

FROM MY **HEART** TO YOURS

-----Ken Smitherman, President-----

ASSOCIATION OF CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS INTERNATIONAL

Merry Christmas! I hope that this Christmas will be most blessed as you celebrate the birth of our Savior. And may the reality of that great gift be a special joy as you enter the New Year.

Something to Think About

I was given a very stark reminder a few days ago in my personal devotions as I was reading in Luke 4, where Jesus has just spent 40 days in the desert under tremendous pressure from Satan. We are all familiar with the story; interestingly though, I had never particularly noted the final four words of verse 13: “When the devil had finished all this tempting, he left him *until an opportune time*” (NIV, emphasis added). Satan, although failing this time, intended to return—to return at an unexpected moment.

As I contemplated and prayed that morning, I thought about what might be the *opportune times* in my own life. I believe we might be astounded at the various situations that may create such times—absolute weariness, discouragement over slow-moving initiatives, financial pressure, resistance from those we serve and those we lead, the day-in-and-day-out mini crises that we confront in our professional lives, family challenges . . . I think the list is literally endless. That morning I recognized again the crucial importance in that intimate walk with the Savior that keeps my heart and mind stayed on Him. And I continually note that, much to my dismay, there is a critical spiritual warfare we are engaged in with Satan and his evil dominion.

We must never fail to recognize his relentless pursuit, particularly where God’s people are effectively serving. If he chose to return to tempt and try to deceive Jesus, the very Son of God, why would I not be considered a much-less-challenging target?

May you be strengthened in your daily walk with the Savior, and may you effectively resist the deceit and coercive tactics of the one who would seek to destroy your work and service in Christian schooling.

Thank you

Please accept my gratitude, you who so graciously provided the November edition of *Christian School Comment* to your school families. In that edition, we invited your school families to participate in our first-ever national parents’ survey regarding their view of their Christian school. As promised, I am making the results of that survey available to you.

You can access the survey by clicking on the following link:

<http://www.zoomerang.com/web/SharedResults/SharedResultsPasswordPage.aspx?ID=L236DZEJX8XC>.

I will be reporting some of the results of that survey in future editions of *Christian School Comment*. I would further encourage you to use the survey document with your own school families if you wish. It could be particularly insightful information for comparative purposes.

Special Gift and Challenge

Please be watching your mail in early January. We are sending a complimentary copy of *Letters by a Modern Mystic*, a book by Frank C. Laubach that ACSI has been granted permission to republish. It is our desire to make every effort to get this book in the hands of every Christian school educator in our member schools. Dallas Willard (author of *Renovation of the Heart*, *The Divine Conspiracy*, *The Great Omission*, and other books) offers an insightful bio of Frank C. Laubach. You can read it on Dallas Willard’s website, <http://www.dwillard.org/articles/artview.asp?artID=43>. In our January mailing, along with the complimentary book, you will receive a cover letter and an order form. We are making the book available to our member schools at \$5.00 each copy, in any quantity, nearly 45 percent off our regular ACSI member price of \$8.95. You may be interested in purchasing this book for your board, pastors, or even appropriate grade levels of your students.

As we pursue an emphasis on spiritual formation—and in particular the role of discipleship—we believe that if every Christian school educator were to read this little book and consider a renewed emphasis on a moment-by-moment walk with God, we might truly see amazing things happen in the lives of our students as our teachers become more effective disciples. I urge you to prayerfully consider this book for each of your staff members.

Blessings,

Ken Smitherman
President