

ACT news and reports

Belief and Being in School

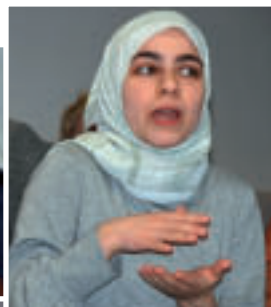
I was one of the 44 delegates who attended the *Belief and Being in School* conference at Staverton Park Hotel near Daventry, Northamptonshire, on Friday 14 and Saturday 15 March 2008. The event was organised by the Christian Muslim Forum and was aimed at Christians and Muslims teaching in a secular environment.

Approximately two-thirds of the delegates were Christians and ACT was well represented. In attendance were a number of the Association's stalwarts including Geoff Coggins (ACT Director), Trevor Cooling (former ACT employee, currently Director of Transforming Lives), Jackie Gooding (former ACT Director), Arthur Jones (Chair of ACT) and Rupert Kaye (ACT Chief Executive).

I belong to the Association of Christian Teachers, but there was a significant moment on Saturday when it dawned on me that, for Christians and Muslims alike, our faith gives us an extra dimension as teachers. I am a Christian teacher, but I am also a teacher of faith who – like my Jewish, Muslim and Sikh colleagues – faces the everyday challenges presented by those who argue that religion, faith and spirituality have no right to exist in the public arena.

With that in mind, it was wonderful to find out that this conference about people of faith working in education had attracted positive media interest from local BBC radio. An interviewer asked me why I had chosen to attend. My response was neither erudite nor deeply spiritual, but it was sincere: 'I have been teaching Muslim students for sixteen years. This is the first opportunity I've had to meet

Muslims in a social context, which is lovely because



usually I've been the "boss" in the classroom and I've so looked forward to just having a laugh with people.'

When I first trained as a TEFL teacher I taught English for Speakers of Other Languages to an outreach group of Pakistani women in Ashton-under-Lyne. It was such a joyful and positive experience that there were times when I felt guilty about being paid! The women were very supportive of each other and I was very much aware of the values we shared. They knew that I was a practising Christian and I shared in their celebrations at Eid and, although we didn't share the same faith, we were always respectful of each others' beliefs.

I now teach spoken English to eleven high school students – seven of whom are Muslim – who have English as an Additional Language. I read the Qur'an to gain an insight into their beliefs and, whilst they know I'm no expert, they at least appreciate that I am interested in Islam and ensure that they feel valued.

The *Belief and Being in School* conference was a wonderful experience. It was clear to me, as I'm sure it was to my Christian and Muslim colleagues, that none of us need to be reminded by the UK Government that 'Every Child Matters'. As people of faith we have so much in common and share many of the same attitudes towards the children in our care. Every single child matters to us because we believe every single child matters to God.

■ **Alaine Sheppard**
Member of the Chartered Institute of Linguists

Forthcoming ACT Saturday events

For more details, please visit the 'Events' section of the ACT website: www.christians-in-education.org.uk

Saturday 31 May 2008

Hosted by Merseyside ACT Group

Seven tips for highly effective behaviour management

This practical seminar for teaching assistants, teachers, Sunday school teachers, youth club leaders and parents will be led by Rupert Kaye.

At: Bridge Chapel Centre, Heath Road, Liverpool L19 4XR

Saturday 14 June 2008

Hosted by Plymouth ACT Group

Making a difference: how to be a positive Christian witness in your school/college workplace

This practical seminar for Christians working in education will be led by Rupert Kaye.

At: Hope Baptist Church, Peverell Corner, Peverell Park Road, Plymouth PL3 4QG

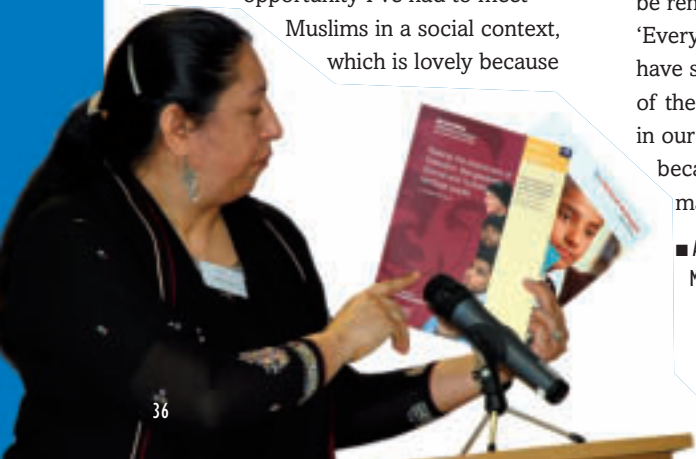
Saturday 21 June 2008

Hosted by Newham/East London ACT Group

Finding rest and renewal

This quiet day for Christians working in education will be led by Alison MacTier.

At: St John's Church, Broadway, Stratford, London E15 1NG



ACT's Annual Day Conference for Christians in Education (incorporating ACT's AGM)

Fearfully and wonderfully made

AN AUDIENCE WITH DAVID MICHAEL CARRILLO

Saturday 11 October 2008, 10.30am–4.30pm

London Institute for Contemporary Christianity (LICC),
St Peter's, Vere Street, London W1G 0DQ

A beautiful church in the heart of London's bustling West End, situated close to Oxford Street

The keynote speaker

David Michael Carrillo (Ka-Re-Yo) is a remarkable man. He is an award winning singer and an inspirational Christian speaker of international repute.

As well as singing beloved hymns, well known worship songs and his own Bible-based compositions, David Michael will be talking about his personal experiences of having Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), learning disabilities, and being rejected by his peers. He is the author of *Fearfully and Wonderfully Made: My Christian Journey with ADHD* (Lulu.com, 2006).



About the day

A time to:

- pray and praise
- meet old friends
- make new friends
- feel part of the ACT family
- vote at the ACT AGM
- enjoy a buffet lunch
- be challenged, blessed, uplifted and refreshed
- visit the ACT stall and buy some ACT mugs and books.

Programme

10.30am	Welcome and registration Hot and cold drinks available
11.00am	Opening worship
11.30am	Session 1: David Michael Carrillo
12.45pm	Lunch Hot and cold drinks available
1.30pm	Session 2: David Michael Carrillo
2.45pm	Refreshment break Hot and cold drinks available
3.00pm	ACT Annual General Meeting
3.45pm	Prayer Focus
4.00pm	Closing worship
4.30pm	Final comments and farewell

About the AGM

Formal notice is hereby given that the 37th Annual General Meeting of the Association of Christian Teachers will be held on Saturday 11 October 2008 at 3pm at LICC, St Peter's, Vere Street, London W1G 0DQ. (The AGM will last approx. 45 minutes. It is a small but essential part of ACT's Annual Day Conference for Christians in Education. All ACT members are invited to attend.)



Registered Charity No. 295328

BOOKING FORM

I/we should like to book place(s) at ACT's Annual Day Conference for Christians in Education in London on Saturday 11 October 2008.

Name(s):

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Home address:

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Postcode:

Email:

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Home/mobile tel:

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I/we should like to order ACT Day buffet lunch(es) at a cost of £7.50 per person and enclose a cheque payable to 'ACT' (payment with booking please).

My/our dietary (or other) requirements:

vegetarian vegan gluten free other (please specify)

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Please note: although there is no charge for those wishing to attend this event, all those present will be invited to make a thank offering towards the cost of organising this conference and in support of ACT's ongoing ministry.

Please return this form to: ACT, 94a London Road, St Albans, Herts AL1 1NX