



Christian
Educators

ANNUAL Report

2021-2022





*D*ear Members and Supporters,

We are so grateful to God and to you! We are so proud of our members who are serving as ambassadors for Christ in this cultural moment when our schools need Jesus more than ever.

In the last several years, the leadership team at Christian Educators has been captivated by the concept of raising up ambassadors for Christ as described in 2 Corinthians 5:11-21. Not only have we built our AWAKE One Day Experience around this idea, but we have also incorporated it into our new mission statement:

Belief: *We believe God has a purpose for every Christian educator,*

Mission: *so we encourage, equip, connect, and protect them*

Vehicle: *through strategic initiatives, training, support, and legal coverage,*

Vision: *In order for them to serve as thriving ambassadors for Christ in our schools.*

We have been working hard to carry out this mission, and I am proud to present to you a snapshot of some of the things God did through the ministry of Christian Educators.

Our most recent fiscal year (July, 2021- June, 2022) was characterized by significant growth for Christian Educators in so many of the right ways:

- Our paid membership grew by 19%
- Our overall membership grew by over 21%
- Our income increased by 31%
- Our in-person events returned, as AWAKE and LIFT impacted educators around the nation
- We saw nearly 12,000 educators participate in the 2021 Rise Up Summit
- We tripled our Thiesen Scholarships and doubled our Turpen Grants
- We assisted our members with 60% more service cases
- We trained over 45 new ministry leaders, enabling us to significantly expand AWAKE, LIFT, and Volunteer School Rep. initiatives
- We rebranded as “Christian Educators,” developed a new vision/mission statement, rolled out a new app and website, went paperless, and so much more!

(I’m cheating a bit mentioning these last two, as a good part of that work happened after our fiscal year ended in June, but it is so exciting I can’t wait a whole year to mention it in the annual report!)

As faithful members and supporters, we thank you for the part you played through your prayers and support in all God is doing through Christian Educators. It is our great pleasure to partner with you. Would you pray for God to direct us to raise up even more ambassadors for Christ in 2022-23?

Blessings,



DAVID SCHMUS
Executive Director
Christian Educators



PROTECTING AND SERVING

A large, thin, gold-colored ampersand (&) that serves as a background graphic for the title text.

HOW WE SERVE OUR MEMBERS

Membership

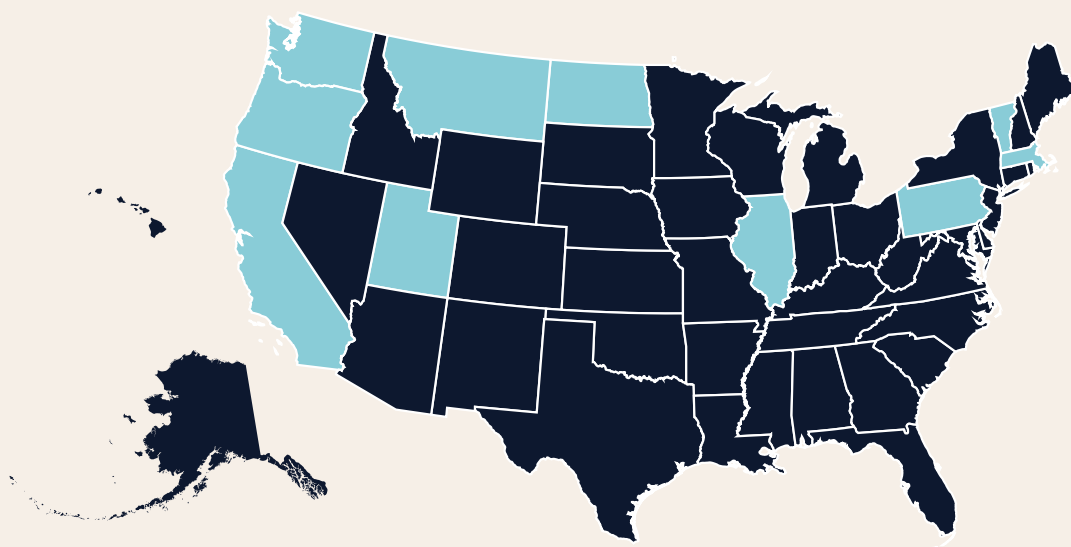
STATS & SERVICE HIGHLIGHTS 2021-2022

“Dear Christian Educators, I commend you for an amazing job! The peace of mind I receive from your legal advice, insurance and daily devotions are like no other!”

- MEMBER FROM TEXAS

HIGHEST INCREASE OF INSURED MEMBERS BY STATE

Christian Educators has members in all 50 states These are the top 10 fastest growing:



Oregon	69.2%
Washington	67.1%
Utah	66.7%
Montana	64.7%
North Dakota	64.6%

Illinois	57.1%
California	56.7%
Vermont	50%
Pennsylvania	44.6%
Massachusetts	43.8%

INSURED MEMBERSHIP

6,520 | 7,760



TOTAL MEMBERSHIP

10,815 | 13,227



Here is a snapshot of our Member Service Report. Be sure to see the complete report at the link below.



60%
INCREASE FROM PREVIOUS YEAR

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM CASE STUDY

A principal in Pennsylvania invited clubs to decorate doorways for Christmas. The FCA chapter installed a beautiful and very evangelical display in the doorway to their advisor's classroom. The principal told the advisor (a CE member) that he had to remove the display because its religious themes were not allowed...

For the rest of the story, read our Member Service Report at christianeducators.org/msr2022



helping hands

The Christian Educators Volunteer Representative Program empowers members to be salt and light in their schools and districts throughout America. When members choose to serve as Volunteer Representatives, they partner with us to share CE with their colleagues, many of whom are faithful Christians who have not heard of Christian Educators. By doing something as simple as distributing information at the beginning of the school year, Volunteer Representatives share a Christian alternative for protection and support that their colleagues may choose to join. As the membership in the school grows, a stronger Christian community forms, with members providing support and encouragement to each other. CE ministry resources equip members to grow in their faith and service to their colleagues. As the attractiveness of CE becomes more visible, others may also join, showing God's love and truth in even greater ways. All of this starts with a Volunteer Representative stepping out to serve.

The number of Volunteer Representatives grew 89% for the 2022-23 school year, providing information to 6,900 colleagues in 12 states. The number of schools impacted grew 84%. Some of the volunteer representatives also shared with newly hired teachers in their districts at New Teacher Orientation meetings. Others were presented gifts and resources at general district meetings before school opened. Still others formed teams to host a LIFT America or AWAKE Experience to further build God's Kingdom in their school.

The great part of the program is every Volunteer Representative chooses the level of involvement that fits their availability and passion. Participation takes very little time to start and everyone can continue in the ways the Lord leads. For members who have felt God prompting their hearts to serve Him in greater ways, being a CE Volunteer Representative can put them on a missional path with powerful results right in their own backyard. Contact Christian Educators at info@christianeducators.org to learn more.

Volunteer Rep

NEW MISSION STATEMENT

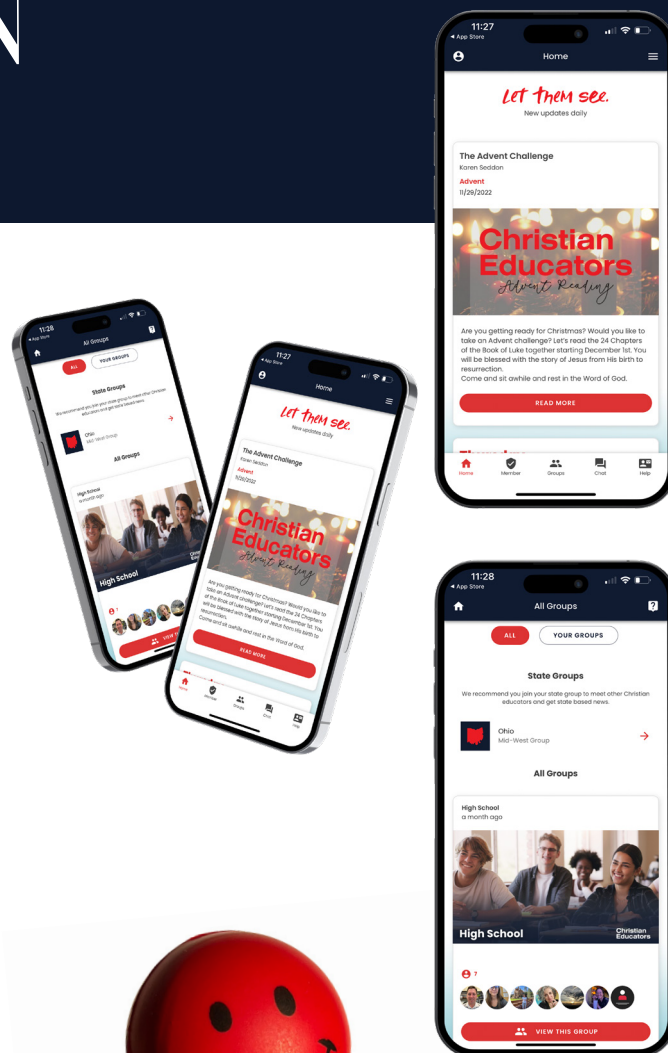
NEW MISSION STATEMENT

We believe God has a purpose for every Christian educator, so we encourage, equip, connect and protect them through strategic initiatives, training, support and legal coverage in order for them to serve as thriving ambassadors for Christ in our schools.

THE NEW APP

So why did Christian Educators need a new app? Providing our members with quick and convenient access to their own membership information and resources is a good reason, but the single most important goal of the app is connection. Second only to helping our members find kingdom purpose in their role as educators is helping them find supportive fellowship as well. The app provides an opportunity for our members with coverage to join and communicate with groups by region, subject matter, or the grade level they teach. Over 500 members have downloaded the app as of December 2022, and are enjoying access to:

- Information on their membership (type, expiration date, etc.)
- Quick access to help from Christian Educators via a two step, in-app form
- Daily devotionals and Christian Educators news items on the home screen feed
- Access to regional or grade level/subject discussion groups
- Chat with fellow Christian Educators



Christian
EDUCATORS
Association International

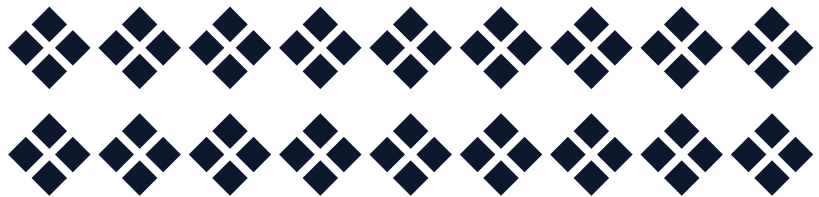


Christian
Educators



Hello Christian Educators! This little “happy dude” is our way of sending you a physical reminder of both our support and your mission. You’ll notice his arms extended toward you as a reminder of our love and encouragement. It is also a picture of the love you give out to your students each day. For many of your students, you are the smile, the open arms, and the love of Jesus that they will meet. He is also a cellphone holder! We may not get to give you a big hug in person, but let this happy dude remind you that you can always connect with us by phone or text: 888-798-1124, email, or send a message through the app if you need support. We’ve got your back: in prayer, with educational and legal consultation, with job action protection, and liability insurance should you need them. Thank you for pouring out God’s love as you faithfully serve as His ambassadors in your schools.

MEMBER OUTREACH



Connecting with educators we haven’t yet met motivated our team to engage the help of Honest Media in marketing and branding our organization over the past year. Shortening our name and updating our logo were two of the most visible outcomes of this endeavor. Fresh, new, professionally-made videos as well as a new website, app and other digital resources have updated our look and ability to connect with educators, appealing to a wider audience including the next generation of educators on mission as ambassadors for Christ in their schools.

We anticipate the value of the app increasing as more members discover and use the powerful features to find and fellowship with like-minded educators in their local areas and across the nation.

Our vision is to continue to add additional features and groups to the app as use of it grows. Do you have questions about or ideas for the app? Please let us know: info@christianeducators.org.

Get the app here: christianeducators.org/app.

Moving our member service operations back to California and closing our Ohio service center was a great opportunity to move to paperless membership packets, and also gave us an incredible opportunity to communicate our fresh new branding with ALL of our members in a fun and encouraging way. So this fall, we mailed each of our nearly 8,000 Members with Coverage an encouraging “happy dude” with the above note and received many thankful messages in return.

“Oh my goodness! Yesterday I left school early. I was struggling emotionally and was having a number of anxiety attacks that were taking a toll on me, I needed to get home to just rest! I got home and checked my mail and saw in my mailbox a package, a package from Christian Educators -- hmm... what would they be sending me?? I opened it to see the “Happy Dude” and then read the accompanying note. This Happy Dude did just what you had intended right from the start - this little act of love and support in Jesus was used by God to reach me on the exact day and moment I needed to be reminded of His love, care and support for me. Thank you for being a messenger of His love!”

Stan, Iowa



EQUIPPING AND ENCOURAGING





In July 2022, a group of 60 Christian educators from around the country gathered at the Glen Eyrie Conference Center in Colorado Springs for leadership training.

Our goals for this summit were to gather these leaders to seek the Lord for his purposes in our public schools, equipping ambassadors who are fully awakened to God's plans for them, and building teams to do ministry together.

This mountaintop experience was a catalyst for God to ignite intentional Kingdom work in schools across the nation. God moved powerfully in ways that none of the summit organizers ever anticipated. We have continued to meet with these leaders regularly, and are thrilled to report that:

- 96.7% are actively engaging/thriving as Christians serving public schools or public school ministry through intentional Kingdom work
- 55% are leading prayer groups/community building in local schools/communities
- 75% are leading and/or organizing events to provide encouragement and equipping of 440 educators across the nation
- 63% have joined AWAKE facilitator teams

JUST THE BEGINNING

We are filled with joy watching these leaders step out in bold faith to multiply themselves as ambassadors for Christ in their schools.

WHAT NEXT?

We are asking the Lord to guide us in future plans. Our prayer is to be able to have similar leadership experiences for newly identified leaders as well as ongoing training of our leaders from the summit this year. Would you be interested in partnering with us and sponsoring an educator on their leadership journey?

To donate, you can scan the QR code below.

A Mountaintop Experience

CHRISTIAN EDUCATORS
SUMMER LEADERSHIP SUMMIT



LIFT EVENTS BLESS ALL

More than ever, we find that Christians working in public schools are feeling alone, overwhelmed, and pressured to conform to ideas that threaten to compromise their witness for Christ. LIFT Gatherings are designed to address these needs. We are proud to report that we hosted 12 LIFT events across the country last year!

This year our theme has been, “Finding the Way of Peace.” When conflict seems unavoidable and burden inescapable we are able to find the way to peace through Jesus. Isaiah 26:3 has helped us learn that God’s peace envelopes us when we “lay our anxious thoughts upon Him and trust Him.” We have also looked to Paul and Silas, who were beaten and imprisoned for sharing the gospel, but when they found themselves in a dark place, they prayed and worshiped, and a miracle happened! The notion that God may actually be calling us into dark places, not as victims, but as vessels of His light gives meaning and purpose to challenging circumstances.

We are deeply encouraged by two significant developments this year. First, our leadership summit in Colorado has continued to bear incredible fruit as attendees returned home, formed teams, and organized LIFT Gatherings for the Christian educators in their areas, including states like Iowa and Oregon. Second, we have developed a partnership with ACA (Association of Christian Administrators) to host three LIFT events under the leadership of school superintendents — two in Oklahoma and another in Louisiana. Please pray for these opportunities to expand the impact of LIFT America!

Would you like to support and encourage Christian educators by helping to bring LIFT to your community? Please visit christianeducators.org/liftamerica to contact us and learn more about the LIFT America story.



lift
America

*LIFT Gatherings
help connect
Christian educators
together into local
LIFT Groups that
meet regularly to
encourage and pray
for one another.
We have a resource
kit to help groups
get started*



A TRANSFORMATIVE ONE-DAY EXPERIENCE

WHAT IS THE AWAKE PROJECT?

(Ambassadors Working as Kingdom Educators)

AWAKE exists to encourage, equip, and connect educators together around the idea that they are called to work with Jesus, as His ambassadors, in their schools.

Seeing an opportunity presented by COVID and the break from in-person events, a team of Christian Educators staff members developed the AWAKE Experience. This one-day event reconnects us to our calling as educators and partners with the Holy Spirit to awaken us to the joy and opportunity of being ambassadors for Christ.

We are encouraged to identify potential lies we have believed about ourselves and/or God that have hindered us in walking out our mission with boldness seeking to discover new ways to navigate the challenges that we face on our campuses.

This past school year 300+ educators in eight different states were impacted by AWAKE. They entered the day overwhelmed and left with purpose and passion for where God had placed them in the school system.

THE BEGINNING OF A MOVEMENT

From the beginning, the goal of AWAKE was to be reproducible so educators can bring this amazing experience to their own communities. Of course, this requires trained teams across the country. So this summer we brought educators from around the country together at Glen Eyrie in Colorado Springs to begin the process of developing these AWAKE facilitator teams. God moved powerfully, and we successfully trained 38 new AWAKE facilitators!

Our goal is to continue to equip and inspire over 600 educators in 12 states in the coming year. Please pray about partnering with us to wake up more Christian educators to be fully engaged Kingdom ambassadors in their schools.

ARE YOU INTERESTED?

Do you want to share the AWAKE Experience with your community? Just reach out to us at christianeducators.org/awake to request additional information.

Come away to be restored, encouraged, and equipped to re-enter teaching with a fresh understanding of your role as an ambassador of Christ to your school community:

David, Huntington Beach, CA

It is a powerful experience to equip and encourage educators to be everything God has called them to be!

Donna, Dothan, AL

It's the best teacher education conference I have ever attended in my 36 years of teaching. It's simply AWESOME! Sue, Vancouver, WA



Rise Up Summit



David and Elizabeth Schmus from Christian Educators, along with Linda Kardamis from Teach 4 the Heart, host Francis Chan during the Rise Up Summit 2021

“I have been so blessed by Pastor Francis Chan’s giant introduction. My teaching fire has been rekindled. Indeed, teaching is a ministry from the greatest teacher’s example. So thankful. Praising JESUS for his life and this summit.” - Rojenn

The 2021 Rise Up Summit blew away our expectations. Themed “Rise Up Renewed,” over 11,700 educators participated in the summit!

Francis Chan kicked us off with our Friday night keynote, and we were also blessed to welcome Bible teacher, pastor, and author Alistair Begg, and apologist Greg Koukl for compelling sessions.

In order to offer content to meet the needs of Christian educators, we partnered with organizations like Alliance Defending Freedom, Liberty Counsel, Gateways to Better Education, Moms in Prayer, Teachers in the Word, and the Center for Biblical Unity.

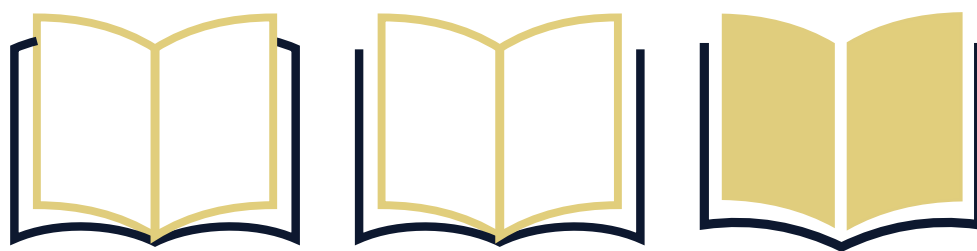
Offering the Rise Up Summit for free to any and all educators who God brings toward us is made possible by your support and generosity. It is one way we “pay it forward” and seek to extend our reach far beyond just our membership.

To learn more about Rise Up, visit riseupchristianeducators.com

Teachers of Vision



Teachers of Vision magazine is an award-winning publication of Christian Educators, providing biblically principled resources that encourage, equip, and empower Christian educators. We publish three issues per year: Back to School, Winter, and Spring. All Christian Educators members with coverage can receive a print version in the mail. Our digital version is available free of charge to everyone at: christianeducators.org/tov.



MOST VISITED 2021-2022 DIGITAL ARTICLES (IN ORDER OF POPULARITY):

1. "Falsely Accused" by Shawn Washburn - *Spring 2022*
2. "Teacher Burnout" by Michele Holiday - *Winter 2022*
3. "Can You Trust Your Union" by David Schmus - *Spring 2022*
4. "Measuring Success: Why It Doesn't Matter if My Students Like Me" by Sarah Humes - *Winter 2022*
5. "Students of Character Award" by Gail Jones - *Fall 2021*
6. "Anxious to Learn" by Lisa Lawmaster Hess - *Winter 2022*
7. "Putting Out Fires" by Michele Holiday - *Fall 2021*
8. "Responding with Risky Faith" by David Schmus - *Spring 2022*

AWARDS

Given by the Evangelical Press Association



**Christian Ministry
Digital Publication
Award of Excellence**



**Christian Ministry
Print Publication
Award of Merit**

Cartoon

**"The Modern Threat to
Homework Security"**
*Harley Schwadron,
Winter 2021*



**Two-Page Spread
"Bridging the
Language Barrier"**
*Dan Steltzer,
Back to School 2021*

Cover

Back to School 2021

SUBMISSIONS

*Have you ever dreamed of
having your writing published?*

Teachers of Vision is always looking for new contributors who can provide informative, inspirational, creative, well-written articles addressing subjects of interest to Christian educators working in today's schools. View the TOV website linked above for writer's guidelines, upcoming deadlines, and themes. Inquiries or submissions can be sent to tov@christianeducators.org.



STEWARDED GOD'S RESOURCES





For the 2022 Gene and Joanne Thiesen Scholarship for Educators, Christian Educators was able to bless three highly qualified applicants with \$1,000 each. These grants were funded by the Thiesen family; as well as matching funds provided by Christian Educators members and other generous donors. The three scholarship winners were:



AINSLEY EBERT held many leadership roles in her high school career including Student Body President, National Honor Society President and valedictorian. She was very active in volleyball and basketball including a leadership role with Heart for the City, a mentoring program to at-risk students. In Ainsley's own words, "I not only want to teach in a public school, but I believe God is calling me to serve in Title I at-risk schools in the inner city. I have been blessed with the chance to be used by God and help kids from the inner city see Christ's love. In many cases, it's the first time they have even heard of His name."



KATHERINE YI HUANG is a graduate of Biola University and is pursuing her Master's degree in TESOL. Her work experience and teaching opportunities in China are impressive. She speaks three languages — Chinese, English, and Korean — and is the recipient of many awards. In Katherine's own words, "I was born and raised in a Buddhist culture, which I never doubted was the truth to live by. My family believes in working hard and doing good so that the gods will bless us in return. I prayed at the Chinese Christian fellowship to receive Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior. When I went back to China, I had this peace that wherever I went, God would be with me...Christian educators ought to be role models to their students...[leading] them ultimately to 'the way, the truth, and the life.'"

REBECCA WYANT is maintaining a 4.0 GPA at Liberty University while studying to become a teacher. She works as a customer service representative for Turning Point for God, the broadcast ministry of Dr. David Jeremiah. In Rebecca's own words, "A Christian educator should walk out his or her faith by loving God and loving others. Moreover, Christ humbled Himself and obeyed the Father, as a perfect example for us. We should continually humble ourselves, obey and love the Father, love others, and daily pick up our cross and follow Jesus."

To learn more, visit christianeducators.org/thiesen

Thiesen Scholarship



Turpen Grant

Forrest Turpen, former Christian Educators Executive Director, served Christian Educators faithfully for nearly 35 years, along with his wife Judy. He went home to heaven just short of his 80th birthday in 2017. Forrest's desire was to equip Christian educators to live out their faith in their schools.

We have established the Forrest Turpen Legacy Grant to honor his legacy by assisting our members in carrying out this strategic purpose to which Forrest dedicated his life.

Over the course of the past three years, with help from the grant, our members have risen to the challenge of shining the light of Jesus in their school. And this past year we were blessed to award 33 grants totaling over \$15,000!

One of our members received a grant to help disadvantaged students...

"I am proud to say that this grant helped us shine the light of Jesus on our disadvantaged students by providing them with hygiene kits to help take care of their basic needs. The simple act of being able to bathe, brush their teeth, comb their hair, and/or access deodorant has had such a positive impact on our students' confidence and has given them hope in a dark world. This grant gave us the necessary funds to support the overall needs of our students and ultimately share the love of Jesus Christ. Thank you for being an active member of this work and helping us take care of our little ones." Scott from Colorado

This year we look forward to partnering with our members by awarding more grants that will help them to be the hands and feet of Jesus in their schools!

33 grants
AWARDED
\$15,512.44

*To learn more you can
access our website at*

christianeducators.org/turpengrant



PROEM

Ukraine

We all watched in shock as Russian troops poured into Ukraine back in February. Like many of you, we wanted to help, but were unsure how.

It turns out, our involvement in training educators in Europe to live out their faith in schools would bear fruit. One of our partners in Poland is a ministry called Proem, which is not only a church, but also a school, a camp, and a church-planting ministry.

Using their camp and school resources, Proem was housing, feeding, and educating as many Ukrainian refugees as possible. They desperately needed resources to help, including funds to supply the camp and to hire teachers, as their school swelled with Ukrainian students.

The Christian Educators Board of Directors responded by allocating \$15,000 in matching funds, and we began to ask you, our members and supporters, to contribute. We were quickly given another \$10,000 in matching funds, to bring the total goal to \$50,000!

As an organization that does not do a lot of fundraising, we honestly weren't sure we could raise that much. But God was. We are excited to say that your generosity blew us away! You raised \$54,685 to show the love of Jesus to our precious Ukrainian brothers and sisters. Thank you so much!

Board of Directors

Clint Elliott, Esq.

*Board Chair, Attorney; Pastor
from Crestwood, KY*

Joe Gillentine, Ed. D

*Vice Chair and former Superintendent of
Schools from Yorba Linda, CA*

June Hetzel, Ph.D

*Dean of School of Education at Biola
University from Yorba Linda, CA*

Heidi Hoefs

*Education Program Director & Adjunct
Faculty at University of Northwestern
from Roseville, MN*

Jennifer Meng

*Elementary School Teacher
from Elyria, OH*

Richard Nicholson

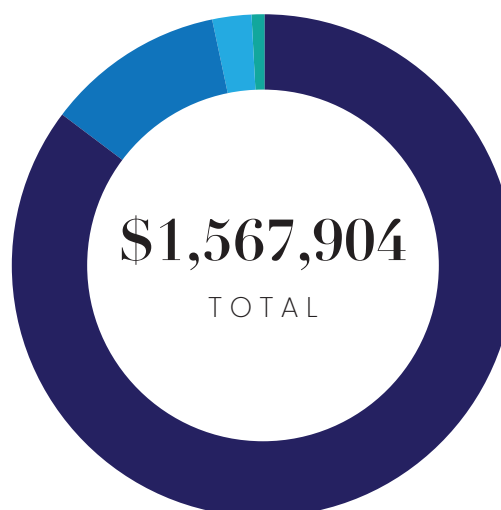
*Secretary-Treasurer & retired
Educational Consultant from
San Gabriel, CA*

Tim Parson, Ed.D

*Former Superintendent of Schools
& Pastor from Estill Springs, TN*

Financial Report

Revenue



■ Membership Fees	\$1,340,380
■ Contributions	\$177,961
■ Seminars & Meetings	\$36,854
■ Other Revenues	\$12,709

Expenses



■ Program	\$1,340,380
■ Management & General	\$177,961
■ Fundraising	\$36,854



*Christian Educators is a member in good standing of the
Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability.*



Closing Notes

I hope you have been blessed to read this report on the activities of Christian Educators. As much as it is our joy as a staff to share the practical details of what God has been doing from our perspective, we hope you are also able to discern the heart of this ministry. While we have seen God do amazing things for and through our members in our schools, we are convinced that there is much more that He is doing already that has not reached our ears, and that He intends to do in the future. Our hearts are turned toward Christians in education, and we long to fulfill our mission to protect, equip, encourage and connect them in fellowship with each other and this organization. We do this because we believe that God has a Kingdom purpose for every Christian educator, and that we can more effectively serve Jesus and glorify Him together.

As Director of Operations, I can attest to the faithful stewardship of the resources you contribute through membership fees and donations as we continue to invest in furthering this work. The Lord has provided for 1) the enhancement of the protection benefits of membership, 2) the improvement of the quality and effectiveness of our publications, materials and digital resources, 3) the multiplication of opportunities for members to attend live, local events, and 4) the development of our brand and marketing message and resources, all without any increase in the cost of membership. God's favor and wise stewardship have allowed us to continue to enjoy strong financial health through this fiscal year.

So where are we going from here? Here are some things that are in the works. Would you prayerfully consider how you might be called to participate?

We are seeking the Lord to:

- Continue to connect our members together, including by ongoing development of the new app. You can help by downloading the app and using it to connect with content and fellow members!
- Multiply leaders for AWAKE and LIFT, and as Volunteer Representatives in more districts and schools across our nation. Let us know if you are interested in joining our growing team of leaders, or by supporting this effort financially.
- Bring AWAKE & LIFT to your community! Contact us to see how you can help.
- Demonstrate the value and importance of continued membership to our student members, to ensure they enjoy the benefits of Christian Educators from the start of their teaching career.
- Get the message of Christian Educators out to more educators, using our new marketing tools effectively on social media. You can help by liking and sharing Christian Educators content.
- Reach still more Christians in education through their (and your) pastors. You can help by requesting a pastor resource kit, available in early 2023.

Throughout this report we've invited you to reach out or respond to us directly with your stories, ideas, interests or concerns. Here is one final invitation! Contact us at info@christianeducators.org or call 888-798-1124.

On behalf of the entire staff, thank you for your faithful membership in Christian Educators and your service in our nation's schools. We are grateful for the privilege of serving you.

Sincerely,



JERE VANDEWALLE
Director of Operations
Christian Educators

A woman with glasses and a white shirt over a dark top stands in a classroom, pointing at a map on a whiteboard. A hand in the foreground is raised. A globe sits on a desk in the foreground.

How will you get involved this year?

- As a Volunteer Representative, invite fellow staff into Christian Educators
- Publish your great idea or testimony in Teachers of Vision magazine
- Encourage your fellow Christian Educators as a Daily Devotional author
- Initiate an AWAKE Experience at your local church
- Organize a LIFT Gathering in your area
- Start a LIFT Group at your school
- Become an AWAKE Experience facilitator
- Send an educator resource kit to your pastor
- Post your story to our Saved by Grace blog

Contact us at
info@christianeducators.org

**Christian
Educators**

christianeducators.org