

ceas

Bulletin

Scottish Charity Number SCO11263

For those concerned with Ministry among Children

Christian Education Association Scotland

(formerly Scottish Sunday School Union for Christian Education)

October 2006

Issue No 4

Dear Colleague

In this edition of Bulletin we at CEAS have some important news for you. Most of this has to do with training opportunities for leaders in our churches engaged in ministries among children, whether in traditional Sunday School programmes, youth clubs or other means of nurturing children in Christian faith.

As a member of the CTBI agency, The Consultative Group on Ministry among Children, CEAS Trust has been heavily engaged with the new programme, CORE Skills for Children's Work, and in this Bulletin we bring to your attention the opportunity in the very near future for leaders associated with your denomination or group to attend an Introductory Workshop in Glasgow as our guests. Details follow inside.

Last winter we held a most successful and well-attended Workshop for leaders in Children's work led by Martyn Payne of the Bible Reading Fellowship's Children's Unit, Barnabas. In response to popular demand, Martyn has agreed to come back in February of 2007 to lead another session on working with children. Once again CEAS will cover the cost of the day and will make no charge on participants.

Given the supreme importance of attracting children into our organisations and inducting them into the faith and life of the Church we are committed to the encouragement of all leaders to engage in training and the acquisition of basic skills.

We appeal to you to assist us in this task by doing what you can to help us publicise these events and the more general work of CEAS.

We remind you also of the Alistair Dingwall Award designed to encourage those working in the field of the Christian education of Children. If you think you have a candidate who can identify and who would benefit from a programme of more extensive leadership development please contact us.

I repeat an earlier invitation that if there is any way in which you think we can assist your work or engage in a co-operative venture with you please do get in touch. Our funds at present are derived almost exclusively from annual income from investments and are modest. Nevertheless we are keen to use what resources are to hand to encourage the educational ministry of our churches among children.

Yours sincerely

David G Hamilton
Executive Secretary.

Invitation...

...to the CEAS Practical Workshop:

CORE Skills for Children's Work

You are invited to attend the above event, and to encourage as many colleagues as possible to participate. An enrolment form is available at the end of this Bulletin. Please feel free to copy this and distribute it.

The event will be held in Renfield St Stephen's Church Centre, 260 Bath Street, Glasgow, from 10.30 a.m. till 1.00 p.m. with a brief coffee break half way through. Coffee will also be available from 10.00 a.m. during registration. The event is **free of charge** to all who enrol.

The CORE Workshop will be led by **Steve Pearce**, co-author with others in CGMC of the programme. Steve brings a wealth of experience in working with children at home and abroad. He is thoroughly versed in the whole purpose and practice of the CORE material and is keen that the workshop should be practical and of immediate assistance to leaders working in congregations.

The programme is designed to develop and extend amongst leaders key skills for children's ministry. In its entirety, it covers such topics as *Child Development, Leadership Skills, Programme Planning, Children and Community, Pastoral Awareness, and Spirituality and the Bible*. It should be obvious from this that the Introductory Workshop will be just that – *introductory*. The Book specially published to guide leaders through their training and development programme is **CORE Skills for Children's Work** and normally costs £12.99.

Those participating in the CEAS Workshop in November are invited to take advantage of a **special offer**. Those who wish may have a copy of the book reserved for them at the almost **half-price cost of £6.95**. All they need to do is to indicate their wish on the enrolment form and on receipt of payment at the Workshop their reduced-price copy will be available to them.

Those who do not enrol in advance will of course be welcome to attend but copies of the resource book will be available only as far as unreserved stocks last.

The Barnabas Workshop 2007

Martyn Payne of *Barnabas/ brf* will once again lead a number of workshops for children's workers in late February of next year. Martyn is an experienced trainer and author in children's ministries and all who attended his sessions last year spoke with great appreciation of his various contributions.

The CEAS Workshop on "**Step into the Bible**" will be held in the Renfield St Stephen's Church Centre in Glasgow on the morning of Saturday 24th February. Martyn will lead a similar workshop the following afternoon, Sunday, 25th February, in Inverness.

Martyn writes to us: 'In *Step into the Bible* we shall explore together the use of drama with children, both in worship and in learning. Whereas last year we had a double focus on worship and on storytelling, this time I would hope to show how the use of drama may be used to open up the Bible with children. Also the same simple drama techniques spill over into worship'.

Those who know of Martyn's work will know that this will be an exciting and enjoyable workshop suited to *all* leaders, and by no means restricted to those who are heavily into drama.

There will be no charge on participants for this event. CEAS will pick up the tab. All we ask is that you enrol in the event in reasonable time so that we can be best organised to receive you. The Glasgow event will commence at 1030 a.m. with coffee available during registration from 10.00 a.m. In Inverness, the venue will be Ness Bank Church and the event will commence at 2.00 p.m. You will enrolment forms on our website soon.

There will be Barnabas/brf bookstalls at both events.

You can find out more on www.ceas.org.uk and check out the work of Barnabas and their excellent publications and resources on www.barnabasinchurches.org.uk.

Barnabas/brf and schools

We draw the attention of those who teach religious education in schools or who are chaplains in either primary or secondary schools to the work done by Barnabas in support of schools. They offer fascinating courses and have a number of first class publications to help with assemblies, class room projects and the like.

www.barnabasinschools.org.uk outlines training opportunities and offers past papers and power-point presentations from recent conferences and workshops in relation to religious education in schools..

www.brf.org.uk is the home page of the organisation and it details the thoroughly Christian base for all the activities of the organisation.

News from the Consultative Group on Ministry among Children (CGMC)

CGMC, the forum for senior representatives of the denominations throughout the UK and Ireland with concern and responsibility for children's education in the churches continues to operate imaginatively in support of the denominations associated with Churches Together In Britain and Ireland. You can find out more about on the website: www.cgmontheweb.com/.

CGMC, working in partnership with Barnabas Publications, has just published the new CORE programme referred to above and hosted a major conference in Nottingham when the programme was launched. Four trustees of CEAS attended and all returned full of enthusiasm for both the conference sessions and for the COIRE programme itself.

We are still concerned that Scotland is under-represented on CGMC at present with only The Church of Scotland and CEAS of the indigenous Scottish denominations engaging in the activities of the agency. While the United Reformed Church, the Methodist Church and the Church of England are very actively represented from their London offices the Scottish voice of these organisations also needs to be heard. For further information contact the Secretary of CGMC, Doug Swanney (see website address above).

Looking Ahead

We in CEAS want to help where we can. We have committed ourselves to quality training events. One major – and perennial – difficulty is that of reaching the people for whom the courses are intended by way of advance publicity.

We appeal to all denominational secretaries, local ministers and pastors and others in positions of management and delegation to help us get the word through to those who actually work with children. We already know of a number of people who missed past events simply because they had not received information in time. Let's hope the forthcoming workshops will be an even bigger success.

ENROL in the CORE Skills Workshop: Glasgow, 18th November 2006

Please enrol me in the CORE Skills Workshop

Full Name

Address

Telephone No.

e-mail

Congregation/Organisation

Position

Special Offer Please **do / do not** reserve a copy of the Resource Book **CORE SKILLS for Children's Work (special price £6.95)** [delete as appropriate]

Reply to: Rev David G Hamilton, CEAS/CORE, 79 Finlay Rise, Milngavie, Glasgow G62 6QL; e-mail davidhamilton@onetel.com.

Have a look at our website: www.ceas.org.uk

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