



## NEWS BULLETIN FROM IBTS October 2008

### BAPTISTS AND REVIVAL CONFERENCE

3 - 5 NOVEMBER 2008

Baptist life across Europe and elsewhere in the world has been characterized by periods of revival and renewal and it is this which will be studied. The main speaker at the conference, **Professor David Bebbington**, is a leading Baptist historian who has given a great deal of attention to the history of revivals within his broader work on the history of evangelicalism. Dr Bebbington is Professor of History at the University of Stirling, Scotland. He also teaches at Baylor University, Texas, USA. He is the author of a number of important books, including *The Dominance of Evangelicalism: The age of Spurgeon and Moody* (2005). Dr Bebbington will give three lectures under the auspices of the IBTS Hughey Lecture series. Short papers on the theme of the conference will be delivered, probably in parallel sessions, by those who are working in the field of Baptist studies in different parts of Europe. If you would like to offer a short paper for this conference please contact:

Dr Ian Randall [Randall@ibts.eu](mailto:Randall@ibts.eu)

Senior Research Fellow, Baptist and Anabaptist Studies, IBTS

### **IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO REGISTER!**

You may register for this conference by contacting Vanessa Lake: [lake@ibts.eu](mailto:lake@ibts.eu).

### IBTS PUBLICATIONS

IBTS is excited to announce publication of a new book edited by Parush R Parushev and Rollin G Grams. "**Academic Reasoning, Research and writing in Religious studies: A Concise Handbook**" published by Tribun EU s.r.o. of Brno, represents the distillation of key texts used in the acclaimed IBTS Research and Critical Thinking weeks held each August/September in Prague. This Handbook is an ideal resource for anyone intent on doing theology-related research at M or Doctoral level in the Anglo-Saxon educational system and a valuable supportive tool for those working in the Germanic or North American systems. The Editors (and principal authors) are members of the IBTS Academic team.

IBTS has published a new book on Balthasar Hubmaier by renowned Anabaptist scholar H Wayne Walker Pipkin. Entitled "**Scholar, Prophet, Martyr - the Life and Ministry of Balthasar Hubmaier, 1480-1528**" it is based on the 2006 Hughey Lectures at IBTS. It reviews recent Hubmaier scholarship and then seeks to re-evaluate the work of Hubmaier. No serious work devoted to Hubmaier has been published in English since the translation of the book by Torsten Bergsten in 1978, so this is a "must buy" item for libraries and all Anabaptist and Baptist scholars and historians.

If you wish to order these or other publications, please contact [Denise@ibts.eu](mailto:Denise@ibts.eu).

### IBTS 3 MONTH CALENDAR

## OCTOBER

27 – 31: Special Certificate courses on Creation Care

27 October – 20 November: Environmental Month

31 October – 1 November: IBTS Board of Trustees meet in Prague

## NOVEMBER

3 – 5: Conference and Hughey Lectures on “Baptists & Revival”

3 – 15: Intensive teaching block

## DECEMBER

22 December – 10 January: Seminary Christmas Break

## ACADEMIC NEWS

MTh dissertation of our student **Sergey Solokha** (Ukraine) has been successfully examined and has been awarded a Master of Theology degree.

## FACULTY UPDATES

Senior Research Fellow **Ivana Noble** went as an invited participant to a conference in Romania organised by the Conference of European Churches and World Council of Churches, on the topic of ecumenical education in late September.

Academic Dean **Parush R Parushev** and Course Leader in Applied Theology **Lina Andronoviene** took part in the European Evangelical Accrediting Association's (EEAA) Visitation Evaluation Teams Training Event in Basel, Switzerland, October 14-17.

On Saturday, 25 October, **Lina Andronoviene** will speak on the role of formal and informal theological education at the annual conference of the Lithuanian Baptist Union.

**Parush R Parushev** presented a Plenary Report on the European Scholars Programme at the “Europe Forum” event of the Langham Partners International Council meeting, September 28-October 01 in Surrey, England.

## FORTHCOMING IBTS CONFERENCES

### **Biblical Studies Colloquium**

*22 – 24 JANUARY 2009*

The collection of Psalms in the Bible has a central role throughout the Christian Scriptures. They reflect on the Law of God and on the journey of individuals and the people of God, they lead us in worship, help us to formulate our laments and our prayers of thanksgiving, and encourage to witness to the goodness of God. Throughout time, they have been and still are important to the faithful of God.

From the 22-24 January 2009 the Biblical Studies department of IBTS invites to a colloquium on the Psalms. Prof Dr Gordon Wenham will, as the keynote speaker, start each day with a paper on aspects of the Psalms and be followed by papers reflecting on these from Old and New Testament scholarship. If this topic is of interest to you, please contact IBTS and register for the conference.

### **Christian Mission in the Orthodox Context:**

**Canonical territories, religious freedom and issues of proselytism**

## **8 – 11 FEBRUARY 2009**

The aim of the colloquium is to address points of tension and opportunities for enriching Christian witness to the secularised European contexts with majority Orthodox religious presence. The specific goal of the organisers is to deal with key concepts of Orthodox and evangelical theological perspectives such as the Orthodox understanding of canonical territories, evangelical emphasis on religious freedom and differing views on issues of proselytism. It is expected that the participants will attend to differing conceptual view points from within the broader understanding of their ecclesiologies, traditions of church practice and understandings of the relation between church and state or territory. This suggests both theological and practical points of encounter and how to deal with differences in a creative way which enables holistic Christian co-operation in responding to *Missio Dei*.

As in the past, the principal intent of the seminar is to provide a platform for discussing your ideas and the results of your academic work or doctoral research work related to the history, current state and future prospects of missionary encounters of the baptistic communities with culturally Orthodox contexts. Much of the difficulties and the challenges faced by the baptistic faith communities in the interactions with Orthodox religious communities and the governments of culturally Orthodox countries arise from misunderstandings related to the Orthodox notion of canonical territories (and largely of Orthodox canon law), evangelical emphases on religious freedom and the nature of religious proselytism.

If you wish to offer a contribution, please contact Dr Parushev: e-mail: [Parushev@ibts.eu](mailto:Parushev@ibts.eu)

You may register for these conferences by contacting Vanessa Lake: [lake@ibts.eu](mailto:lake@ibts.eu).

*The International Baptist Theological Seminary of the European Baptist Federation o.p.s. is wholly owned by the fifty two Baptist Unions in Europe. Our degree courses are either accredited by the Czech Ministry of Education or validated by the University of Wales. We are committed to working within the European Union Bologna framework for education using European Credit Transfer Standards. We are on the way to becoming an Eco-seminary with a clear environmental policy and offering academic work in that subject area. We are a member of the Consortium of European Baptist Theological Schools (CEBTS) and the Consortium of Seminaries related to the Co-operative Baptist Fellowship. We have one of the largest English language theological libraries on the mainland of Europe and we are a member of Bibliothèques Européennes de Théologie.*

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