

Subject: ACT's pre-history  
 ACT Now issue: Summer 2006  
 Item responded to: Richard Wilkins' article

Dear Editor

Just a little note to say how I appreciated Richard Wilkins' historical 'look back' in the Summer 2006 edition of *ACT Now*.

I was myself a member of the Teachers' Prayer Bond from 1941 when I started teaching. Although I don't think I ever attended a TPB conference, I remember how very important they were to those who went. The photos accompanying Richard's article are most interesting and I recognise quite a few faces and especially the 'elderly' (as I thought they were then) delegates in their large brimmed hats!

I was in fact one of the people Richard mentioned who was a member of TPB, CEF and ISCF. I know we wondered how the amalgamation would work and really give thanks for the wonderful way in which those responsible have made it possible to weld the three together and bring in many young teachers to what could have become 'an old folks club'.

I look forward to reading Part 2 and would like to take this opportunity to thank the present ACT Board for the way they are leading the work forward.

Ruth Naish

### Dear Editor

I was most interested to read Richard Wilkins' article entitled 'A brief history of ACT – part 1' (*ACT Now*, Summer 2006). I was privileged to be involved in the Teachers' Prayer Fellowship when I left college in 1960 to begin teaching. I was fascinated to see the photographs of TPF conferences, some of which I attended. I had a great respect for Mr and Mrs Dyer, Dr Friday and Brian Monks who appear in the photographs. I also have very good memories of Arthur Blundell on whose staff I served in my second teaching post at Christ Church JMI School, Ware.

I attended the TPF Conference in Alexandra Hall, Aberystwyth in 1967. Mr Dyer, knowing of my involvement with church bookstalls, asked me to run a bookstall during the conference with books

that would be of interest to teachers. I was delighted to do so. On the first day of the conference I saw a young lady arriving whom I recognised from when I met her briefly at a Bible Study in Worthing. She did not recognise me! I asked her if she would like to help me run the bookstall and she kindly agreed. To cut a long story short, the young lady, Ann, and I were married on 3 August 1968.

We hosted a TPF prayer meeting in our home in Wolverhampton which was attended by a number of young teachers. I remember that I was once asked to speak at a TPF Conference on the theme, 'Things they didn't tell us.' So, I began by asking the young teachers who met for prayer in our home whether they found their training helpful in preparation for their daily work in the classroom. I reported to the conference that 'teachers are still not being adequately prepared for the rigours of classroom life'. I wonder if things are better now. Perhaps some new entrants to the profession would like to tell us.

I was a member of the TPF Committee when David Blair (of Scripture Union) came to one of our meetings to outline the advantages of TPF, CEF and ISCF coming together. I felt that this was the right way forward as TPF was not really recruiting enough young teachers. I was very glad the merger was agreed and praise God for all that He has done through ACT and, subsequently, through ACTW, ACT Scotland and NIACT as well.

There is a real and ongoing need for ACT to support and equip Christian teachers to work in an increasingly secularist society. We should do all we can to make the services of ACT known in our schools, churches and wherever we come into contact with Christian teachers and those in training.

David Rawlings

Subject: story telling  
 ACT Now issue: Summer 2006  
 Item responded to: Jane Stratford's article

Dear Editor

I would like to say a big and public thank you to Jane Stratford for sharing her story about Jeremy in the Summer 2006 edition of *ACT Now*. As teachers and lecturers we often focus on what our students – whether they are 4 or 14 or much older – 'learn' from us. We do not always stop and think what we can 'learn' from them.

What I appreciated most about Jane's story was the way she reminds us of the times God teaches us through the words and actions of our students. Sometimes a specific situation in the classroom reminds me of a parable or a Psalm. At other times a child – unbeknown to themselves – utters a word of prophecy from the Lord.

It is my prayer that we all open our hearts, minds, ears and eyes to what God might be teaching us through those we teach.

Brian McEwen