



editor's thoughts

ACT Now is your magazine

What does a typical *ACT Now* reader look like? To be honest, they probably look, feel, hurt and laugh a lot like you and I do.

We know that *ACT Now* is read by women and men who accept Jesus as Lord and Saviour, as well as those who do not yet call themselves 'Christian' but earnestly seek to know and love Jesus. It is read by those who are confident in their faith and those who struggle; by those who are open about being Christian and those who are less confident.

We also know that *ACT Now* is read by women and men working in every phase of education: tertiary, secondary, middle, primary and pre-school. Some readers work in the independent (privately-funded) sector, others work in the maintained (state-funded) sector; yet others are home-educators or work outside education altogether.

And, of course, *ACT Now* is read by teachers of all subjects – not just RE, PSHE and Citizenship!

Whether you are an experienced learning assistant in Brighton or a student teacher in Belfast in the very first term of your course; a retired teacher in Abergavenny or a college principal in Aberdeen; a school governor in Louth or an education researcher in London... I invite you to think of *ACT Now* as *your* magazine. So, what does *your* magazine contain today? Plenty! For example...

Alison MacTier explains how roadblocks, checkpoints, walls and fences inside Israel and the

Occupied Territories are impacting on the everyday lives of school staff and students. School journeys that once took minutes now take hours. In fact sometimes the journey to school has to be abandoned completely. Now, as the Israeli Government steps up its involvement in the 'war against terror', things look set to go from bad to worse.

Richard Wilkins continues his account of ACT's history by focusing on the first 25 years: from birth to jubilee. We read how, in 1971, three 'fellowships' – the Teachers' Prayer Fellowship (TPF), the Christian Education Fellowship (CEF) and the Inter-School Christian Fellowship (ISCF) – merged to form one 'association': the Association of Christian Teachers. We then hear how, over time, this one UK-wide association became four: one for each of the home nations.

In 2004 **Barbara Todd** moved from junior school headship to tutoring and lecturing in a university primary PGCE (Post Graduate Certificate of Education) department. In 'Those who *can* teach, teach teachers', Barbara compares and contrasts her present and former roles. In so doing she offers a number of reflections, insights and challenges. Perhaps this article will be used by God to call other *ACT Now* readers into teacher training and education research.

Shalom.

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

Spring (January) 2007 All prayer requests (for the period 1 January to 31 May 2007), emails and letters to the editor, resource reviews, articles, etc should arrive at the ACT Office no later than **15 October 2006**.

Summer (May) 2007 All prayer requests (for the period 1 May to 30 September 2007), emails and letters to the editor, resource reviews, articles, etc should arrive at the ACT Office no later than **15 February 2007**.

Autumn (September) 2007 All prayer requests (for the period 1 September 2007 to 31 January 2008), emails and letters to the editor, resource reviews, articles, etc should arrive at the ACT Office no later than **15 June 2007**.