

# Journal of Education & Christian Belief

Vol 1 No 1 (Spring 1997)

## Contents

Contributors	2
<i>John Shortt</i> Editorial	3
Notes and News	5
<i>L. Philip Barnes</i> Religion, Religionism and Religious Education: Fostering Tolerance and Truth in Schools	7
<i>Signe Sandsmark</i> Is Faith the Purpose of Christian Education?	25
<i>David W. Smith</i> Beyond Accord: Can 'Spiritual Development' Move us Forward?	33
<i>Brian V. Hill</i> Towards Accord: A Rejoinder to David W. Smith	47
<i>David I. Smith</i> Response to Brian V. Hill	50
<i>Adrian Brown</i> Oh No, Po Mo!?	53
Book Reviews	63
Subject Index to <i>Spectrum</i> Vols 22-28	83
Authors' Index to <i>Spectrum</i> Vols 22- 28	86

# Journal of Education & Christian Belief

Vol 1 No 1 (Spring 1997)

## Book Reviews

**Philip E. Johnson**

*Reason in the Balance: The Case against Naturalism in Science, Law & Education*

Reviewer: L. Philip Barnes (p.64)

**Colin Johnson**

*Christian Teachers and World Faiths*

Reviewer: Trevor Cooling (p.64)

**Brian Gates (ed.)**

*Freedom and Authority in Religions and Religious Education*

Reviewer: William K. Kay (p.66)

**Fiona Carnie, Martin Large & Mary Tasker (eds)**

*Freeing Education: Steps Towards Real Choice and Diversity in Schools*

Reviewer: Pam MacKenzie (p.67)

**Michael Bonnett**

*Children's Thinking: Promoting Understanding in the Primary School*

Reviewer: Philip Metcalf (p.68)

**Priscilla Chadwick**

*Schools of Reconciliation – Issues in Joint Roman Catholic and Anglican Education*

Reviewer: Bobby Jennings (p.68)

**Anton Wessels**

*Europe: Was it ever Really Christian?*

Reviewer: David Smith (p.70)

**Jeff Astley & Leslie Francis (eds)**

*Christian Theology and Religious Education: Connections and Contradictions*

Reviewer: George Skinner (p.71)

**Derek Webster**

*Collective Worship in Schools: Contemporary Approaches*

Reviewer: Janet King (p.72)

**Chris Wright**

*Developing Collective Worship: a Guide for Schools*

Reviewer: Janet King (p.73)

**Jackie Hughes & Yvonne Collins**

*Key Stages: Developing Primary School Collective Worship*

Reviewer: Janet King (p.73)

**Mark Halstead & Monica Taylor (eds)**  
*Values in Education and Education in Values*  
Reviewer: Ruth Deakin Crick (p.74)

**Bonnidell Clouse**  
*Teaching for Moral Growth: a Guide for the  
Christian Community, Teachers, Pastors and Parents*  
Reviewer: Keith Watson (p.75)

**Ron Best (ed.)**  
*Education, Spirituality and the Whole Child*  
Reviewer: Chris Wright (p.79)

**John Bradford**  
*Caring for the Whole Child: a Holistic Approach to Spirituality*  
Reviewer: Chris Wright (p.79)

**Alan Brown & Joan Furlong**  
*Spiritual Development in Schools – Invisible to the Eye*  
Reviewer: John Westwell (p.80)

**John Burn & Nigel J. McQuoid**  
*Christianity and the School Curriculum – What is Possible?*  
Reviewer: John Westwell (p.80)

# Journal of Education & Christian Belief

Vol 1 No 1 (Spring 1997)

## Editorial

WELCOME TO THE pages of the very first issue of our new international journal! From this issue, *Spectrum* is replaced, after 28 years of service to those interested in developing a Christian perspective on education, by a new journal with a new format and a more international perspective, *Journal of Education & Christian Belief*.

We are particularly pleased to have the assistance of an international panel of Editorial Advisers in addition to that which continues to be given by our UK-based Editorial Board. Our thanks to these eminent scholars for agreeing to be involved in this way in *JECB* along with all the other commitments of their busy lives. We will be adding to their number in coming years.

Our concern is to broaden our focus from the more exclusively British one of former years to issues in education and Christian belief which are also of interest to people in other parts of the world, especially although not exclusively in Europe. (That is not to say that *Spectrum* was only of interest within the UK – a survey of our subscribers' list a few years ago revealed that they came from over 30 countries!) It is striking to discover in discussions at international conferences that the issues of the moment are often the same ones in widely different parts of the world. At the same time, the different cultural-theological perspectives of people in other countries throw fresh light on our own thinking and the approaches we adopt in our own national situations and, indeed, in our own local communities and schools.

We will therefore seek to publish articles and to review books which have implications for our educational theory and practice whether we are based in the UK, another European country or elsewhere in the world. We have also included a new feature in the form of our *Notes and News* for which we invite information from you on conferences, publications and events which would be of interest to our widely-based readership. (You will notice from this that the present 'home' of *JECB*, in that it is the base of both its editors, is shortly to move to new accommodation not far away. Our postal and e-mail addresses will continue to reach us for some time yet.)

We also plan to include a *Correspondence* feature which will provide you with an opportunity to respond briefly to an article or a review or to raise an issue of your own. Submissions of longer responses or treatments of issues are always welcome in the form of articles for publication. So, whether long or short, article or letter/fax/e-mail, we look forward to hearing from you!

Philip Barnes provides us with the first article in the first issue. He makes a careful study of, and response to, John Hull's views on 'religionism'. John Hull is widely travelled and his writings about religious education are very widely known across the world. Even where they are not known, issues of pluralism, tolerance and intolerance, and the like are ones we all have to face. Some of the illustrations in Philip Barnes' article come from the UK scene including his own context of Northern Ireland but they surely have their counterparts in many other countries. It is good to have such a careful analysis of concepts and arguments to advance discussion of these issues. (Other contributions on these matters in articles or letters are welcome!)

Signe Sandmark brings a Lutheran perspective to bear on discussions of what characterises Christian education. A more Reformed (Calvinist?) approach has sometimes tended to dominate these discussions in the UK and some other parts of the world so it is good to have what may be for many something refreshingly different. The danger is of a knee-jerk reaction on the part of those of us to whom it is less familiar. We are planning to have a major article in a future issue in which Ken Badley, Signe Sandmark and others from a range of cultural and theological backgrounds all bring their perspectives to bear upon the issue of what characterises Christian education.

Philip Barnes says that John Hull irons out life stances in RE. In his article on 'spiritual development', David Smith suggests that Brian Hill tends to restrict comparison of life stances to RE and to reduce their importance in the major part of the curriculum. Brian Hill doesn't altogether agree! David Smith points out the large areas of agreement between them and then suggests, quite rightly, that the discussion leaves much for others to 'judge, ... explore and discuss'. Can you resist the invitation? We are grateful to David and Brian for being willing to dialogue in this way and look forward to others joining in and taking forward the discussion of an issue which is both so topical and so important to a Christian perspective on education.

Adrian Brown took time out to write for us during a recent sabbatical term as a Farmington Fellow at Oxford. He was taking a break from the classroom to research issues of science, religion and 'Po Mo'. His contribution is a review article on four recent books on 'Po Mo', two of them tackling educational issues and all four of interest to the Christian in education. So what is 'Po Mo'? Turn to his article and see! (... 'oh, *that* Po Mo!', I hear you say. Well, it is coming to a school near you and is probably already there in the attitudes of your mass-media indoctrinated students! So read on!)

From a review article to a large set of book reviews covering issues from naturalistic science through religious education, school assemblies and worship, Christianity in Europe, moral education, spiritual development (again!) to the possibilities for the whole school curriculum and much else besides. Something for everybody, we expect, and a lot for many, we hope.

I hope that the contents of this first issue of *JECB* (and of each of those to come) will take us forward at least a small step in our individual understandings of education and Christian belief.

***John Shortt***