

Reflections

Summer 2009

Bringing you news from the British Bible School, Corby, U.K.

A Close Up Lesson on Distance Learning

When the North Ireland Bible School opened back in the 60s, my brother Jim was a student in the first class. Many times I'd talk with him about how it was going and he would enthuse about how wonderful it was to be able to sit at the feet of men who knew the Bible and learn truths that he never knew were there. To be truthful, I envied the fact that he could be a student at the school. I couldn't because at that time I was living in Loughborough and was involved in 'full-time work.'

A few years later, following in the tradition of NIBS, the British Bible School opened in 1979 in Corby - just a short drive from Loughborough. Joe Nisbet offered me the chance to be a part-time teacher in the school. It was one of the best blessings that anyone ever gave to me. Whatever knowledge I may have imparted to the students over the years was nothing compared with the knowledge I received in studying and preparing

lessons for a classroom full of students who often had more questions than I had answers for! I guess you could say that, indirectly, I finally became a "student" at that school that my brother attended.

Over the years I have spoken to many Christians who have expressed the same desire that I had but who said taking two years out of work or their education was impossible. They wanted to attend the British Bible School, but it wasn't going to happen. I wonder how many who are reading this felt the same way. You would love to have the opportunity to take part in an in-depth study of the Bible but time and circumstances won't allow.

Now you can! Now you can be a student at the British Bible School without interfering with your education, giving up your job or moving house. Now, instead of going to the BBS, the BBS will come to you! This is what the Distance Learning Programme of the British Bible School is all about. You can study just as deeply (maybe more so) as any student who has ever attended the BBS without leaving your home. You study in your own time, at your own pace, and at the level that suits you best.

Want to know more about this new, unique, and wonderful opportunity? Contact Patrick Boyns or ask anyone you know who is connected with the British Bible School, and they will be glad to give you the full details.

Bob Eckman (Nottingham)

COMING SOON

**MORE DISTANCE
LEARNING
PROGRAMME LAUNCH
EVENTS**

Kirkcaldy

Saturday, 28th

November 2009

and

Bristol

Saturday, 12th

December 2009

also appearing at

Wembley

East Kilbride

and maybe another

location near you ... look
out for further details

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The **British Bible School** is a work of the
congregation meeting in Corby, U.K.



WHAT are they doing NOW?

Gigie Carranza (1993-95)



Helen (Gigie) Carranza serving Christ in the Philippines and beyond.

My name is Helen Matias Carranza. Most everyone call me by my nickname 'Gigie' - a petname given to me by my father when I was a little girl. I was born in Manila, Philippines to Hozanna Matias, a homemaker, and Edgardo Carranza, a US Navy man. I have two younger brothers Ricardo (BBS graduate 1993) and Eduardo (who was a candidate student for BBS 1992-94).

It was my brother Ricardo who brought me and eventually baptized me into Christ, after he met and became close friends with American missionaries, Phil Terry and Ron Holland, in 1989. I was baptized on 19th November 1990.

Ron Holland began accepting missionary apprentices just as soon as my brothers and I were becoming more and more involved in the work of the church. It was there in Manila that we met Heather McCourt from Northern Ireland, then a recent graduate of the British Bible School.

I was already working with the Hollands as 'church secretary'. I felt receiving proper Bible training was the next best thing for me to do if ministry was the life that the Lord

has picked out for me already. So I urged my brother to get me an application form from then BBS director, Tony Styles.

As soon as the application form arrived in the mail, everything happened so fast. The visa and the travel money were practically handed out to me - almost without any hassle. I knew then the Lord really wanted me to go to the British Bible School.

I loved being at the BBS! I loved studying the Scriptures. I loved preparing for Patrick Boyns' "adventurous learning experiences." Above all, I loved doing research and writing term papers. As Tony often told us, the two years in Corby became "the best two years of my life." I learned about working with different cultures. I learned about asserting myself. My time at the British Bible School was like an extended workshop for the ministry that God had laid out for me now.

Since my return to my country, I have been directing medical missions for the churches of Christ here in the Philippines and many parts of Asia. I have been to almost every major disaster in Asia - from the Tsunami (December 2004) in Sri Lanka to the Cyclone (May 2008) in Myanmar (Burma) providing relief alongside fellow Christian volunteers. I am a frequent guest speaker at Ladies' Retreats here and abroad. I also help organize major events in the church - particularly for fellow women and young people. I continue to serve with Bread for a Hungry World, a non-profit organization under the oversight of an American church, coordinating a new ministry called Tree of Life - a programme that helps send Filipino children to schools.

Being at the British Bible School opened various opportunities for me in the ministry. Surely, I would not be equipped to do what I do now had it not been for the training I received from my teachers and mentors at the BBS. I will forever be grateful to the Lord for choosing me to spend two years of my life in Corby with the British Bible School.

So close you can almost feel it

We are literally only a few days away from being able to send out the first module of our new Distance Learning Programme. Interest continues to grow and applications are beginning to come in from new students here in the United Kingdom. For more information and to download an Application Form, please visit our web site.

Initial launch goes without a hitch

Our first Distance Learning Programme Launch Event held at Loughborough on 09-09-09 was well attended and proved to be a most informative evening. The rationale for the programme was explained within the context of the school's history and work, and the first module introduced.

We are looking to hold similar events in as many parts of the country as we can, possibly combined with one of our Taster Days. Events are already booked for Kirkcaldy and Bristol, with others in the pipeline. If you would like to host one in your location - please do get in touch.

Scottish Study Weekends prove popular

Unlike a 'typical' study day, the weekends provided intense periods of learning covering our module on 'The History & Development of Biblical Texts' (GEN01). Classes began on the Friday evenings and concluded on the Saturday with students being 'in class' for a total of 18 hours over the two weekends. For more details and news, please visit our web site.

