

Life's Greatest Joy

In my travels as president of ACSI, I have observed that from continent to continent and from country to country, Christian teachers, Christian parents, and Christian school leaders share a common desire for the children entrusted to their care. Their greatest joy is to see their children walk in God's truth. I find it interesting that the apostle John, who lived 2,000 years ago, also shared this desire for his spiritual children: "I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth" (3 John 4).

As parents we know that the same children who have the potential to bring great joy into our lives also have the potential to bring great sorrow, depending in large part on the decisions they make throughout their lives.

I am writing from the Philippine Christian Gospel School in Cebu City, Philippines, where I am speaking on our ACSI theme for the year: "Teaching God's children His truth." This is our third stop in the Philippines. Earlier on this trip I spoke at teacher conventions in Davao City and Manila. It has been my privilege to speak to over 1,000 Christian school teachers and educators on 10 different occasions over the last 9 days.

Traveling with us is Jon Bauer, a Christian musician from Canada. This morning as he led our worship service, he shared a song titled "Life of Worship." Here are the words to the chorus of John's song:

May my life be my worship
My life be my song
May I praise you my Savior
All the day long

As we live lives of worship to God, we walk in His truth. Not only does this bring joy to Christian parents, teachers, and school leaders; this brings joy to God! Why? Because God's desire for His children is that they will be taught His truth and will choose to live it out. In Christian schools around the world, Christian teachers integrate faith and learning so that their students will integrate faith and life. As our children put God's attributes on display in their lives for a watching world to see, they glorify God and bring their heavenly Father great joy.

Our mission at ACSI is "to equip Christian educators and strengthen Christian schools worldwide as they prepare

students academically and inspire students to become devoted followers of Jesus Christ." We have both a 10-year and a 10,000-year view for the 5.5 million students around the world whom God has entrusted to our care.

Our 10-year view is that all the students in our schools will reach their full potential as they are taught academically at the highest levels. Our desire is that as our educators and schools teach their students the truths of mathematics, science, language arts, and all the other academic disciplines, our children will be fully prepared to fulfill God's purpose for their lives. We experience deep joy as our students graduate from our schools and choose to live lives of worship to God!

Our 10,000-year view is that our children will place their faith and trust in Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior and live eternally to glorify God and enjoy Him forever.

Bonnie, my wife of 31 years, and I have been blessed with four wonderful children. We also have a beautiful daughter-in-law. We are their parents and they are our children. Really, though, our children do not belong to us. They belong to God!

As the Bible teaches us in Psalm 24:1, "The earth is the Lord's and everything in it. The world *and all its people* belong to Him" (emphasis added).

So as parents, our goal is that the children God has entrusted to our care will be taught God's truth. Our job, as God's stewards, is to faithfully fulfill His purposes for all that He has entrusted to us.

Why do Bonnie and I—along with millions of parents around the world—choose Christian schools like the Philippine Christian Gospel School in Cebu City, Philippines, for the education of our children? Because as Christian parents, God's stewards, we need all the help we can get in fulfilling our highest calling: to raise children who will live lives of worship to God their Creator and will choose to walk in His truth. This is truly life's greatest joy!



Brian S. Simmons, President ACSI

