



ACT: in God's hands

New beginnings

As we begin a new academic year, let's consider where ACT is, what it has achieved over the last twelve months and what direction it will be taking in the near future.

The Christian message is about new beginnings. As Christians we know that, by accepting Jesus as Lord and God, people can be 'born again'. But the Christian life is also about an ongoing process of personal growth and renewal. If we are to serve our God we need to receive His guidance and empowerment on a regular basis.

I believe the same applies to Christian organisations. They exist, first and foremost, to serve God and to be obedient to Him. Hence, although ACT strives to 'serve, support and unite Christians working in education in England and around the world' its main purpose should always be to serve God and bring glory to Him.

The past: in God's hands

With this in mind, I invite you to join me in celebrating the developments, activities and achievements of the last year.

We thank God that:

- ACT has a vibrant, growing network of Local Groups and Local Contacts
- ACT's prayer diary, membership magazine and website have been redesigned and updated
- ACT's Overseas Fund has continued to give financial assistance to national Christian teachers' networks and Christian educational projects around the world
- ACT has worked with CARE for Education, Scripture Union, The Stapleford Centre and TISCA (The Independent Schools Christian Alliance) to organise national conferences for Christian teachers and headteachers
- ACT's special spring appeal generated an additional £25,000 for the General Fund.



Andrew Marfleet is Chair of ACT. He has been a full member of ACT since it started in 1971 and has served on its Board (on and off) for over half that period. Andrew is now a freelance consultant and Ofsted inspector. He is also a Trustee of The Stapleford Centre.

The future: in God's hands

In the year ahead ACT's Directors will be putting together a Strategic Development Plan to forward the purposes of the Association for the period 2004-2009.

Priorities will include:

- A recruitment drive targeted at student teachers (ACT is contributing to the salary of a UCCF [Universities and Colleges Christian Fellowship] staff worker whose task will be to encourage graduates to join Christian professional groups such as ACT).
- Helping to create more opportunities for prayer and fellowship among Christians working in schools and colleges in England.
- Encouraging the continued growth of a national network of Local Groups and Local Contacts by challenging more ACT members to get involved.
- Speaking with a prophetic Christian voice on educational issues from a well-informed, biblical standpoint.
- Developing the ministry of ACT's Overseas Fund.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank each and every ACT member, Event Coordinator and Local Contact for the prayer, encouragement, time and money so freely given in support of ACT's ministry over the past year.

I would also like to thank Rupert Kaye (ACT's Chief Executive), Carol Horne (ACT's Office Manager), Jan Hodgkinson (ACT's Secretary) and ACT's Board of Directors for the faithful service they have shown to the Association. Thank you for your continuing support.

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