



Editor's thoughts

Christ is the world's light

In the UK the autumn term is traditionally a time for new beginnings (the start of the academic year; the start of the new liturgical year), thankfulness (harvest festivals), gift-giving and family get-togethers (Christmas, Diwali, Eid ul-Fitr, Hanukkah). It is also, as the days grow shorter and the nights grow longer, a time for people of all ages to ponder the spiritual significance of light shining in the darkness.

At schools, colleges, universities and churches teachers and learners will gather at Nativity plays, Christingle services and carol concerts to sing about Jesus. Many will recite the words so ably written by Fred Pratt Green:

Christ is the world's light,
Christ and none other;
born in our darkness,
He became our brother
if we have seen Him,
we have seen the Father:
Glory to God on high!

Christ is the world's peace,
Christ and none other;
no one can serve Him,
and despise another.
Who else unites us,
one in God the Father?
Glory to God on high!

Welcome to the Autumn 2009 edition

I pray that God will bless the contents of this issue of *ACT Now* to energise and encourage you in all you do to serve Him in education.

Trevor Cooling quotes Barack Obama ('The single most important factor in determining a student's achievement isn't the colour of his skin or where he comes from, but who the child's teacher is') and enthuses about an event for would-be teachers filled with games, songs and ... prancing pirates!

Lorna Cyrus, Rupert Kaye and Carol Morrison mark Black History Month by setting a challenging quiz. Do you know the year in which Martin Luther King Jr was assassinated? Can you name the first Black person to be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize? Do you know who wrote *The Color Purple*?

Sandra Jones writes about the most challenging thing she has ever done in her working life, ie taking on the simultaneous headship of two schools – a Church primary school and a community intermediate school. She concludes by saying that her steadfast Christian faith was the key to her success.

John Muir and John Shortt report on the European Educators' Christian Association (EurECA) conference held in Vevey, Switzerland, in May 2009. The keynote speaker was David Smith, co-editor of the *Journal of Education and Christian Belief* and a former ACT employee at The Stapleford Centre.

Arthur J. Jones

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 or write a poem, please send your contribution to: **The Editor**, *ACT Now*, 94a London Road, St Albans, Herts AL1 1NX.

Presentation and submission

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. Feature articles should be approx 500-1,500 words in length. Longer articles may be considered for publication.

All contributions should be submitted as a Microsoft Word document on a CD or as an email attachment. Naturally, all items should have been carefully spell-checked and proof-read

by the author prior to submission. All items must carry the author's name and contact details. Feature articles must also include: (i) a brief biographical note about the author (50 to 80 words in length) written in the third person; and (ii) a portrait photograph of the author.

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 2mb or larger are preferred. Photos that do not meet these criteria cannot be accepted for publication.

Illustrations and logos may be included where these are relevant. Line drawings should be in black ink on white paper.

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

Editing and copyright

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, an 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 (March) 2010 All emails and letters to the editor, resource reviews, articles, etc should arrive at the ACT Office no later than **11 December 2009**.