



editor's thoughts

ACT Now has changed. Look out for the newly extended letters section which features four thought-provoking items of correspondence. David Skinner calls for the return of corporal punishment in UK schools; Suneel Shivdasani asks Christian teachers to consider teaching in a Muslim country; and Catherine Pocock and Penny Thompson take Kathleen Wood to task over her plea for a National Syllabus for RE. Whether you agree or you disagree, why not rise to the challenge of writing a letter (500–1,500 words in length) in response?

As well as the usual choice selection of articles from around the globe (eg England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and India) this issue offers two pages of information about ACT's growing national network of Local Contacts and Local Groups. This is the very first time all of this information has been presented in *ACT Now*. As far as we know, all of the details are up-to-date, but if you are aware of an active Local Group for Christians who work in schools and colleges which is not listed please advise us so we can include it next time. Please note that there is absolutely no reason why a single county should not have more than one Local Contact or Local Group (see Derbyshire as a case in point). If there is no Local Contact or Local Group in your area why not consider volunteering yourself?

You will also find an easy-to-complete Readership Survey at the centre of the magazine. The first part of the survey asks how we can improve *ACT Now* and whether we should rename the magazine. The second part of the survey asks you to help identify the training courses, conferences, retreats and houseparties you want ACT to organise. If you

belong to ACT Scotland, ACTW or NIACT please feel free to send your survey to ACT and we will forward responses to this part of the survey to your relevant Association for consideration.

The inclusion of a colourful pull-out Prayer Diary is a further innovation. The Prayer Diary is divided into three easy-to-use sections. The first section lists date-specific prayer concerns so you can pray for meetings and special events just before they take place. The second focuses on educational concerns in a specific region of the world. The third section contains longer prayers which can be used as they are or adapted to suit a prayer meeting or an act of worship.

With your help and support *ACT Now* magazine will continue to strive to meet the needs of Christians working in schools and colleges across the UK and around the world.

I hope you enjoy this edition.

Rupert Kaye



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 20–30 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 photos

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

Autumn (September) 2004

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

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 by **1 March 2005**.