



Editor's mailbox

Dear Editor

I am sure many *ACT Now* readers who work in schools and colleges are on the lookout for new ways to share Christian spiritual insights and biblical truths with staff and students. In my experience, inspirational speakers and lively Christian drama and sports ministries are in constant demand. But I wonder how many Christian educators have ever considered inviting Christian magicians, clowns, jugglers, puppeteers, ventriloquists and other entertainers to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Before I give more details I would like to reassure readers by answering the following questions: How can anyone call themselves a Christian and yet practice magic? Isn't a 'Christian magician' a contradiction in terms? Doesn't the Bible forbid magic?

Yes, the Bible does forbid magic and many church people get hung up when we say that we are Christian magicians. Let me stress that what we do is not true magic at all – it is in no way based on occult or supernatural principles. All the tricks performed by members of the Fellowship of Christian Magicians (FCM) are achieved by optical illusions, clever mechanical or mathematical devices, little known scientific principles or straightforward digital dexterity.

Our presentation skills are used to bring honour and glory to God and, when used with discernment, can be an incredibly powerful means of communicating truths and concepts in a way that all-age audiences and congregations will remember long after the presentation is finished.

Many FCM members are ordained Baptist, Church of England, Methodist and Salvation Army minis-

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Subject: Reservoirs of hope
ACT Now issue: Spring 2008
 Item responded to: Alison Lock's article

Dear Editor

For me, *ACT Now* is at its best when it includes the testimony of headteachers, school governors, teaching assistants, teachers, etc. Alison's article was beautiful, heartfelt and uplifting. I found the words 'Don't be afraid' especially comforting as I prepared for our school's Ofsted inspection just before Easter.

Sean Edwards



UNITED KINGDOM

ters. Other members are full-time professional entertainers who are Christians. Sharing our ideas and skills enables us to strengthen each other and build up the Church.

Each year FCM holds a five-day event where members meet, talk, eat and worship together in fellowship. During the day there are lectures, demonstrations and hands-on workshops. In the evenings there are competitions and fun times. Usually, one night is set aside for a public show which tends to prove very popular with schools and churches in the locality.

Finally, it is worth noting that the Fellowship of Christian Magicians website (www.fcruk.org) provides free Christian resources including Gospel talks, puppet scripts, stories and a whole host of other materials suitable for church, school and outreach work. We also run an online forum where people can chat with Christian entertainers. And, of course, if you would like to be put in touch with a Christian entertainer we would be happy to help out.

Peter Gardner

Subject: SACRES
ACT Now issue: Spring 2008
 Item responded to: Julie Grove's article

Dear Editor

Julie Grove's article, 'So, what is a SACRE ... and what does it do?', was excellent. I would like to echo Julie's call for Christians to take an interest in – and, if possible, to get involved in – their local Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education.

Sharon Dawson