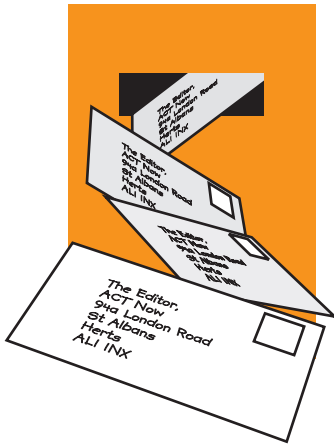


# notes in the post



## Dear Editor

After reading *The Glory Boys* by Derek Lindley in the Spring issue of *ACT Now*, I am convinced that unless corporal punishment is reinstated soon, the education system will go into meltdown.

Although many parents and ordinary members of the public would – ‘behind closed doors’ – give assent to this notion, it remains something of an anathema to ‘experts’ and ‘educationists’. If I were to voice my remedy for today’s spiralling indiscipline in a school staffroom I would surely illicit a barrage of scornful cries: ‘unenlightened!’, ‘medieval!’, ‘barbaric!’.

Fear is a God-given instinct. It is essential to self-preservation; it saves one from plunging over a cliff, swimming in crocodile-infested waters and even from driving too fast wherever speed cameras have been installed. Yet we deliberately deprive our children from developing a healthy fear of danger and facing up to the potentially painful consequences of foolish behaviour.

The rising crime rate amongst teenagers and juniors can no longer be attributed to harsh disciplinary measures, because this generation has never experienced them!

*He who spares the rod hates his son, but he who loves him is careful to discipline him*

*PROVERBS 13:24 (NIV)*

## Dear Editor

On a recent trip to a South Asian city I was impressed by the opportunities available for English-speaking teachers, especially for those with experience in core subjects at secondary level. There are also good opportunities for school administrators.

Students who go to English-medium schools in these countries may well become leaders or change-makers of their countries – and many of their parents are leaders today.

Although the country I visited was a Muslim country, I was warmly received because of its culture of hospitality. I had full freedom to move around, and never felt in danger – in spite of the perception one often has of Muslim countries through the media. In fact because of the religious

*Do not withhold discipline from a child; if you punish him with the rod he will not die. Punish him with the rod and save his soul from death*

*PROVERBS 23:13-14 (NIV)*

What is cruel and harsh is to allow children to develop such ungovernable characters that the only way of dealing with them is to lock them up in prison.

If I had been the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Pope, Billy Graham or Nicky Cruz, having been asked to support Derek Lindley in prayer, I would have answered that I was praying that society would acknowledge what the Bible has to say about disciplining children with a rod.

We don’t need miracles wrought through prayer to make our children obey authority, we simply need to follow the instructions God has already given us. We need to heed the Bible’s timeless truth.

I have hesitated to write this letter. I shrink, quite naturally, from inflicting pain on anyone, but where would we be if surgeons turned away from the risk of inflicting pain in order to save someone’s life?

Yours in Christ

David Skinner

nature of the country I had many discussions regarding spiritual issues and faith with those I met.

The local salary was not high compared to UK standards but local costs are equally low, and one’s salary can be easily supplemented by providing personal tuition. Consequently it is not difficult to have a very comfortable lifestyle if one has reasonable skills and good experience.

I am writing to ask whether any of your readers would be open to praying about applying for such vacancies as they provide good opportunities to serve in the development of these countries. I would be happy to provide further information to anyone who was interested.

Yours sincerely

Suneel Shivdasani

### More information

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