



Editor's thoughts

What is it that the Lord requires of us?

As followers of Christ we are called to ask ourselves the following question on a regular basis: 'What is it that the Lord requires of me?' Through the prophet Micah the Lord answers just that question: 'Act justly, love mercy and walk humbly with God' (Micah 6:8). As Christian educators, we ought to find these words especially pertinent. How just, merciful and humble are we in parent/student consultations, lesson-time learning interventions and staffroom conversations?

In much broader terms, do we really share God's concerns for His world? Are we filled with righteous indignation when we hear that human greed and thoughtlessness has resulted in environmental calamity? Are we upset and angry when we are confronted with facts about the wicked exploitation of those who are marginalised, poor, weak and vulnerable? And, if so, what are we doing – as God's people working in the field of education – in response to these issues? How should we pray and worship in the face of such sinful injustice? How should we live and work? How can we inform and motivate our colleagues and students to join us in taking appropriate action? A number of articles in this edition of *ACT Now* begin to answer such questions.

Dave Bookless argues that education should be about human flourishing. He believes education should be about well-being, not just wealth creation. He says it should prepare pupils to live in more sustainable relationships with fellow human

beings and with the ecosystems on which we depend, not just train them to compete effectively as individuals.

Gwen Carlisle writes about the ministry and witness of St Andrew's College in Paraguay and its shanty town Annexe school. As well as learning about righteousness and justice in the classroom, students are given opportunities to put Christian love and concern into action by serving and working alongside people who are ill and underprivileged.

Richard Reddie looks at some of the emotive and controversial topics included in the Key Stage 3 history curriculum in England. He contends that education is about facing up to uncomfortable truths, and urges Christian educators to 'avoid avoidance' when it comes to the study of actual or perceived unfairness to people by another group or individual.

Nigel Roberts tells of a project to raise awareness of contemporary forms of slavery. He encourages us to see how becoming better informed about people-trafficking and working to combat this kind of injustice not only inspires and nurtures young people, but is a wonderful witness to the Christian faith and to the Lord who calls us to act justly.

I hope that this issue of *ACT Now* will inspire and challenge you. As we continue into 2009 may the Lord enable us all to act justly, love mercy and walk humbly with Him.

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 and submission

Individual prayer requests should be 20-40 words in length. Longer prayers, poems and film/resource reviews should be a maximum of 250 words in length. Emails to the editor should be 50-250 words in length; letters should be 250-800 words in length. Feature articles should be approx 500-1,500 words in length. Longer articles may be considered for publication in an abridged form.

All contributions should be submitted as a Microsoft Word document on a CD or as an email attachment. Naturally, all items should have been carefully spell-checked and proof-read by the author prior to submission. All items must carry the author's name and contact details. Feature articles must

also include: (i) a brief biographical note about the author (50 to 80 words in length) written in the third person; and (ii) a portrait photograph of the author.

Photographs and illustrations

Photographs can be accepted in two formats: (i) analogue (ie 'Kodak' prints); and (ii) digital. Analogue photos should be sent as clearly labelled unmounted originals, eg with a sticky label on the back (giving a photo caption/title and contact name). Digital photos should be sent as JPEGs unmodified from camera/scanner and at the highest resolution available (preferably 300ppi). As a rule the minimum file size is 800kb, however files 2,000kb or larger are preferred. Photos that do not meet these criteria cannot be accepted for publication.

Illustrations and logos may be included where these are relevant. Line drawings should be in black ink on white paper. All other artwork should be provided as a plain original without lettering or numbering.

Editing and copyright

All items received will be acknowledged as 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 the Association of Christian Teachers unless it is reprinted with the permission of another publication with prior copyright.

ACT Now deadlines

Summer (May) 2009 All prayer requests (for the period 1 May to 31 August 2009), emails and letters to the editor, resource reviews, articles, etc should arrive at the ACT Office no later than **15 February 2009**.

Autumn (September) 2009 All prayer requests (for the period 1 September to 31 December 2009), emails and letters to the editor, resource reviews, articles, etc should arrive at the ACT Office no later than **15 June 2009**.

Spring (January) 2010 All prayer requests (for the period 1 January to 30 April 2010), emails and letters to the editor, resource reviews, articles, etc should arrive at the ACT Office no later than **15 October 2009**.