articulated, objectives. Second, we will aim to broaden the general perspective of Christians regarding education so that they will view Christian schooling as essential—more than a mere alternative or option. Our third intention is to see that the general public recognizes the contribution of Christian schools to the public good. And finally, it is our intent that ACSI be recognized as a viable and authoritative voice regarding education.

We are urging our membership to pledge, with God's help, to a reenergized drive and commitment to achieve the effectiveness that we believe is the key to each of the other three points in the Matrix for Effectiveness.

Thank you for your commitment to Christian schooling—to being used as God's instrument in our world today.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ken Smitherman". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Ken Smitherman, President  
Association of Christian Schools International

## *Vision*

*Christian school students worldwide will acquire wisdom, knowledge, and a biblical worldview as evidenced by a lifestyle of character, leadership, service, stewardship, and worship.*



## *Mission*

*To enable Christian educators and schools worldwide to effectively prepare students for life.*

## Challenging Students to Be Their Best

About 3,000 member schools participate in our testing program, involving more than 400,000 students. The new **Bible Assessment** subtest in the *Stanford 10* enhances the assessment process by testing Bible knowledge, understanding, and application—the touchstone of Christian education.

ACSI recognized almost 8,000 students as **Distinguished Christian High School Students** for their outstanding achievement in academic, service, and activity-related areas.

More than 950 **student activities**, in which 133,920 students participated, were sponsored through ACSI regional offices.

“The Only Thing That Counts,” taken from Galatians 5:6, was the theme for the fifth annual **European Student Leadership Conference** held in October of 2003 in Budapest, Hungary. Attending the conference were more than 230 students from 32 high schools in 14 different countries. The students were challenged to express their faith through love to a world that so desperately needs to know the love of Christ.

The ACSI **Student Sponsorship** program is strong and growing. This unique program has initiated many long-lasting relationships developed through the years. One student wrote to her sponsor, “Thank you for choosing me as your sponsored student for the last two years. I hope you will continue to sponsor me until I graduate.” Thanks to all who share in this vision of offering a life-changing Christian education to students around the world!

## Bringing Hope to Children in Crisis

*Envision the transformation of a child in crisis to a child of hope.* Can there be a more profound investment? Millions of children around the world are losing their childhood. They may be living on the streets, forced to fight as child soldiers, working as child laborers, orphaned by AIDS, or living as refugees of war.

ACSI is engaged in working with partner organizations in South Africa to develop educational strategies and schooling specifically designed to meet the needs of the growing number of children who are not in school (1.6 million in South Africa alone) and the 2 million orphans anticipated in the near future. These children struggle daily for life and hope, and they desperately need the intervention of a Christ-centered education.

ACSI **Children's Tuition Fund** scholarships, totaling \$175,640, were awarded to 135 students who otherwise could not choose or remain in Christian schooling because of economic reasons.

Through a visionary intervention support program called the **Juby Project**, more than \$30,000 was raised to support the basic educational needs of destitute preschool children in South Africa.

## Moving Schools Toward Excellence

More than 100 member schools, impacting approximately 20,000 students, participated this past year in ACSI's **Steps Toward Achieving Recognition (STAR)** program, which takes non-accredited schools through a process of school improvement.

ACSI **accreditation** has reached the highest levels of both national and international recognition. Currently, there are 736 candidate and accredited schools.

## Highlights from ACSI's First 25 Years!

### 1978

ACSI is formed through the merger of the National Christian School Education Association (NCSEA), the Western Association of Christian Schools (WACS), and the Ohio Association of Christian Schools (OACS).

### 1985

The Office of International Ministries is established in Northport, Alabama. By 2001, five international regional offices are established: Latin America, the former Soviet Union, Europe, Asia, and South Africa.

The Executive Board decides to construct a new headquarters facility in La Habra, California, and moves into the building in 1987.

### 1988

ACSI celebrates its 10th anniversary.

### 1994

ACSI Headquarters is relocated to Colorado Springs, Colorado.

### 1995–2001

Four new North American regions are established: Rocky Mountain, Florida, Ohio River Valley, and Mid-Atlantic.

### 1996

Dr. Paul Kienel retires, and Dr. Ken Smitherman is installed as president.

### 1998–2002

Four new departments are added: Administrative Leadership Development, Early Education Services, Urban School Services, and Development and Public Relations.

### 2002

#### ACSI Looks to the Future

ACSI launches its Expected Student Outcomes initiative.

### 2003

ACSI focuses on its Matrix for Effectiveness.

ACSI **preschool accreditation** continues to gain national acceptance. It is now approved in Arizona, Florida, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas, and Virginia. Currently, there are 73 early education programs accredited through ACSI and 50 in candidacy.

A **coordinator and/or assistant director of early education services** has been placed in each of the following ACSI regional offices: Mid-America, Mid-Atlantic, Northern California/Hawaii, Northwest, South-Central, Southeast, and Southern California. These staff members address the needs of early education programs in those regions.

An **assistant director of urban school services** serving the Mid-America, Northeast, and Ohio River Valley regions strengthens ACSI's service to urban schools in those areas.

### Preparing Educators to Be Their Best

Currently, there are more than 29,000 K-12 educators certified through ACSI. Our K-12 **Certification Department** has a fast turnaround rate, in most cases processing applications in less than two weeks.

Currently, there are 240 early educators participating in the **Early Education Certification** program.

Through venues such as **Leadership Academy, International Institute, and One-Day Enablers**, more than 3,000 leaders have been impacted by training they have received from dynamic educational leaders.

One Leadership Academy attendee wrote, "I found the conference well organized, purposeful, and highly enlightening. God has blessed my life richly this week. I have been inspired, refreshed, and renewed. I met and networked with some extremely fine Christian leaders, and I had fun

Numbers indicating lives impacted are derived from averages based on ACSI membership data.

getting a taste of the West. Already I am eagerly awaiting next year's conference."

More than 50 **teacher conventions** and more than 20 **administrator/board conferences** provided significant staff development opportunities to over 50,000 Christian school educators worldwide. These events were provided through the 18 ACSI regional offices throughout the world.

**Professional educator associations** (International Association of Christian School Administrators, International Association of Christian School Board Members, and International Association of Christian Early Educators) provided networking, professional development, and insurance opportunities for more than 2,100 educators enrolled in these associations.

In an effort to increase teacher readership, two of the four issues of *Christian School Education* are now sent to nearly 70,000 teachers and administrators at ACSI member schools worldwide.

### Preparing Teachers for Worldwide Impact

Those who work with third culture kids (TCKs) fill some of the most vital roles in missions today.

**Pre-Field Orientation (PFO)** is an intense two-week program that focuses on the cross-cultural, interpersonal, and professional preparation of educators and caregivers who minister to the unique needs of TCKs in the context of the overseas Christian school. Participants of ACSI's Pre-Field Orientation had the following things to say about it:

"PFO was top notch.... I often used the phrase 'experts in the fields' when I described this seminar to others."

"It exceeded my expectations. I couldn't imagine ahead of time what could have been so important that it would take me away for two weeks. Now I know!"



Envision the  
transformation of  
a child in crisis  
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investment?

## Strengthening and Serving the Christian School Movement

Eighteen **regional offices** provided local services to more than 5,000 preK–12 schools in 106 countries, impacting over 1,000,000 student lives worldwide.

The **Urban School Services Department** is a leading participant in the development of a collaboration of Christian schools in the Philadelphia area. This collaborative effort is serving as a model for similar efforts in southern California and Texas. The Philadelphia Association of Christian Schools (PACS) and the other collaborations function as urban education resource centers for schools targeting and serving urban students.

Through services provided by the Urban School Services Department, we are striving to develop schools that are available, accessible, and affordable—schools that are able to teach urban children effectively.

The **Legal/Legislative Department** informs schools on key issues by enabling them to track state and national legislative issues on the ACSI website, <http://www.acsi.org>.

The **Legal Defense Fund** provided practical assistance by participating in six amicus briefs at the appellate level and the U.S. and state supreme court levels. This assistance included briefs dealing with unfair land-use restrictions, discriminatory wording in a legislative religious exemption, and the right of religious landowners to control certain activities on easements that cross their properties.

The Legal Defense Fund provided financial assistance to (1) help a religious coalition group successfully change a law in Colorado that prohibited bond financing approval for “sectarian” organizations, (2) prepare a legal memo on four emerging legal topics for 800 California school members, and (3) assist a Michigan school in

dealing with unemployment compensation problems at a state administrative hearing.

**Significant court rulings** in which ACSI participated are as follows:

- ◆ The U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit ruled that the public bonding process can be used to finance construction at a sectarian religious college.
- ◆ The U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit ruled that parents have a fundamental right to direct the education of their children without unwarranted government interference.

The **Legal/Legislative Update**, published three times a year, was sent to more than 10,000 Christian school administrators and board members.

**Purposeful Design Publications**, the publishing division of ACSI, released the following titles in 2002–03:



- ◆ **Mathematics Intermediate Course A**, the first of two middle school/junior high math textbooks (anticipated publication date for kindergarten level and Intermediate Course B: May 2004)
- ◆ **Purposeful Design Science: Level One**, the first of multiple levels of science for the elementary school
- ◆ **The Joy of Language: A Christian Framework for Language Arts Instruction**
- ◆ **Teaching Redemptively: Bringing Grace and Truth into Your Classroom**
- ◆ **To the Ends of the Earth: The Birth and Early Expansion of the Church**
- ◆ **Foundations of Christian School Education**, the revision of *Philosophy of Christian School Education*

## Statements of Activities (U.S. Only)

FOR FISCAL YEARS ENDING JUNE 30

	2003	2002	2001	2000	1999
<b>SUPPORT AND REVENUE:</b>					
Membership fees	\$4,608,927	\$4,286,001	\$3,946,909	\$3,670,239	\$3,404,835
Conventions and conferences	3,695,845	3,602,834	3,508,656	3,524,894	3,027,693
Student services	1,846,056	1,675,957	1,744,201	1,521,301	1,390,854
School services	1,078,413	948,674	863,706	660,192	604,380
Sales	11,080,792	8,769,560	9,078,895	8,721,597	7,519,705
Contributions	1,484,956	1,242,086	1,160,729	1,037,047	1,249,119
Interest and fees	256,681	156,666	244,952	272,242	310,222
Other revenues	194,998	56,943	917,429	54,483	22,392
<b>Total Support and Revenue</b>	<b>24,246,668</b>	<b>20,738,721</b>	<b>21,465,477</b>	<b>19,461,995</b>	<b>17,529,200</b>
<b>EXPENSES:</b>					
Program services:					
Direct member services	9,728,168	8,960,876	9,505,322	3,364,990	2,840,348
Conventions and conferences	—	—	—	3,096,445	2,679,144
Student services	—	—	—	2,187,228	1,929,392
Cost of sales:					
Textbooks and educational materials	8,941,835	6,633,289	7,566,037	3,665,624	3,556,320
Testing services	—	—	—	2,239,820	2,085,099
Curriculum development	—	—	—	1,218,986	985,519
Legal defense	—	—	—	327,226	347,506
International missions	2,784,223	2,764,681	2,594,774	2,143,749	1,398,415
Total program services	21,454,226	18,358,846	19,666,133	18,244,068	15,821,743
Supporting activities:					
Management and general	2,292,205	2,009,408	1,624,201	1,237,065	1,093,437
Fund-raising	196,277	120,659	12,440	53,631	55,206
Total supporting activities	2,488,482	2,130,067	1,636,641	1,290,696	1,148,643
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>23,942,708</b>	<b>20,488,913</b>	<b>21,302,774</b>	<b>19,534,764</b>	<b>16,970,386</b>
Change in Net Assets	303,960	249,808	162,703	(72,769)	558,814
Net Assets—Beginning of Year	12,090,275	11,840,467	11,677,764	11,750,533	11,191,719
<b>Net Assets—End of Year</b>	<b>\$12,394,235</b>	<b>\$12,090,275</b>	<b>\$11,840,467</b>	<b>\$11,677,764</b>	<b>\$11,750,533</b>

Information derived from audit statements.

*This report is underwritten through the generosity of ECCU.*



### Your Mission, Our Ministry

Evangelical Christian Credit Union (ECCU) has a heart for ministry that supersedes the financial services we provide. As a member-owned financial cooperative, we work exclusively with nonprofit evangelical organizations like yours. ECCU understands the vital connection between your mission and your money. We do what we do so that ministries—and the ministry-minded—can do what they do better.

Our ministry is a reflection of this driving passion.

# Statements of Financial Position (U.S. Only)

FOR FISCAL YEARS ENDING JUNE 30

	2003	2002	2001	2000	1999
<b>ASSETS:</b>					
Cash and cash equivalents	\$1,600,066	\$2,366,976	\$1,766,041	\$1,461,620	\$2,080,567
Investments	55,484	51,111	73,672	97,187	96,891
Accounts receivable—net	4,397,189	3,099,825	3,170,738	2,737,854	3,020,767
Inventory	2,360,535	2,792,076	2,997,543	3,017,591	2,142,074
Prepaid expenses and other assets	336,213	219,853	183,499	195,616	181,084
Textbook development costs—net	3,500,859	2,478,926	2,318,405	2,095,197	1,978,157
Property and equipment—net	4,496,606	4,641,784	4,822,283	4,954,882	4,941,553
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$16,746,952</b>	<b>\$15,650,551</b>	<b>\$15,332,181</b>	<b>\$14,559,947</b>	<b>\$14,441,093</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS:</b>					
<b>Liabilities:</b>					
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$1,285,455	\$616,297	\$612,458	\$262,008	\$379,002
Accrued testing service expenses	2,498,706	2,380,501	2,360,486	2,114,513	1,889,870
Deferred revenue	568,556	563,478	518,770	505,662	421,688
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>4,352,717</b>	<b>3,560,276</b>	<b>3,491,714</b>	<b>2,882,183</b>	<b>2,690,560</b>
<b>Net Assets:</b>					
Unrestricted:					
Undesignated	7,701,287	7,261,014	6,856,883	6,618,098	6,644,775
Equity in property and equipment	4,496,606	4,641,784	4,822,283	4,954,882	4,941,553
	12,197,893	11,902,798	11,679,166	11,572,980	11,586,328
Temporarily restricted for missions	196,342	187,477	161,301	104,784	164,205
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>12,394,235</b>	<b>12,090,275</b>	<b>11,840,467</b>	<b>11,677,764</b>	<b>11,750,533</b>
<b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</b>	<b>\$16,746,952</b>	<b>\$15,650,551</b>	<b>\$15,332,181</b>	<b>\$14,559,947</b>	<b>\$14,441,093</b>

Information derived from audit statements.

## ACSI Affiliations



CBA International



Christian Management Association

CAPE

Council for American Private Education



ECCU

Evangelical Christian Credit Union



Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability



Evangelical Christian Publishers Association



Evangelical Press Association



FACTS Management Company



National Council for Private School Accreditation

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