

Reflections

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

Summer 2008

BBS Open Day '08

Full Speed Ahead!



Steve Whitehead teaching a session at the BBS Open Day in Corby

The third British Bible School Annual Open Day was held this year on 21st June. Over 30 people spent the day together experiencing some of the classroom teaching that goes on during a regular year at the Bible School. There were four teaching sessions with two class options for each session, as well as time for singing praises to God and sharing reports of the good things that are happening in various congregations. Classes included John Griffiths, "The Trials and Tears of Jeremiah"; Jon Galloway "Noah and the Dinosaurs"; Trevor Williams, "Thoughts on Church Growth"; Steve Whitehead, "An Introduction to Apocalyptic"; Patrick Boyns, "A

Study of Mission Strategy", Mike Glover, "A Thessalonian Example", and Mark Hill, "The Beatitudes".

The atmosphere of the day was very uplifting as we spent time around God's word and enjoying the blessings of our fellowship in Christ.

New plans for the school were announced at the graduation which followed, promising a number of different study options that will soon be available to ensure that the British Bible School will continue to have a positive impact on God's Kingdom in this country.

Next year's Open Day will be a part of a BBS study weekend at Corby from 26th to 28th June - please make a note in your diaries!

As Mark Twain wrote in 1887, "The report of my death is an exaggeration," so we wish to assure all who may have seen certain correspondence to the contrary that the British Bible School is alive and well! The Bible School, which began in 1979, has always been a work of the Corby congregation and continues to operate under a board of governors appointed by them earlier this year.

Though there may be no full-time residential students in class this current academic year, we have a number enrolled through our Extension Programme and will shortly be enrolling new students through our Distance Learning Programme. It is anticipated that our next intake of full-time students will be in place by September 2009.

There is a great deal of work to be done in the months ahead as we look towards expanding our provision and moving towards external accreditation. But please do not be dismayed - from here it is 'full speed ahead!'

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



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British Bible School graduating class of June 2008 pictured with Frank Worgan, Steve Whitehead, Patrick Boyns, David Harland and Trevor Williams

2008 Graduation Address

"This has been an eventful academic year at the British Bible School, both inside the classroom and beyond. There have been a number of significant challenges we have faced - some of a very personal nature - and there have been times of rejoicing as we reflect upon the goodness of God towards us all.

We began the year as we end it, with four students. Three of these have now completed their two-year course of Advanced Biblical Studies and are ready to move on. Saw will return to Burma next year, whilst Anisa and Albana are soon to head back to Albania. The fourth, David, was the only student from overseas who was awarded a necessary visa to study here in 2007 - nearly a dozen others were unsuccessful. He will continue to be a BBS student, planning to complete the course at a distance after returning with his brother to Burma in a year's time.

We had no applicants last year from either the U.K. or the European Union, so all those who were accepted were dependent upon receiving visas. Over the last few years these have become particularly difficult to obtain,

largely due to global conditions which have led to more restrictive legislation. As things now stand, before we can accept any more students from outside the European Union we will need to undergo a process of accreditation with a government approved agency.

The lack of British and European enrolments and the difficulties in obtaining visas has led us to completely review the work of the British Bible School. Though some might be tempted to conclude that there is little future for a school, we not only believe that a future is necessary, but are also excited by the possibilities that lie ahead. There are significant changes that need to be made, both in terms of structural organisation and delivery of curriculum, and in order to help facilitate these developments a governing body has been appointed by the Corby congregation. Thanks should be given for the good service of those who served as 'Trustees' for a number of years, some of whom have made vital contributions to the work of training both men and women for service in the kingdom of God.

The new governing body met earlier this year and has begun a process of renewal. They are led by a deep-rooted conviction that if the

work of Christ is to prosper in this land there needs to be more men and women better grounded in the word of truth, and better equipped for effective service. The new curriculum will maintain its essential Biblical core whilst developing a new emphasis on mission. Its delivery will be made much more flexible through the rapid development of a distance learning programme and the expansion of our extension classes.

As things develop, we will be keeping congregations informed of progress. We would like to visit a number of congregations over the coming year, not only to promote the school but also to promote the need for more trained workers both at home and abroad.

We are so thankful to all of you who have offered prayers and given support over the past year. We look forward to even more fruitful fellowship in the future. May the God of all power and wisdom guide each of us as we pursue his will on earth."

Patrick Boyns - 21st June 2008

Extension Classes

Following the success of our first extension class which has been running in Cumbernauld over the past year, we are eager to expand this provision in other areas. If your congregation might be interested in hosting a programme like this, please get in touch with us.

Our extension programme offers students the opportunity of studying in a class-based environment for three hours per week over a ten-week term. Those wanting to build credit towards British Bible School awards are also required to undertake additional assignments upon which assessment is based. These assignments typically include class tests, essays and additional reading.

Classes in Cumbernauld have resumed for the autumn term with the second half of Genesis being taught by Jon Galloway. The Spring term will commence in January when we will be studying the letter to the Galatians - details to follow.