

ACTION

“Your word, O Lord, is eternal; it stands firm in the heavens. Your faithfulness continues through all generations; you established the earth and it endures.”
Psalm 119:89-90

Those of you who read the The Christian Institute newsletter (available by e-mail) will be aware of the rise in the number of public employees who are facing difficulties for standing up for their Christian faith. From registrar to nurse, political correctness and legislation conspire to put pressure on believers who are only trying to live out their faith in their workplace. Is it possible that Christian teachers will be next? The answer is unfortunately, yes.

As we seek to stand up for what we believe, we leave ourselves open to accusation of intolerance and offending others. As I read these words, I am encouraged that our God is still in control and His Word is the same as it has always been. We are His people and are called not to deny His Name. If you do face discrimination in any way then please contact us and the Christian Institute so that we can help you in your quest.

We are hoping that we will have our usual seminar at New Horizon this year. We are still awaiting confirmation but we do have a great speaker lined up in John Shortt, the travelling secretary of the EurECA, the European Christian educators' group. John has spoken all over Europe and in the US and is a published author on educational issues. We will keep you informed, once we know the date and topic.

After the autumn posting, the ACT magazine, ACT Now, will become an optional extra to your membership. After our recent survey, it was obvious that some of you were not regular readers of the magazine and so we decided that we would make the magazine an option in our membership. Further information will be available next term.

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 Chairman,
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In Brief

Opportunities to serve abroad:

www.hebronooty.org/staffing.htm

www.logoshope.org/

www.sim.org/index.php/career/education

More Vocational HE

Universities Secretary John Denham is calling for more vocational Higher Education in England but has denied this would require a return to polytechnics.

The Future is Bright

An enterprising Chinese student funded his studies by selling 5 tonnes of oranges. Wu Xiaobin drove two truckloads of mandarin oranges more than 130 miles from his home on a farm in Quzhou to his college in Hangzhou. He sold all of the oranges within an hour of his trucks arriving on campus.

Editorial: A faithful God

Last Transfer Test Results

Credit Crunch

PC Dictionary

News in brief

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The Northern Ireland Association of Christian Teachers

The Northern Ireland Association of Christian Teachers aims to advance and apply the Christian faith in schools and colleges by supporting, uniting, equipping, and representing Christians employed in education.

We're on the
web:
www.niact.org.uk

Last transfer test results in!

You are truly my disciples if you keep obeying my teachings.

John 8: 31

Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples. Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples.

John 18: 35

Transfer test saga continues. With only a few months of this academic year to go there is more confusion than ever about what the future holds for children entering their final year of primary school.

Whatever the rights and wrongs of reform it cannot be right that these children and their parents and teachers are now facing the unknown. Phasing out selection is no longer on the agenda leaving the Minister's recommended criteria (including siblings at school and catchment area) which are currently out for consultation or some form of academic selection as proposed by a significant number of grammar schools.

As the Commission for Catholic Education considers the possibility of selection for some Catholic schools the bizarre prospect of selection divided along religious lines has become a real possibility.

Credit Crunch

Teachers are this years plumbers! It isn't clear who invented the term "credit crunch" and there are those who believe that the constant use of it has had almost as much effect as any financial problems. Economics, like so much of life, is as much about perception as reality. But one unexpected by-product is that teaching has become an attractive profession.

Only a few years ago the recommendation was that every child should be encouraged to go into a "trade". "You can never get a plumber when you need one". It's probably no longer the case but anyhow there were quickly more plumbers than jobs. Teaching was listed in one of the newspapers as the most secure profession/job in a credit crunch (how I hate that phrase!). Suddenly everyone wants to be a teacher.

There weren't many jobs going in the primary sector in Northern Ireland anyway so hopefully some kind of common sense will prevail. Meanwhile this new interest in the profession has been presented by some as an opportunity to cut class sizes and by others to increase the number of men in the job.

Opportunities to Teach Abroad

Hebron School Lushington Hall, Ootacamund, India

Hebron School requires the following teachers. Do you know of any one?

For immediate appointment:

Resident Nurse (Preferably a Nurse Practitioner)

From August 2009:

- Art
- English (able to teach 'A' level Literature)
- Geography
- Modern Languages (French and German)
- Music and Technology (able to teach IGCSE and 'A' level)
- Business Studies ('A' levels only)
- Religious Studies (GCSE and 'A' level and Head of Department)

Prior experience of GCSE/A level is highly desirable unless otherwise indicated. Applicants will only be considered if they are:

- Committed, practising Christians
- Fluent in English
- Suitably qualified – degree plus education diploma/certificate (preferred)
- Willing to serve for a sacrificial salary
- Willing to participate fully in the life of a busy boarding school (including extra-curricular activities and dorm support or parenting)

Faith Academy in Philippines

Faith Academy badly needs a GCSE geography teacher for next year. If you know anyone interested ... just for one year.

Other openings

The following positions need filled by August 2009 (long term or short term interest can be accommodated):

- IGCSE: Biology, Chemistry, Geography, History, Physics
- Primary school classroom teachers (year 1 - 6, P2 - P7): PE, Special Ed.
- Middle School: Computer, Drama, English, ELL, Math, Girls PE, Science, Industrial Arts and Art.

Contact Irene McMahon at imcmahon@omf.org.uk or the OMF office in Belfast.

Hospital Dramas Inspire Girls to Pursue Careers in Medicine

TV programmes are as influential as careers advice when privately educated girls are choosing a future profession according to Jill Berry, the new president of the Girls School Association. A decade ago girls were becoming vets because of Rolf Harris's Animal Hospital.

Now that they are watching ER and Casualty, becoming a doctor is the top career choice among Mrs Berry's pupils.

Mrs Berry (right), head teacher at Dame Alice Harpur School in Bedford, was speaking at the launch of the GSA's new web site: www.mydaughter.co.uk. To mark its launch, the GSA commissioned a poll of 1,000 parents with daughters attending both private and state schools. It found family, friends, teachers and last year's Olympians were seen as the best role models for girls. WAGs, 'It Girls', celebrity magazine, reality TV stars and politicians were the worst.



Multiculturalism and the Dictionary

Lisa Saunders, a mother-of-four from Northern Ireland, was horrified to discover the number of words associated with Christianity that are missing from the latest edition of the Oxford Junior Dictionary.

Words like "aisle", "chapel", "bishop", "disciple", "sin" "minister", and "devil", have been dropped in favour of "blog", "MP3 player", "democratic", and "celebrity", in the 2007 edition of the children's dictionary. According to a story in The Telegraph, she first realised the words were missing when she couldn't find "moss" and "fern," while helping her son with his homework.

When she began to compare with earlier editions she was completely horrified by the vast number of words which had been removed. "We know that language moves on and we can't be fuddy-duddy about it but you don't cull hundreds of important words in order to get in a different set of ICT words" she told The Telegraph.

According to Vineeta Gupta, head of children's dictionaries at Oxford University Press, the changes were made to reflect a "multicultural" society. "People don't go to church as often as before. Our understanding of religion is within multiculturalism, which is why some words such as 'Pentecost' or 'Whitsun' would have been in 20 years ago but not now," he said.

In the Beliefnet Crunchy Con blog Erin Manning described the decision by OUP to discontinue particular words as a form of "verbal engineering". Manning cited Catholic moral theologian William Smith as saying, "All social engineering is preceded by verbal engineering."

"Deciding to drop a word that has already fallen out of use, become obsolete, from a dictionary is not a political act," said Manning, "but removing words still in everyday use just because you've decided they ought not be important in the vocabulary of a modern child most decidedly is."

