



editor's thoughts

A Christian worldview

Many Christians working in education are worried that they might 'get into trouble' if they are open about their faith. Others believe they will not progress in their career unless they conform to secular expectations. Yet others have come to accept the myth that education should be: (a) secular; and (b) value free.

ACT Now aims to help Christians to develop an alternative vision for education. Firstly, we need to accept that God is bigger than education and that all knowledge and understanding, and all learning and teaching is subject to His love and law. As Christians, we should categorically reject the notion of a 'secular-sacred divide' because, everything we think, say and do is an act of worship which should bring glory to God. In short, as Christians working in education, we should not leave our faith at home; we should take it to work with us every day!

With this in mind, *ACT Now* aims to help its readers develop a 'Christian worldview' (a way of seeing every aspect of life – including work – as part of God's plan for His world) which informs and shapes attitudes about: curriculum; learning and teaching; behaviour management; assessment and evaluation; and relationships with pupils, parents, teaching and non-teaching staff, and the wider community.

A Christian Manifesto for Education

What would science, maths, English, French, geography, history and economics lessons look and

feel like if they were taught 'Christianly'? Would the subject content change? Would the learning environment look different? Would there be more classroom discussion, or less? Would the teacher share her/his Christian beliefs and values with the class? Would the Bible be quoted? Would pupils be prayed for? Would they be prayed with? Would pupil behaviour improve? Would the fruit of the Spirit abound? Would school inspectors approve?!

After all, how should a Christian science teacher approach Darwinian macro-evolutionary theory? Can maths be taught in a way that challenges secular assumptions about the world? How should a Christian history teacher respond when the senior management team make it clear that they expect the school to get involved in Gay History Week?

Well, in this issue of *ACT Now* we make a modest start on answering some of these questions. Jackie Thackray tells how she discovered the power of prayer for her pupils, and Andrew Palfreyman shares his experiences as a Christian maths teacher.

One of ACT's most exciting current projects involves the formulation of a brand new *Christian Manifesto for Education* which will aim to tackle all of these issues from a Christian standpoint. The *Christian Manifesto for Education* will not be published until 2006, so there is still plenty of time to get involved. Why not begin by writing an article for *ACT Now* about teaching PE or music or art 'Christianly'?

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 book/film reviews should be a maximum of 300 words in length. All other items should be 500–1,500 words in length. Longer articles may be considered for publication in an edited 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 writer prior to submission. All items must carry the writer's name and contact details. Articles and letters must also come with a

brief biographical note about the writer (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).

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 *ACT Now* magazine unless it is reprinted with the permission of another publication with prior copyright.

Illustrations and photographs

Photographs provided digitally should be as large as possible and as high a resolution as possible eg 5+ megapixels (3.3 megapixels is the absolute minimum accepted). Non-digital

photographs should be sent as clearly labelled unmounted originals (eg with a sticky label on the back).

Line drawings should be in black ink on white paper.

All artwork should have a plain original without lettering or numbering.

ACT Now deadlines

Autumn (September) 2005

All prayer requests (for the period 1 September 2005 to 31 January 2006), articles, letters, etc should arrive at the ACT Office no later than **15 June 2005**.

Spring (January) 2006

All prayer requests (for the period 1 January to 31 May 2006), articles, letters, etc should arrive at the ACT Office no later than **15 October 2005**.

Summer (May) 2006

All prayer requests (for the period 1 May to 30 September 2006), articles, letters, etc should arrive at the ACT Office no later than **15 February 2006**.