



editor's thoughts

ACT Now is your magazine

This edition of *ACT Now* includes emails, letters, prayers and articles submitted by members of each of the four Associations of Christian Teachers in the UK. This magazine really *is* the magazine for Christians in education.

Of the nine letters and eight emails I received in response to items carried in the Spring 2006 edition of *ACT Now*, seven letters and five emails are included in this issue. As you will see, much of the correspondence was in response to the articles by Sylvia Baker and Pete Moore which so ably debated the origins of life on earth.

As well as apologising to those whose correspondence – worthy though it was – is not contained in this publication, I would also like to take this opportunity to draw a line under our vigorous and enlightening evolution-creation debate. Much has been said; no doubt there is still more to be said. Nonetheless, my feeling is that: (a) we have done justice to the topic; and (b) it is time to move on.

In this, the 35th anniversary year of ACT's formation, **Richard Wilkins** begins his account of the Association's walk with God by first exploring its pre-history. He tells how, in 1926, Tom Dyer resolved to organise an annual holiday get-together for Christian teachers. This, in turn, led to the launch of the Teachers' Prayer Bond – an antecedent of today's ACT.

Barry Mason urges us to see the 2006 FIFA World Cup as an opportunity to engage with, and motivate, young people. Why not host an 'international soccer tournament' at school? What about

comparing and contrasting the values (and rules) of sport to the values (and rules) of Christianity, or designing new team strips, or writing match reports, or producing radio/TV programmes, or compiling match and player statistics as the competition progresses?!

Trevor Cooling is Director of the *Transforming Lives* project. In his article he reflects on what it means to be 'called to teach' and considers the plight of Christians who enter teaching with a clear sense of calling and vocation but subsequently leave because, for one reason or another, it doesn't work out.

Transforming Lives and *ACT Now* magazine jointly invite Christians working in education to share their professional testimony. When and how did God call you to teach? How has God guided and taught you, and how has He used you to bless others? What have been the high points and low points of your career? What does your vocation mean to you? What does it mean to serve Christ in an educational setting?

Please consider sharing your experiences with other *ACT Now* readers. The more testimonies we receive – from student and newly qualified teachers to those who are long-retired; from headteachers to teaching assistants – the better. Likewise, I would love to receive articles from Christians working in schools and colleges in Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland, England and even further afield!

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 20–40 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. All other items should be 500–1,500 words in length. Longer articles may be considered for publication in an abridged form.

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 must carry the writer's name and

contact details. Articles and letters must also come with a brief biographical note about the writer (50 to 80 words in length) 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 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.

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.

ACT Now deadlines

Autumn (September) 2006 All prayer requests (for the period 1 September 2006 to 31 January 2007), emails and letters to the editor, resource reviews, articles, etc should arrive at the ACT Office no later than **15 June 2006**.

Spring (January) 2007 All prayer requests (for the period 1 January to 31 May 2007), emails and letters to the editor, resource reviews, articles, etc should arrive at the ACT Office no later than **15 October 2006**.

Summer (May) 2007 All prayer requests (for the period 1 May to 30 September 2007), emails and letters to the editor, resource reviews, articles, etc should arrive at the ACT Office no later than **15 February 2007**.