



editor's mailbox

Subject: giving 10% of 10%
ACT Now issue: Spring 2006
 Item responded to: Arthur Jones' article

Dear Editor

Arthur Jones is quite right to call upon Christian teacher associations and churches to do more to support Christian educators. But we must not fall into the trap of always expecting organisations or other individuals to provide support to us when we are slow to offer support to organisations or other individuals.

If we want ACT, ACT Scotland, ACTW and NIACT to do more then we – their members and supporters – must be sacrificially generous in the way we give to them of our time, talents and money. How many of us tithe our time, talents and money? How many of us see the four ACTs in the UK as worthy recipients of that tithe?

I seem to remember that Rupert Kaye, ACT's Chief Executive, once asked members to tithe their tithe. He pointed out that if every ACT member gave 10% of their 10% to ACT, then the Association would receive 1% of the cumulative income of its entire membership. Even allowing for the fact that ACT has many members who are on low incomes, it might not be unreasonable to estimate that the mean income of ACT members is at least £14,000. Multiplying this nominal figure by a membership of 1,800 yields £252,000 (almost £100,000 more than last year's ACT budget)!

If we have the courage to GIVE, really GIVE, to our respective ACT, just imagine the wonderful ways God will be able to bless and multiply those resources for the benefit of Christians working in schools and colleges right across the UK.

Eleanor Edwards

Dear Editor

One of the joys of being a retired teacher is that you can choose when to go into the classroom. On a couple of occasions since I hung up my white-board cleaner, I have responded to urgent requests from headteachers for me to step back into school to cover for an emergency in the RE Department, and have been able to negotiate my timetable. Of course, there are many other ways in which retired teachers can be of real use to the profession, and this letter is an attempt to suggest some possible ideas in the hope that other *ACT Now* readers might want to add to this discussion.

In my opinion, ACT should be looking for ways to harness the experience and expertise of retired and soon-to-be retired teachers. I wonder whether it would be worth establishing a simple mentoring system that would put student teachers and NQTs

in touch with those of us who have been there, done that and bought the T-shirt.

Just imagine this scenario: Sally is in her probationary year. She is at her wits' end with a class of unruly children and is seriously considering handing in her resignation. She has the phone number of a retired ACT member who is able to reassure her, pray with/for her and offer her some useful tips that she can use with that awkward class next week. As well as sharing some ideas about how to teach Italian Unification / glacial erosion / Boyle's Law more succinctly, a retired Christian teacher could also help Sally to relate her faith to her work; helping her to assess, plan and teach more 'Christianly'.

Are there any other oldies out there who would be interested in offering professional Christian mentoring to those new to the profession? Please drop me a line if you would support such a scheme.

Secondly, it occurs to me that retired and soon-to-be retired teachers might be well-placed to serve ACT in five other ways:

- by volunteering to be an ACT Local Contact and/or Event Organiser;
- by volunteering to serve on the ACT Board of Directors;
- by writing for *ACT Now*;
- by getting involved in ACT and/or SVN (Senior Volunteer Network) projects overseas;
- by praying earnestly for ACT directors, office staff and members.

David Edgington

Subject: a prompt for prayer
ACT Now issue: Spring 2006
 Item responded to: David Edgington's letter

Dear Editor

Mr Edgington wondered whether *ACT Now* has ever helped anyone else.

The answer is a resounding YES.

I am happy to say that *ACT Now* was a source of great blessing, encouragement and challenge when I worked in school. Now, even though it is almost twelve years since I retired from the classroom, I still love to read *ACT Now*. The magazine continues to bless, encourage and challenge me and I often find myself responding in prayer to the matters discussed.

Maggie Davies