

ACT news, reports and events

ACT Day 2008

Forty-four members of the Association of Christian Teachers gathered at the London Institute for Contemporary Christianity at St Peter's Church in Vere Street, London on 11 October 2008 for ACT's annual day conference and AGM. The day began and ended with times of prayer and praise.

Our guest speaker, David Michael Carrillo, began his first session by encouraging us to join him in continuing to worship with a few more songs. Personally, I found this really beneficial as it gave time and space to focus on the Lord at the beginning of the day.

After the time of extended worship, David Michael went into sharing his testimony of life with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD). He shared with us how the Lord has turned his 'stumbling blocks into stepping stones', despite the 'wisdom' of teachers and Christians who told him that he couldn't sing and wasn't ministry material! David Michael's testimony challenged us all to think about the words and advice we give to young people and their families. To illustrate the point further David Michael told us how Christian teachers, including a student teacher, had had a very positive impact on his life. He encouraged us to see ourselves as bringers of hope, encouragement and affirmation; making a difference to the lives of the children and adults we teach and work

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with. His upbeat message about education and educators brought much needed refreshment and inspiration.

After lunch, David Michael shared more factual information about ADHD and its effects on those who live with it. He illustrated a very informative talk with examples from his own life. He continued to stress that in God's hands the challenges of ADHD could be turned to good, and that Christian teachers could be those who showed young people this marvellous truth. For some of us, the information he shared gave new insights into a condition that we meet day by day in our workplaces. For others, the personal illustrations added a new dimension to professional knowledge. It was especially inspirational to hear how a teenage boy who had called out in desperation, asking God why he'd ever been born, had learnt that he was fearfully and wonderfully made. In conversation with David Michael some of those present shared how his story had reminded them of damaging words they had received. There were several present who were moved to tears by the story of God's amazing grace to David Michael. This highlighted to me the way in which the Lord was gently ministering and reminding us of His great love through the day.



Written by and for Christians in education

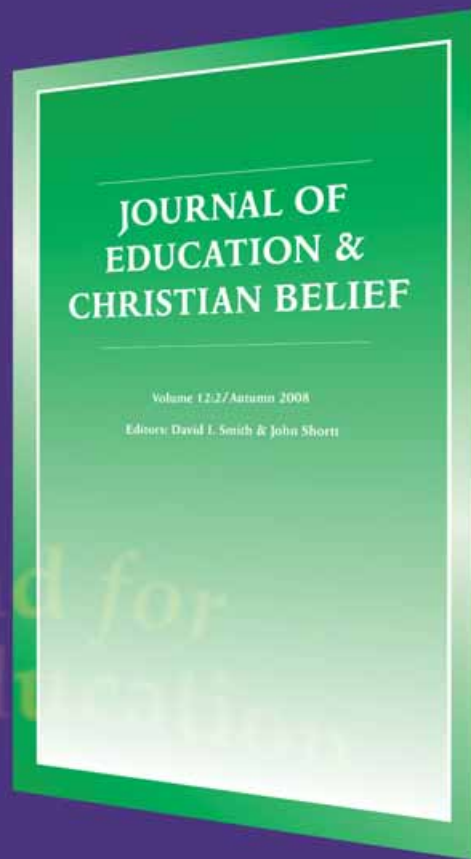
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To subscribe, contact:

The Stapleford Centre, The Old Lace Mill,
Frederick Road, Stapleford, Nottingham NG9 8FN

Tel: 0115 9396270 Email: subs@jecb.org Website: www.jecb.org

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The ACT Annual General Meeting

The ACT Annual General Meeting was an important and equally blessed time. The AGM began with a statement from Arthur Jones, Chair of the ACT Board of Directors, explaining that Rupert Kaye would be stepping down as ACT CEO on 31 December 2008.

Whilst we were digesting news of the changes faced by the Association in the light of Rupert's departure, we were heartened to hear that the Lord has provided for us financially through a generous legacy received in the summer of 2008. Arthur said this gift demonstrated that God had a continuing purpose for ACT. He asked members to pray for Directors when they meet in January to seek God's direction for the future. Arthur also invited members to make their views known via the ACT Office.

The mood of the AGM was very positive and I am sure that members present felt a real sense that ACT's work has a bright future. A special word of thanks goes to Carol Horne (ACT Office Manager) and Rupert Kaye for organising an inspirational and encouraging day, and for arranging a delicious lunchtime buffet for the assembled throng.

■ Dalwyn Attwell, ACT Vice Chair

Life in all its fullness

Forty delegates attended the Annual Conference for Christian Teachers and Teaching Assistants at the Britannia Hotel in Coventry on 19–21 September 2008.

The conference was entitled 'Life in all its fullness' and the keynote speaker was John Shortt, EurECA (European Educators' Christian Association) Travelling Secretary and long-time ACT member. It was a wonderful Christ-centred weekend and a great opportunity to share with fellow Christian educators.

Saturday seminar options included:

- Community cohesion
- Spiritual development in children
- Involving churches in supporting your school.

The conference included a Saturday afternoon prayer café – a popular innovation that allowed delegates to sup a freshly made cappuccino, latte or espresso whilst having an unaccompanied quiet time, or seeking gentle one-to-one spiritual guidance/counselling.

Sunday morning worship was gentle-yet-powerful. The sermon was preached by Hugh Bradby (TISCA General Secretary and an ACT Director). Communion was led by Rupert Kaye (ACT CEO).