

## "Onward Christian Soldiers"



**Here's hoping you had a blessed Christmas and hope filled New Year.** My wife and I have the tradition of watching the 1954 (remember black & white?) edition of Charles Dicken's "A Christmas Carol." One of my favorite lines is when Ebenezer Scrooge implores the ghost of Christmas past not to show him any more reflections of what has

been. The spirit responds with, "...and yet, we turn another page!" It happens. We cannot stop it, only reflect upon it, trust God and move forward.

As the director of MACSA, we join you all in seeking to move onward, as faithful Christian soldiers. While 2021 (2020?) has had its challenges, we know that in all of them, there are opportunities. Our God is faithful, his purposes will not fail, and we believe one of them is the educating of this next generation. With MACSA's motto from 1948 as our banner, "**Serving Schools that Serve the Savior,**" we enter 2022 with our arms around the future, and our backs up against the past, in our unique grassroots, hands-on relationship with you. Of course, we need you, walking with us, in order to march "onward," together in these days.

Looking onward (and upward) into 2022, we desire to strengthen what we do best, while starting some new avenues of service in partnering with our members to unite our region and not forsake gathering together for encouragement, strength, and counsel. Here are a few of these opportunities we offer...

### ★ ANNUAL TEACHERS CONFERENCES

~ **Cairn University: Monday, October 17th**

~ **Lancaster Bible College: TBD in February**

We are presently planning the program for this year, and ask our membership to let us know of any focus, and/or topics you would like to see included this year. Please write to me at [bstevens@macaonline.org](mailto:bstevens@macaonline.org) with any thoughts or suggestions.

### ★ BIBLE QUIZZING

This unique and historical event, foundational to a distinctively Christian education, begins in earnest this month (Jan 29 - CSY) with regional competitions, culminating in our annual BQ Retreat at Refreshing Mountain Retreat, March 9-11. Contact **Nate King** at [macsabiblequizzing@gmail.com](mailto:macsabiblequizzing@gmail.com) for more details.

### ★ MACSA TRACK MEETS

Yes, the track meets return! We will once again be offering our traditional track meets, hosted by Messiah University again this year. Mark your calendars for **Tuesday, April 26 (Middle Schools)**, and **Wednesday, April 27 (High School)**. Jennifer Bleecker (Lancaster County Christian School) is serving as our Meet Coordinator. Registration information will be coming shortly. Please be sure your MACSA membership is current if you plan to participate.

### ★ LEADERS LUNCHEON

We (regrettably!) were forced to cancel this annual gathering in December, so we are looking to reschedule this time for early Spring. Look for details in a few weeks.

### ★ PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Remember when doctors made hours calls? Well, perhaps you weren't around then.... MACSA is looking to "reinstitute" this personalized service to our schools. Our partnerships with Cairn U., LBC, and CACE, allow us to offer professional development programs, both for your school specifically, or combining several schools together. We can offer targeted topics and specified subjects to enhance your classroom instruction, support instructional goals, while fostering fellowship with our colleagues in your region. Call Joanna Smith (267.253.6600) or email [jsmith@macsaonline.org](mailto:jsmith@macsaonline.org) for more information.

### ★ ADMINISTRATIVE CONSULTING SERVICES

A special and innovative service we offer is as a consult for in-house ministry to your administration and board. We have found that many leaders in our Christian schools "walk alone," without administrative friends & focus. Many boards are struggling with governance, strategic planning, and financial issues. Again, with our unique ability to bring local, professional resources **to you**, on **your** time, with **your** issues, and with a

cost you can handle. Contact me to schedule a time for us to meet **(302.588.7523)**. Let's talk!

There are other avenues to explore...you might have an idea for MACSA to be more available for serving you as you serve our Savior... It's time to work together, responsively, locally, and openly, to the needs and futures of our schools...and the generations we are called to serve. We, together, with the Holy Spirit's wisdom, can affect some much-needed unity of purpose, clarity of message, and consistency of operation in 2022. Let's make this page turning meaningful for our schools.

Blessings to you as you consider your "soldiering onward..."

Peace be with you,

***Bill***

Bill Stevens  
Executive Director  
Mid-Atlantic Christian School Association  
*"...so the next generation will know"*  
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