



A Year in Reflection

2020-2021



PATHWAY TO THE NEW CSI

As I reflect on the past year, I'm amazed at the many blessings CSI has experienced. Our past year of success included:

- An **accreditation program** that prospered despite the circumstances. Due to the restrictions of the pandemic we pivoted to several virtual accreditation site visits, which provided schools with the recommendations and support to reach academic excellence.
- An overwhelmingly positive response to our third annual **CSI Bible Instruction Symposium**. More than 150 teachers and administrators attended virtually to learn from the most elite experts in Bible instruction.
- A highly successful year of growth for the **Christian Schools International 403(b) Retirement Savings Plan**. The Plan's success will help CSI continue our commitment to support staff, teachers, and administrators after they retire.
- Several leadership town hall meetings facilitated. These gave our schools up-to-date support on how to navigate the constant changes and expectations during the pandemic.

These were only some of the highlights of a year that had adversities and challenges, along with many blessings.

We sincerely appreciate your continued support of CSI's mission to advance Christian education. We are confident in our future because even though change is in the air, our passion and dedication for Christian education is stronger than ever.

Speaking of change, the CSI Board of Trustees has hired **Glenn Vos** and **Tom Dykhouse** to begin a journey as co-CEOs of CSI. Starting September 1, 2021, they will lead us down a new pathway of ensuring our member schools thrive in their missions to lead the next generation of Christ followers.

Blessings,

Darryl Shelton, Transitional CEO

Dear Friends of CSI,

There is an old adage that says, "Often two heads are better than one". For the two of us, it is our hope that this is the case as we take on the task of leading CSI through this time of transition and restructuring. We are doing this together, not because the work is so daunting that it cannot be done by one person, but because our long-time relationship with CSI and with each other will provide greater insights and connections than we could accomplish singularly. In addition, we are both recently retired from full-time work and are not anxious to step back into that responsibility.

We both feel very blessed and honored to have been asked to take on this role, but are also very aware of the challenges that are before us.

There were really three significant factors that led us to accept this opportunity. First, both of us have been connected with CSI for our entire careers in education. We were long-time leaders in schools that were charter members of the National Union of Christian Schools, (the previous name of CSI)—Tom at Eastern Christian and Glenn at Holland Christian. We were not just members, but were also involved very deeply in the leadership of CSI at the Board of Trustees and Employee Benefits Board levels. This we believe allows us to have a very strong and accurate understanding of where CSI is presently and where it needs to be going forward. We do not need a long "ramp up" to grasp the work and know the staff and the structure of the organization. Finally, we feel that CSI is on the cusp of carving out a niche in the greater marketplace of faith-based education globally that will allow us a good deal of focus and intentionality to better serve the schools that are and will become part of the CSI family.

It is our hope that we will be able to narrow the focus of CSI and their ability to serve member schools by emphasizing the following going forward:

- Accreditation – provide schools certification for the work they are doing and a template to identify areas for improvement.
- Leadership Development – work with school leaders and boards to increase their ability to deal with the challenges facing Christian education today and in the future.
- Instructional Development – provide teachers the tools and support needed as they faithfully integrate faith and learning in their classrooms.

We are looking forward to seeing where God will lead CSI during this coming year, as we know that He has already created our pathway forward. It is our task to make sure that we grasp His mighty hand firmly as we seek to stay on that path.

We covet your prayers, your counsel, and your support as we take on the task of supporting Christian schools as they equip young men and women to be prepared to go make a difference in God's name.

In His Service,

Tom Dykhouse and Glenn Vos, Co-CEOs



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Dykhouse".

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Glenn Vos".

THANK YOU, DONORS

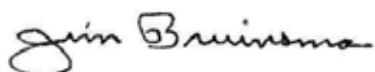
On behalf of the CSI Board of Trustees, I want to thank you for your generous contributions to CSI during 2020–2021. These gifts are used to reduce the cost to our schools for professional development events for teachers and administrators. We appreciate your partnership in supporting Christian education!

I have served as chair of the CSI Board of Trustees since Glenn Vos's term as a trustee ended in June 2020. I joined the CSI Board as a trustee in 2016. It has been a privilege to serve in this expanded role and work closely with board members who have such a passion for Christian education and the positive future of CSI.



Jim Bruinsma

For the CSI Board of Trustees,



Jim Bruinsma, Chair

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2020-2021 CSI Year at a Glance

MEMBER SCHOOLS

Number of Member Schools
Total 348



EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

Paid to Retirees during
2020-2021 plan year



Plan Participants

Insurance



Pension



120 CSI MEMBER SCHOOLS EARN ACCREDITATION STATUS

The CSI Accreditation Commission is pleased to announce that 120 member schools in 28 states, as well as Washington, DC and the Dominican Republic, have earned CSI accreditation or reaccreditation, the gold standard for measuring mission excellence and committing to continual school improvement.

On July 12–13, 2021, members of the CSI Accreditation Commission and members of the CSI Accreditation team met virtually to renew and initially approve the accreditation statuses of 120 CSI member schools. Sixteen schools have also been granted accreditation candidacy. The COVID-19 pandemic definitely impacted the scheduling of schools’ accreditation site visits, but fourteen schools were still able to host site visit teams during the 2020–2021 school year. Five of those site visits were held virtually, and four schools hosted site visits for their very first time.

“I highly commend our accredited schools and their leadership for committing to the accreditation process and recognizing the high value that CSI Accreditation brings to their school communities,” said Sheryl Jo, CSI director of school improvement. “Accreditation is a powerful tool that provides schools an assurance that they are being true to their missions by celebrating strengths, identifying priorities for growth and improvement, setting measurable goals, and establishing a specific plan for strategic school improvement.”

Oskaloosa Christian School, located in Oskaloosa, Iowa, was one of the 120 schools who received a renewal of its CSI accreditation this July. Principal Don Mitchell explains his school’s decision to partner with CSI for their accreditation:

“Accreditation is a process in which a school is looked at from an objective viewpoint to see if it is fulfilling its lawful and missional responsibilities. . . . We choose to be accountable to CSI for our accreditation for two main reasons. First, as a Christian school, we want to show ourselves as truly being a Christ-centered organization, with which state accreditation would be unconcerned. Oskaloosa Christian School has been a part of CSI since its inception, and CSI has our best interest in mind when examining us as a school. They will be gracious, but honest, in their assessments. Secondly, accreditation brings a level of credence and confidence to our school. If an independent body is assessing our progress as a Christian school, we show transparency and a willingness to grow. CSI’s findings allow us to improve as a school to better serve our students and families, which we pray strengthens prospective families’ and current stakeholders’ confidence in us.”

Please join us in congratulating Oskaloosa Christian School and the other 119 schools who have demonstrated their commitment to working toward excellence in fulfilling the missions of their schools. To see the complete list of accredited schools and candidates, please go to csionline.org/accreditation/accredited-schools.



2021 CSI BIBLE INSTRUCTION SYMPOSIUM VIRTUAL PLATFORM WELCOMED ALL



Facilitators Greg Tonkinson and Heidi Dean were broadcasted live from the Chicago studio of Tyndale House Publishers, the Symposium's platinum sponsor.



Trevor Mouw, high school Bible teacher at Unity Christian High School (IA), was one of 147 participants who tuned into the virtual Symposium.

Due to COVID-19 safety concerns and travel restrictions, the decision was made to switch the format of the 2021 CSI Bible Instruction Symposium to a virtual platform. The virtual platform made it an ideal time to open the event to all teachers, administrators, and educators that were interested in attending. Using the event management app, Whova, we were able to bring together 147 Bible enthusiasts from across the world and multiple time zones. All came to learn different methods to engage with Scripture—some as far away as Australia and Thailand.

In total, 192 individuals downloaded the Whova event management app in time for the live event on February 11-12, 2021. This included registered attendees, CSI staff, and sponsors. During these two days, 2,062 messages were sent and 84 community board messages were created—all around topics vital to teaching Scripture to the next generation. The community was able to talk and share with others near and far about relevant issues to help their professional growth in the Bible, and they did this from the comfort and safety of their homes and offices. We heard reports of some school teams gathering in conference rooms to enjoy the event together. The camaraderie and passion for excellence in Bible instruction were evident. CSI member schools have gifted Bible educators who are eager to network and connect to expand on the learning practices around Bible content.

Not only were the attendees eager to learn, but the lineup of speakers and session topics brought much to discuss and dissect for those attending. Video segments of authors and speakers that spoke during this event included *New York Times* bestselling author Sally Lloyd Jones, *Help Me Teach the Bible* podcast host and author, Nancy Guthrie, theologians James M. Hamilton Jr. and Peter Leithart, children's book author Trillia Newbell, father and son team President Dr. Philip Ryken and his father Professor Emeritus of English from Wheaton College Dr. Leland Ryken, Brooke Hempell from Barna Group, Ken Weigel from BibleProject, and finally, Rebecca McLaughlin, bestselling author, and speaker. This fantastic lineup was paired with breakout speakers who are knowledgeable in their fields. They spoke on topics such as project-based assessment, using Reader Bibles in the classroom, devotional practices, effective Bible storytelling, and much more!

Thank you for your continued support to reach Bible educators with quality professional development, even in uncertain times. This unique format and event could not have happened without donations. Due to the virtual setting, CSI was able to lower the registration fees. The format plus your continued support made this event possible and connected Bible teachers across the world—something that has not been done before in Christian education for the sole purpose of strengthening Bible instruction. We pray that God will bless the efforts started here and let them grow into fruit that can be seen in Christian schools throughout Canada, the United States, and the world.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT VIRTUAL OFFERINGS HELP ADMINISTRATORS NAVIGATE THE PANDEMIC

Due to the COVID-19 restrictions, both of our two premier Leadership Development programs, the Emerging Leaders Development Institute (ELDI) and Principal Development Institute (PDI), were postponed to the 2021–2022 school year. We looked for other ways to provide support to our member schools during the pandemic. Some of these included providing school leaders with a monthly series of professional development events and resources, as well as several PD events and resources specific to helping them through COVID-19.

VIRTUAL TOWN HALL MEETINGS

Last school year, CSI held monthly town hall meetings via Zoom. These meetings were offered to administrators at our member schools and included:

- A meeting with CSI school leaders to discuss how the school year had begun and how we could help each other navigate through the pandemic. School leaders shared their learnings from the prior year, what instruction looked like at their schools, the importance of parent feedback, and challenges they had faced.
- A series of two virtual meetings facilitated by Dr. Ashley Berner, deputy director of the Johns Hopkins Institute for Education Policy and associate professor at the Johns Hopkins School Education. She discussed private school challenges and opportunities, including culture formation and curriculum rigor in our Christian schools. The second meeting that followed was focused on School Culture 360™.
- A board governance town hall meeting covering the role of the board and board members, as well as discussing current trends and best practices regarding policy.
- A webinar by The Colossian Forum on discovering basic Christian practices for transforming conflict from division to discipleship. These practices have begun to transform Christian communities across the country. Administrators were encouraged to consider taking the next faithful step in learning to name, resist, and powerfully counter division and polarity so that the world might know that Jesus is Lord over all.

RESPONSE TO SUPPORT CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS THROUGH COVID-19

Due to the high expectations of changes and adaptations to navigate the effects of the pandemic, CSI provided a series of monthly webinars and resources that paved the way for their member schools to thrive during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The COVID-19 resources we shared in weekly emails and on our website were focused on the following: governmental and CDC expectations in schools, student at-home resources for online instructions, banking details to gain access to the CARES ACT, strategic plans for reopening schools during the pandemic, and more. We met with several of our schools to ensure they had the most up-to-date details and processes to access all of the resources necessary.

Despite another school year that forced many of our schools to continue adjusting the way the operated, we were thrilled to see a number of our schools experience record enrollments for the 2020–2021 school year.

WHAT OUR MEMBERS ARE SAYING

With 2020–2021 being another unconventional year, CSI adjusted by offering all their programs and services in a virtual setting. Several of our member schools shared how CSI supported their work in Christian education last year:

CSI ACCREDITATION

“We appreciate the open-door policy of Dr. Ritter and Sheryl Jo throughout the last few challenging years. The accreditation process both supports and refines the process of implementing the vision of OakTree Academy and provides a platform for us to reach the highest level of excellence that God has for our school.”
-Terri Turley, head administrator at OakTree Academy (VA)

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT - TOWN HALLS

“The Colossian Forum webinar hosted by CSI this past spring for Christian school leaders provided timely and helpful resources for each of us as we navigate challenging times. The consistent questions and conversations that are raised in a church or Christian school keep us coming back again and again to our mission and to carrying our mission out with fidelity first to our God and also to one another. The Colossian Forum is a wonderful resource to help Christian communities to have challenging conversations and to address tensions and challenging topics while maintaining respectful Christian community. While the tensions can sometimes be tight and can cause friction, as we work together to understand one another and to focus on what we hold in common, the tension can also present opportunities to recommit to what has allowed for distinct expressions of faith integration as we co-labor as Christ’s disciples and servants of God’s Kingdom.” -Eric Burgess, head of school at Grandville Calvin Christian Schools (MI), remarking on a diversity training CSI offered administrators

“I’ve appreciated the important role CSI played in bringing Christian school leaders together as we navigated the pandemic in our schools during these past many months. Access to helpful resources and collaboration between leaders played a new level of importance during the past year. I am grateful for the important work we are able to accomplish as Christian schools working together to advance the mission of Christian education in our CSI schools.” -Wendy Hofman, head of school at Lansing Christian School (MI)

MEMBERSHIP CONSULTS

“Terry Kok helped our board navigate the early stages of a leadership transition. He provided clear and thoughtful guidance, including assistance with strategic planning and communication with our school families, staff, and supporters. He also connected us with other experts in the CSI community to provide additional support. His assistance was a huge value to us as CSI members.” -Matt Reiffer, board president at Washington Christian Academy (MD), on the value of consultation from Terry Kok, CSI membership consultant

CSI BIBLE INSTRUCTION SYMPOSIUM

“The Symposium was such an encouragement and inspiration to me. It is a gift to collaborate with other Bible teachers. I have made a short list of ‘must implement pronto’, in addition to a meeting next week with our Bible Department chair to talk about how we move forward. Our great God was absolutely in the details and your efforts were abundantly blessed.” **-Heather Holgate, middle school Bible teacher at Whitinsville Christian School (MA)**

“We are seeking to revitalize our curriculum using reader Bibles. We were inspired on this journey by many of our staff attending the CSI Bible Instruction Symposium, and our staff are extremely excited about this opportunity. Thank you for helping us bring children into a deeper understanding of God’s Word!” **-Peter Ippel, K-8 principal at Rehoboth Christian School (NM)**

“I had such a great time learning from so many wonderful speakers at the symposium. I am so thankful that your team offers this to Bible teachers. The most helpful part was hearing the big picture in the main session and then getting very practical in the breakouts. They provided very tangible ideas that I could implement literally the next day in class. Sometimes teaching Bible is really hard. It is such a unique class at a school, so it is hard to find people who truly understand.” **-Kali Sessions, high school Bible teacher at Wesleyan School (GA)**

CSI 403(B) RETIREMENT SAVINGS PLAN

“The CSI 403(b) is a fantastic and smart way to plan for retirement, as it provides for flexible options and worry-free management of my account. I have full confidence that CSI’s 403(b) plan will provide me with a strong foundation for future financial security.” **-Jim Uitermarkt, Eastern Christian High School (NJ)**

“I began participating in the CSI 403(b) retirement plan to give me more financial security upon retirement. I appreciate receiving the informative quarterly portfolio statement, which is easy to understand and very helpful.” **-Joyce Breur, grade 7 and 8 teacher at Eastern Christian Middle School (NJ)**

LIGHTING A FIRE PODCAST

“I am a middle school teacher at Jenison Christian and first off . . . YES! Thank you so much for putting together the podcast. . . . To be honest, I am one minute into the podcast and I feel so confident this is going to be useful. I find myself learning the most through podcasts, so to have a fellow Christian school teacher step into this arena gets me excited.” **-Eric DeVries, middle school teacher at Jenison Christian School (MI), sharing his thoughts with podcast creator, Bryant Russ. CSI partnered with and supported Russ with his Christian education podcast, *Lighting a Fire*, which centered on wonder, wisdom, and stories about our CSI member school community.**

Thank You

We would like to thank the following individuals, churches, and organizations for the generous contributions they have made to Christian Schools international in support of our efforts to provide leadership and support around the world. Donations are for the time period of May 1, 2020 through April 30, 2021.

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Fair Lawn, NJ

Palo Alto CRC
Palo Alto, CA

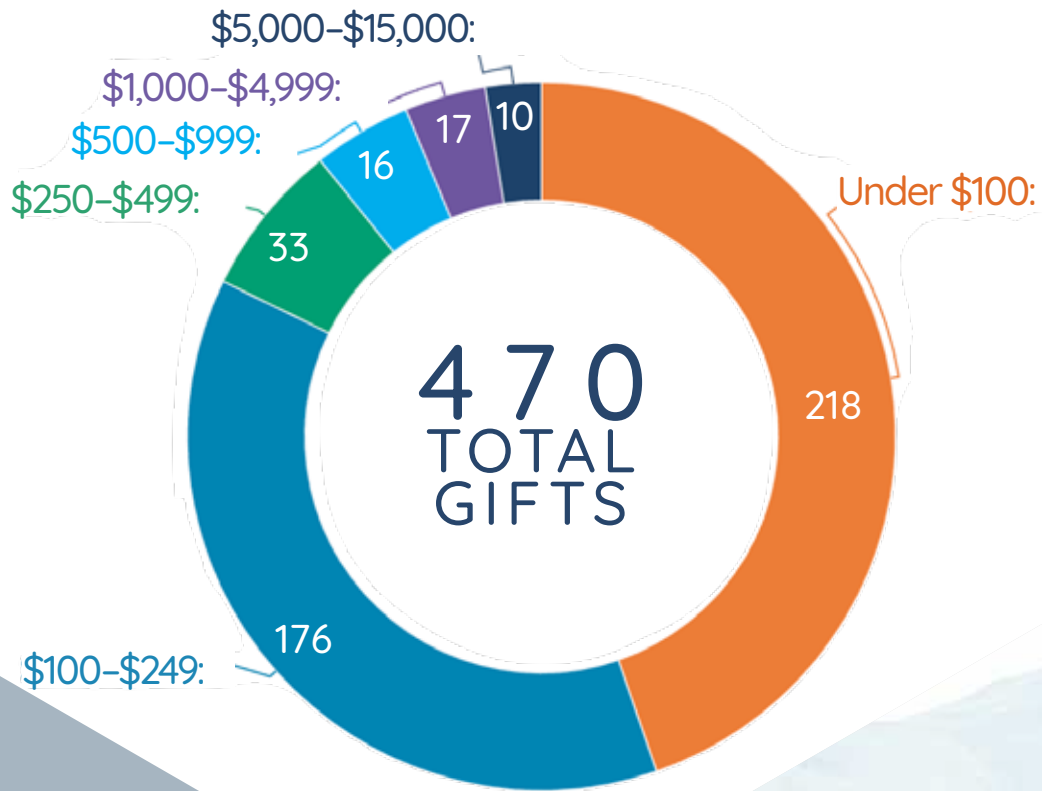
Delavan CRC
Delavan, WI

Palos Heights CRC
Palos Heights, IL

First CRC
Orange City, IA

Prairie City CRC
Prairie City, IA

A BREAKDOWN OF FINANCIAL GIFTS 2020-2021



The Christian Schools International Foundation: Partners in Mission

Started in 1950, the Christian Schools International Foundation (CSIF) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Its purpose is to provide financial support for Christian Schools International to assist its goals and mission. This support provides Christian schools with learning tools that go beyond curriculum and also provides Christian schools with the most advanced technology to assist teachers and students in their pursuit of learning.

The work of CSI has benefited from the support and generosity of CSIF. Please prayerfully consider making CSIF a part of your giving strategy. Whether you choose to give directly to CSI or through the foundation, the end results are the same—the students, teachers, and administrators of the Christian Schools International family throughout the world all benefit.

All gifts to Christian Schools International or to the foundation are tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

The CSIF Board is fully engaged
and supportive in the mission and
vision of CSI

Board members for 2020–2021 were:

Al Bilthouse, President
Downers Grove, Illinois

Will Byker, Vice President
Hudsonville, Michigan

Dan Baker, Secretary
Grand Rapids, Michigan

Doug Evenhouse
Westmont, Illinois

Ed Talen
Chino Hills, California



Christian Schools International
99 Monroe Ave NW, Suite 200
Grand Rapids, MI 49503



Welcome Six New Member Schools to CSI

WE ARE EXCITED TO SHARE THAT SIX NEW CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS AROUND
THE WORLD JOINED CSI DURING THE 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR:

UNITED STATES

Cambridge Christian School | Cambridge, MN

Joshua Christian Academy | Des Moines, IA

Northwest Christian Schools, Inc. | Colbert, WA

STUDYS Academy | Lindenhurst, IL

The International Family Academy | Fort Lauderdale, FL

CANADA

King's Christian School | Salmon Arm, BC