

Principal's Message:

STAYING TRUE TO OUR CALLING

Our school motto, "The Best is Yet to Be" embodies the belief that the future can and should be made better. It reminds us that we cannot be complacent with the successes that come our way. Or be satisfied with the thought that we have arrived and go no further in our quest for excellence and service. Rather, we should have the spirit to keep striving to improve.

Our motto is a noble aspiration. While it is often used in reference to achievements and results, its scope is much wider. It is a constant challenge to us as a school, as individuals and a community to be agents of positive change and progress, using our God-given talents and abilities responsibly to be a blessing to others. Only then can the future be envisioned as one where the best is yet to be. We can learn much of this spirit from the life of our founder Bishop William F Oldham.

"One visionary man with clarity of purpose and a steely resolve to serve and lead – and his impact and influence continues 128 years on."

Bishop Oldham arrived in Singapore in 1885 with very little but a clear vision and determination to set up a mission. He said in his memoirs, "*There was no money, nor other provision, but we were to go...*" (Oldham 1927, in *God Keeps*). The next year, through divine appointment and a strategic decision to offer English Language instruction to the sons of Chinese businessmen instead of merely tutoring the fathers, ACS was birthed. Our first school started in 1886 in 70 Amoy Street with 13 boys. Today, the ACS family comprises seven schools with about 10000 students and 1000 staff, with an alumni network across the world and with ACSians serving in all sectors of society.

One visionary man with clarity of purpose and a steely resolve to serve and lead – and his impact and influence continues 128 years on. Bishop Oldham's bold step in faith to set up ACS – and the sacrificial efforts of many who built on his initial vision has made it possible for us in 2014 to enjoy the ACS we have today. Those who have come before us toiled tirelessly, not always seeing the fruit of their labour, but they were confident that because of their efforts, the future would be a better place for many others. Essentially, they worked with a mindset that "the best is yet to be" and indeed we are now enjoying its benefits.

Today, we are inheritors of this rich and illustrious tradition that goes back to our founder. This legacy is a heavy responsibility and also an honoured privilege. For our school motto to be a reality, each generation of ACSians must rise to their calling to be agents of positive change and progress so that the future can indeed be one of promise and blessing to many.

The generations before us have been faithful – and we have inherited a strong and forward looking ACS that continues to impact lives today. As we start the new academic year, it is timely for us as a school family to reflect on the inspiring legacy we have inherited – and just as importantly, the legacy we wish to leave behind for future generations of ACSians and for ACS. Will future ACSians look back and say they were blessed and inspired by our generation? If we continue to remain true to our calling and live out the essence of our school motto, we can have the confidence that the best is yet to be.



Mr. Winston Hodge
Principal
Anglo-Chinese School
(Independent)