



editor's thoughts

A voice for Christians in education

Welcome to the Autumn 2004 edition of *ACT Now*, the magazine for Christians in education. *ACT Now* is special because most of its content is not only read by Christians in education, it is written by Christians in education. It is not written by non-Christian educators who do not understand what it means to be called by the Living God to serve Him in a school or college or other learning environment. Nor is it written by Christian non-educators who have never carried the burden of a classroom teacher.

ACT Now gives Christian teachers, teaching assistants and headteachers a voice. And, for those who are bold enough to share their experiences and insights on paper, *ACT Now* offers a unique audience of Christians who understand and empathise with the writer's situation.

Challenge number one: write a letter, article, prayer, poem or book review for *ACT Now*. I would particularly welcome items with titles such as:

- Brain-based learning: Christian perspectives
- Spiritual development – I saw it happen!
- School leadership, management and administration: what role for Christian prayer?
- A lesson that worked – thank God!
- Prayer walking: claiming the learning environment for Christ
- A new five year plan for education – tell government to stop interfering!
- Justice and redemption: a policy for Christian behaviour management
- Healing ministry: reflections of a Christian school nurse

- A Christian response to homophobic bullying
- Yoga and meditation in schools: a Christian view
- Prison education
- Workplace evangelism

Fellowship for Christians in education

The four Associations of Christian Teachers here in the UK offer an opportunity for Christian teachers, teaching assistants and headteachers to share with, and support, one another. Sometimes this involves an annual lecture or a national conference (for examples, see pages 2 and 40 of this magazine). At other times these needs are met at a local 'share and prayer supper' or evening fellowship (page 38).

In my experience, one of the first casualties of term-time workload was my own spiritual life. I found that if I was not careful, prayer, Bible study and quiet times with the Lord became little more than distant memories of holiday indulgences.

I urge you to make the effort to get away from assessment, planning and marking for an evening and worship God. You may appreciate the opportunity to talk and pray about discipline problems and workload issues with others who really understand. Alternatively, you might want to hear words of affirmation and encouragement from a visiting speaker.

Challenge number two: attend a local group (pages 36–37) or, if one does not exist, ask God if you should start one. And, if you are not yet a member of ACT, ACT Scotland, ACTW or NIACT, please join (see pages 36-37 for contact details).

Have your say

Whether you want to write a letter or article in response to an item in this issue; express your views on a topical educational issue from a Christian perspective; share personal testimony about what God has done for you in an educational setting; review a book or film; share a lesson plan or classroom resource; write a poem; or submit a prayer request, please send your contribution to: The Editor, *ACT Now*, 94a London Road, St Albans, Herts, AL1 1NX.

Presentation

Individual prayer requests should be 20–40 words in length. Longer prayers, poems and book/film reviews should be a maximum of 300 words in length. All other items should be 500–1,500 words in length. Longer articles may be considered for publication in an edited form or in more than one part.

All items should be submitted as a Microsoft Word document on a CD or as an email attachment. Naturally, items should have been carefully spell checked by the writer prior to submission. All items should carry the writer's name and contact details. Articles and letters should also come with a

brief biographical note about the writer (50 words maximum) written in the third person. Photographs, illustrations and logos may be included where these are relevant (see below for technical specifications).

Administration

All items received will be acknowledged so long as they carry adequate contact details.

The editor's decision to publish or reject material is final. The editor reserves the right to edit or amend the content, grammar and style of all items.

Once accepted for publication, a prayer request, article, letter, etc becomes the copyright of *ACT Now* magazine unless it is reprinted with the permission of another publication with prior copyright.

Illustrations and photographs

Photographs provided digitally should be as large as possible and as high a resolution as possible eg 5+ megapixels (3.3 megapixels is the absolute minimum accepted). Non-digital

photographs should be sent as clearly labelled unmounted originals (eg with a sticky label on the back).

Line drawings should be in black ink on white paper.

All artwork should have a plain original without lettering or numbering and a labelled copy.

ACT Now deadlines

Spring (January) 2005

All prayer requests (for the period 1 January to 31 May 2005), articles, letters, etc should arrive at the ACT Office no later than **1 November 2004**.

Summer (May) 2005

All prayer requests (for the period 1 May to 30 September 2005), articles, letters, etc should arrive at the ACT Office no later than **1 March 2005**.

Autumn (September) 2005

All prayer requests (for the period 1 September 2005 to 31 January 2006), articles, letters, etc should arrive at the ACT Office no later than **1 July 2005**.