



## Editor's thoughts

### The power of workplace testimony

When was the last time you attended a church service that included a time of testimony? I can't help wondering why we don't invite Christians to share their workplace testimony. I for one would love to know how God works in, with and through Christian accountants and Christian taxi drivers. And I'm sure non-educators would love to hear testimonies from Christians working in universities, colleges and schools. I know I would!

With this in mind, you'll be pleased to know that this issue of *ACT Now* contains three excellent testimonies written by – yes, you guessed it! – Christian educators.

**Alison Lock** is the ACT Local Contact for Cirencester and a headteacher. In 'Reservoirs of hope', she reflects on the need to make time in our often hectic and overloaded lives for personal spiritual renewal and refreshment. She considers how her faith has influenced and been influenced by her professional and personal experiences. Her testimony includes times of loneliness and isolation as well as times of friendship and community; times of hurt and challenge as well as times of happiness and achievement.

**Ruth Mollart** is an English, drama and media teacher. In her article, 'Linking schools, counting cabbages and changing the world', she looks back on her experiences of visiting schools in Kalomo, Zambia, on behalf of a London-based charity called African Revival. Her testimony tells of the

joy of teaching a group of eager adult learners and being blessed by the sweet songs of children. It also tells of profound individual poverty and need. She writes: 'Being here just makes me think what a difference "serving" makes to *me*, whereas the actual aim is to make a difference to the people around me.'

**Harold Klassen** is the Director of Transforming Teachers. He spoke at the 2007 ACT Day conference in Liverpool. In his article, '3D Christian teaching', Harold writes about the key lessons he has learned over a 40-year career in education. His testimony focuses on his journey from being 'a Christian who teaches' to being 'a Christian teacher'. Relating his personal experiences to biblical truths, Harold says, 'God is involved in whatever I am teaching because He created it (past) and sustains it (present) for His own purposes (future). If I don't see Him in, or know His purposes for, my subjects, I need to start looking.'

I hope these three testimonies will help to remind us all of the importance of making time to reflect on our own experiences carefully and prayerfully, and the importance of sharing our experiences and insights with others.

Yours in Christ,

### 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 author prior to submission. All items must carry the author's name and contact details. Articles and letters must also come with a

brief biographical note about the author (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).

#### Photographs and illustrations

Photographs can be accepted in two formats: (i) analogue (ie 'Kodak' prints); and (ii) digital. Analogue photos should be sent as clearly labelled unmounted originals, eg with a sticky label on the back (giving a photo caption/title and contact name). Digital photos should be sent as JPEGs unmodified from camera/scanner and at the highest resolution available (preferably 300ppi). As a rule the minimum file size is 800kb, however files 2,000kb or larger are preferred. Photos that do not meet these criteria cannot be accepted for publication.

Line drawings should be in black ink on white paper.

All other artwork should be provided as a plain original without lettering or numbering.

#### 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.

#### ACT Now deadlines

**Summer (May) 2008** All prayer requests (for the period 1 May to 30 September 2008), emails and letters to the editor, resource reviews, articles, etc should arrive at the ACT Office no later than **15 February 2008**.

**Autumn (September) 2008** All prayer requests (for the period 1 September 2008 to 31 January 2009), emails and letters to the editor, resource reviews, articles, etc should arrive at the ACT Office no later than **15 June 2008**.

**Spring (January) 2009** All prayer requests (for the period 1 January to 31 May 2009), emails and letters to the editor, resource reviews, articles, etc should arrive at the ACT Office no later than **15 October 2008**.