

Reflections

Bringing you news from the British Bible School, Corby, England

Spring 2008

A Fresh Beginning

It has been a long time since many of you heard any official news from us, but things are changing at the British Bible School and we'd like to bring you up to date with recent developments.

This year we have just four full-time students in the current class. Many more applied and about a dozen were accepted, but all required visas and most were rejected by the authorities. This has been a growing problem over the past few years and one which, until recently, we had been unable to properly address.

When the British Bible School began in Corby in 1979, one of its main intentions was to provide a means of training British disciples

for service both at home and abroad. Since the early 1990s, the majority of students have come to us from overseas - the majority of these having returned to their homelands where they faithfully serve Christ. Although for the past ten years we have continued to graduate on average one British student per year, the numbers of overseas students able to obtain visas has significantly decreased. This has been a difficulty faced by many independent educational institutions throughout the U.K. All this has led us to seriously consider the effectiveness of what we are trying to do and to now consider ways in which we can better provide a means of training for British disciples wanting to be more effective in their service for Christ in the present day.

Recently the local congregation appointed a new governing body to be responsible for strategic planning, monitoring and development of the school. This is a major step, and the most significant development in the life of the school since it moved to Corby nearly 30 years ago. This new governing body has nine members and is made up of representatives from the Corby leadership, teachers from the Bible school and others who are actively involved in its work from a number of congregations. They are: **Patrick Boyns, Bob Eckman, Jon Galloway, John Griffiths, David Harland, Mark Hill, Steve Whitehead, Trevor Williams and Frank Worgan.** They met for the first time



Building up

At the end of last year the British Bible School building underwent some renovation making it more secure and better insulated. Much of the woodwork had passed its prime and so it was decided to brick up the higher windows and the panels beneath the lower ones.

The remainder of the building is in need of some refurbishment which hopefully can be carried out during the coming year.



Stepping down

David Harland of Corby is now serving as our new Bursar. **Tony Styles** has made it known that from 30th June he "will be stepping down from any involvement with the school." We are thankful for his contribution to this work over many years and wish him well for the future.

British Bible School Open Day & Graduation

Saturday, 21st June 2008
10.00 a.m. to 8.30 p.m.
at Corby, Northamptonshire

All are invited to attend this uplifting day of teaching, sharing, praise and celebration. Plans include:

*Choice of teaching sessions
Sharing news of projects
Graduation Ceremony
Good food and great company*

If you are involved in any kind of project such as overseas missions, Bible camp, outreach programme, publication, etc. and would like to have a display, please let us know.

Scottish extension classes



British Bible School extension class in progress in Cumbernauld, Scotland

In September the British Bible School began offering an Extension Programme in Central Scotland. This was in response to an interest in access to more in-depth Bible study by a number unable to commit to a two years residential programme in Corby.

During the autumn there were around eleven students from six congregations who met together on Monday evenings in Cumbernauld – a central venue for those involved. The first module was the Book of Genesis (part one), taught by **Jon Galloway**, who also taught a module on Christian Apologetics in the Spring Term with around nine in attendance each week. The current module being studied is Thessalonian Letters taught by **Mitch Vick** with 13 in attendance at the last session.

The Extension Programme is part of a new flexible approach to study which will soon include our Distance Learning Programme and will enable more students to access our modules on a part-time basis. Further extension classes are anticipated in other locations according to demand.

on the last day of March and began a process of revitalisation that will enable the school to move forward and face the new challenges of a new era.

A renewed focus upon the needs of British and European Union congregations is in place, with an emphasis on training workers for this part of the world which seems often so resistant to the message of Christ. With the continuing expansion of the European Union, in which just over 50% of the population speak English, there are opportunities that have lain unexploited for too long.

It is clear that a much more flexible programme is needed which will enable students to

combine residential studies with distance and extension learning options. The development of our Distance Learning Programme will enable us to offer a far more flexible curriculum both at home and abroad, enabling not only British students to study part-time and in conjunction with our extension classes, but also providing options for overseas students outside the European Union who have been prevented from obtaining visas.

Much of the next year will be spent developing this new programme whilst preparing for our next intake for September 2009. We are also looking to expand our Extension Class Programme which is already doing so well in Glasgow,

enabling a number of British students to take classroom-based modules on a part-time basis.

New U.K. government legislation to come into effect at the beginning of 2009 will require the school to be accredited by one of two recognised bodies before further students from outside the European Union can be accepted. We plan to undertake this accreditation as soon as we are in a position to do so.

A number of working groups have been established to address particular areas including Curriculum, Finance, Publicity and Distance Learning and a development plan is being drawn up. There is a great deal to be done to address a large number of issues which have been left unattended over the years and, though our core values remain essentially unchanged, there is a need for a total review of how we set about to fulfil our mission and achieve the renewed aims of the school. These are exciting times!

Moving on

At the end of this school year we will be saying “goodbye” to our current students who move on to pastures new. **Saw** and **David** from Burma will be taking additional courses before returning to their homeland next year. **Anisa** and **Albana** will both be returning to Albania to serve with the congregation in Tirana.

We are most thankful to all who continue to support the work of the British Bible School through prayer and funding. Watch out for more news shortly!

May God be praised!

Reflections is published by the British Bible School in Corby, U.K.



Director of Studies: Patrick Boyns

Bursar: David Harland

Postal address : c/o 36 Tintern Rise, Eye, Peterborough, Cambridgeshire, England, PE6 7YL, U.K.

E-mail: study@britishbibleschool.com

Web site: www.britishbibleschool.com