



March 2014

Plugging into the Power Source

Althea Penn's article this month encourages us to be empowered early educators by "plugging into our power source," which means we need to seek Christ in all that we do. ACSI wants to help empower you by providing early education conferences that focus on professional development from a Christian teacher perspective.

ACSI was blessed to have Althea inspire us as an Early Education Conference keynote speaker and presenter this year. ACSI conferences allow you to worship, pray, and love alongside like-minded educators. We want you to grow professionally and spiritually because we know that this Christ-centered encouragement will overflow into your classrooms. Come and let us be God's tool in empowering you as a Christian early educator!

Comments from 2014 ACSI Early Education Conference Attendees

- I greatly appreciate the time I spent at this conference! —Alice
- I love it all! Can't wait for the next one! Thanks! —Janet
- Very informative and [I] can't wait to use some of these strategies in my classroom. —Emily
- Great, very empowering—love coming, lifts me up! —Cindy

Empowered Early Educators

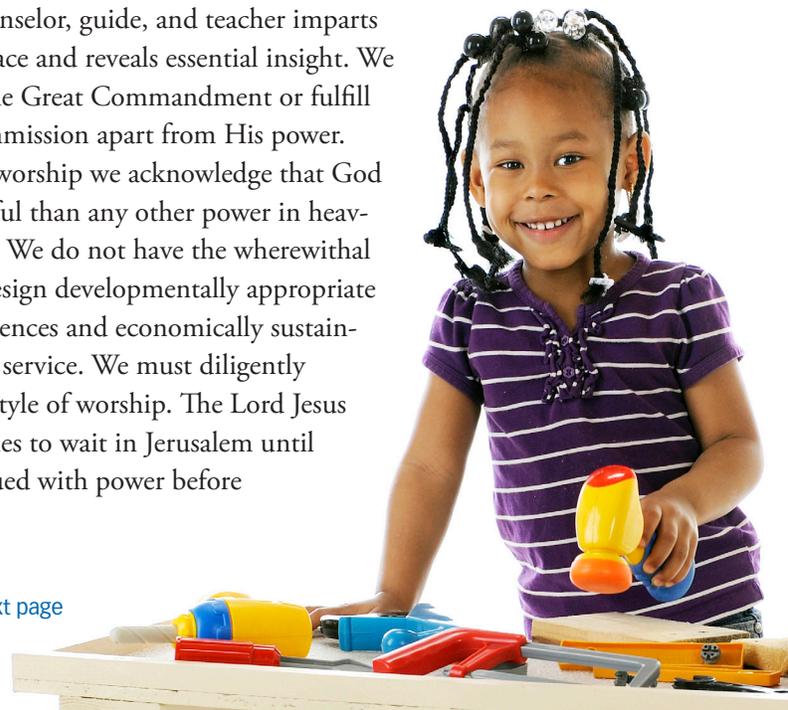
Daily we face situations that seem overwhelming. We might feel hopeless or weak when confronted with an irate parent, difficult student, seemingly unbearable colleague, the lack of resources, or just the wayward tide of culture. However, we have access to unlimited resources and insights. God offers enabling power that equips us to overcome every challenge and purposefully cultivate potential in others. Paul prayed that the Christians at Ephesus would be empowered with inner strength through God's Spirit. We plug into that strength through prayer, worship, and love.

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We have been drawn into relationship with the Father, predestined to perform good works, and entrusted with a ministry that was planned before our birth. Part of the believers' inheritance is the indwelling of the Holy Spirit; who will dwell in, with, and upon us forever. This is not simply a theory, an idea in our heads, or a sentiment in our hearts, but a relationship with implications in every detail of our ministry as educators. He is the Christian early educator's power source. Through prayer this counselor, guide, and teacher imparts an enabling grace and reveals essential insight. We cannot obey the Great Commandment or fulfill the Great Commission apart from His power.

Through worship we acknowledge that God is more powerful than any other power in heaven or on earth. We do not have the wherewithal within us to design developmentally appropriate learning experiences and economically sustainable models of service. We must diligently cultivate a lifestyle of worship. The Lord Jesus told the disciples to wait in Jerusalem until they were endued with power before

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Worship

Sometimes adults think that because I'm a kid, I can't really understand stuff about God. But that's wrong! I know that I like the feeling I have when I pray. I like the stories I hear from the Bible. I feel happy when we sing songs about Jesus. I remember all the stories I hear and the verses I learn. Sometimes I like to go to a special place in the room and look at the pictures in the Bible and play with the puppets and materials the teacher uses to tell the Bible stories. I like to tell the story again to myself in my mind or in a quiet voice. I feel peaceful and quiet in this special center; it makes me feel loved.

—From the worship poster found on ACSI ConNEXUS.



going forth as witnesses. As we decrease and He is magnified, the Holy Spirit empowers us to do the “greater works” mentioned by Jesus.

This power works through love. The old adage is true: people do not care how much you know, until they know how much you care. Faith works by love. The Holy Spirit empowers us to love others with a love that never fails. Those we serve should witness a trust in God’s love that is demonstrated in our lives and ministry. We are a love letter from Him to them.

Try “plugging into the power source” before your next lesson planning session, parent teacher conference, or board meeting.



We may implement best practices, possess excellent credentials, and practical experience—in addition to having all of the resources the world believes necessary to promote optimal development—yet be ineffective. Try “plugging into the power source” before your next lesson planning session, parent teacher conference, or board meeting. The precious Holy Spirit is waiting to empower you. He will provide the supernatural insight, guidance, and strength necessary for optimal child, professional, and organizational development.

Excerpt from *The Christian Education Mandate*, available through www.amazon.com.

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Save the date!

ACSI Early Education Conference dates and locations for 2014 are listed below:

March 14, 2014

Gordon College in Wenham, MA

May 2–3, 2014

Biola University in LaMirada, CA

November 14–15, 2014

Fremont Christian School in Fremont, CA

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