

ACT news, reports and events

National conference for Christians in school leadership Coton House, February 2009

Adverse weather conditions meant that this year's annual conference for Christians in school leadership was a smaller gathering than usual. Those who did manage to get to Coton House near Rugby enjoyed two very inspiring days together. The conference focused on challenges faced by Christians in school leadership in the UK and in Uganda.

David Wells of the Catholic diocese of Plymouth amused and challenged us with his two talks on 'Authentic Christian leadership' prompting us to reflect on avoiding the danger of 'Missing the Point'. He began by saying that the loss of a universal narrative to explain life has led to a vacuum where there are no guiding morals and authority. In the light of this, he encouraged us to approach the task of Christian leadership with a spirit of gratitude from which, he suggested, springs joy, generosity and compassion drawing from our own Christian narrative.

Revd Janet Muhindo, the Assistant Education Officer for the Provincial Offices of the Church of Uganda, talked about the challenges she has faced in seeking to create and encourage Christian educators in Uganda. Her talks provided encouragement and challenge, being rooted as they were in her own

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experience. At one level it was challenging to see how education in the Ugandan context has to be seen in the context of the wider needs of the people. There is no question of separating out the task of learning from the social, emotional and spiritual needs of individuals and families. Janet left us in no doubt that she and those with whom she works are giving sacrificially day by day to improve the lives of those they serve. Furthermore Janet's commitment to ensuring that the Gospel is central to the education provided came through very clearly. It was also encouraging to know that some of the challenges faced by school leaders in the UK are shared in a very different situation, and that God is faithful in providing His people with the strength and means for the task.

Reduced attendance, although disappointing in some ways, did give the conference a very positive, more intimate, feel this year. Many delegates appreciated the well appointed prayer room, accessible throughout the conference; sensitively-led worship and prayer sessions; the fellowship of being with like-minded leaders; and the challenging and encouraging keynote speakers. The national conference for Christians in school leadership has become a firm fixture in my annual calendar of 'must attend' events. I would encourage other ACT members involved in school leadership to put the 2010 conference in their diary and come along for a great time of retreat and refreshment in the middle of the school year.

■ Dalwyn Attwell, ACT Vice Chair

**Are you a
Christian?**

**Do you work in
education?**

**Have you joined
ACT yet?**

The logo for the Association of Christian Teachers (ACT) features the letters 'ACT' in a large, bold, red, sans-serif font. The letters are slightly shadowed, giving them a three-dimensional appearance as if they are floating above a light-colored surface.

**Association of
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