



## A universal need for training ...

**W**hen we began the process, a number of years ago, of reviewing the work of the British Bible School, we were mostly thinking of ways in which we might deliver our Applied Biblical Studies curriculum on a part-time basis. This is essentially the course that we had been offering through our two-year, full-time residential programme. We knew that, at least for the foreseeable future, the full-time residential programme was not going to be viable until such time as there was significant numerical growth among congregations. So we began to develop our **Distance Learning Programme** and hold **Extension**

**Classes** in various parts of the country. These endeavours continue and are gradually finding increasing interest as our work becomes better known.

One significant area in which we find ourselves increasingly involved is that of providing congregational training. It is not something that we had first envisaged, but something of a natural progression in seeking to help better prepare one another for service. Though there is still a very great and ongoing need for indigenous teachers and leaders trained within the local, UK environment - something which the Bible School has long desired to

promote - there is also need for more immediate and direct training.

We understand that there will still sometimes be those who see no room for improvement on the way things have 'always' been done, but an honest appraisal will always reveal areas where we can do better. Whether it is in our approach to outreach or in areas of congregational growth and development, we can all be challenged to be more effective in our service. Perhaps the greatest need among congregations is that of effective, godly leadership, without which so many assemblies struggle to realise their full potential.



Some recent participants at an In-House Training day on Congregational Growth enjoying a 'working lunch' in preparation for the next session.

- *You might want to think about setting aside one weekend every year for the purpose of training - you could include it in your congregational development plan. (If you don't have something like this, you could maybe benefit from training on Leadership or Congregational Growth!)*
- *You might decide that an In-House Training event would form the focus for a congregational retreat 'away from it all' in a rented location. That could lend a great deal of flexibility as to what might actually be achieved.*
- *To discover what sort of training might best suit your needs, you could carry out a congregational appraisal to highlight areas in need of particular attention. Let us know if you would like us to help you with that.*

## Students progress

A number of students are actively pursuing their studies through our *Distance Learning Programme*. We were delighted to personally congratulate Kelsey O'Donovan recently on her completion of our first module: Introduction to Bible Study. This represents a good 50 hours of study time well spent!

She joins several others working through the second module: *Authority of Scripture* which addresses the divine origin of Scripture and our recognition of which books should be understood as being from God.



*Kelsey being congratulated on completion of one of our Distance Learning Programme modules.*

## Mission studies



Our planned Study Break in March didn't go quite as we had planned, due largely to illness, but it was a useful week for those able to attend. As we were able to offer only one half of the module on *Mission Studies* during the week, we also presented one half of the *Parables* module.

Students wanting to complete the *Mission Studies* module were able to attend the remaining classes during a specially convened Study Weekend during June and will be completing required assignments shortly.

Our *Mission Studies* module will be offered again over two Study Weekends at Wembley scheduled for the autumn. See 'Diary dates'.

This is a significant module that helps students to better understand and develop their role within the Mission of God. There is a great deal we can learn from attitudes and practices of those who have gone before, and much we need to consider when reaching out into a world for whom the good news of Jesus is becoming increasingly remote.

If you are in the London area for either or both of the weekends this autumn - do consider joining us.

## Help with funding?

We are very thankful for all those congregations and individuals who help the school by making a regular contribution to its work. We are wanting to be able to increase the amount of funding allocated to our teachers, most of whom serve with us on a part-time basis, so if you are able to help in any way please get in touch.

## Web site upgrade

We are very shortly to be launching our new, updated web site. It has been completely redesigned and will incorporate a number of features which we had not been able to include before.

Look out for further announcements and remember that up-to-date news is regularly posted on our Facebook page and on Twitter.

## Diary dates ...

Study one of our Modules within a classroom environment at our Study Weekends. Numbers are limited and places should be booked in advance.

### Central Scotland Study Weekend

East Kilbride, Scotland

#### *Psalms (OLD09)*

with **Mitch Vick** and **Steve Whitehead**

4<sup>th</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> October 2013  
8<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> November 2013

### North London Study Weekend

Wembley, London

#### *Mission Studies (PRA05)*

with **Patrick Boyns** and **t.b.c.**

11<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> October 2013  
15<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> November 2013

## Room for training

You still have plenty of time to book an *In-House Training* event before the end of the year. Choose from:

- Missional outreach
- Back to basics
- Congregational growth
- Leadership
- Good stewardship
- Youth issues
- Praise and worship

Whatever area you choose to explore, we will be more than happy to tailor the event to fit your particular needs. Please let us know how we might be of assistance as we grow together in our service for him.

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And you can follow us on **Facebook** or **Twitter** - see web site for links.

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