

THE LINK

International Baptist Theological Seminary of the
European Baptist Federation, Prague, Czech Republic

Winter, 2000
No.101

Autumn Term...

...at IBTS

IBTS Community with the Board of Trustees

Autumn term at IBTS, and there are so many new faces to be seen! The Community now consists of old and new MTh, Certificate of Applied Theology (CAT), Abbey English Language Department students, as well as staff and directors. As you can imagine there has been a buzz in the air with students working hard on papers, presentations, and attending lectures and seminars. It is a particularly exciting time, as many parts of the world are included in our student body, with the continents of Africa, Asia, Europe, North and South America all being represented. The campus has also been alive with conference guests and other visitors during recent weeks... read on to find out some of what's been happening...

Each year it costs IBTS in excess of \$7,800 to fund one MTh full scholarship, and \$5,000 for a CAT scholarship. We need your support to enable these students to complete their studies. See page 2 to find out how you can help.

Master of Theology Students

Siniša Klem is on the MTh in Biblical Studies course, and hopes to teach ethics in high school. His wife, Alla, is studying English at Abbey School. Both are graduates from Evangelical Theological Seminary, Osijek. Irina Bondareva (MTh Baptist and Anabaptist Studies) intends to continue teaching in the Kishineve College of Technology on the subject of church history and history of the Baptist Movement. Anneli Lohikko is enrolled on

Some of our full and part-time Masters students. Back row, left to right: Anneli and Tapio Lohikko, Željko Puja, Alexander Zhibrick, Joel Chiron. Front row: Oksana Raichenets (with Arthur), Veniamin Kondor, Siniša Klem, Nabih Samir Shehata, Lucy Marfleet, Irina Bondareva.

the MTh in Baptist and Anabaptist studies programme, and would like to use her knowledge to do further research in Baptist history in her own country. Her husband Tapio is enrolled on the MTh in Contextual Missiology. *"I thought it would be good to study after being a pastor for more than 16 years at the same church"*. Nabih Samir Shehata is a graduate of the ABTS in Lebanon (MDiv), and is studying for this MTh in Biblical Studies. He worked for a number of years as a pastor in Egypt, and now works part-time as a pastor in a church in Lebanon.

Certificate in Applied Theology Students Abbey English Department Students

The Certificate in Applied Theology is a year-long programme, training young people (mainly from eastern European countries) for lay ministry. The course was

relocated this year from the International Baptist Lay Academy in Budapest, and consists of theological teaching and English language training. During the course students undertake weeks of intensive theology and English.

CAT students and some of the Abbey School students pictured here with English language teaching staff

Thank you for your generosity

Most of these students would not be able to attend IBTS without the generosity of our supporters around the world. The students and staff are deeply grateful to all who contribute financially to provide scholarships for students on all our programmes. Thank you also to all who pray continually for our community of students and staff – without this nothing can be achieved. IBTS's vision remains to equip leaders for world-wide ministry in the new millennium. This is, as one of our volunteers says in the article on page 4, '...the most effective and efficient way of trying to do mission.' If you would like to be part of this vision and enable others to pursue their call to leadership and evangelism, then any financial gift that you might be able to donate would help us achieve this aim. You can support us either by sending a cheque direct to IBTS at the address on the back of this issue, or to the following organisations:

United States

American Baptist Churches
International Ministries
PO Box 851, Valley Forge
Pennsylvania
19482-0851

*Make cheque in US Dollars
payable to ABC*

United States

'For IBTS'
Cooperative Baptist Fellowship
PO Box 101699
Atlanta GA 30392

*Make cheque in US dollars
payable to CBF*

United Kingdom

IBTS
Mr D E Nixon
7 Luckley Wood
Wokingham
Berkshire RG41 2EW

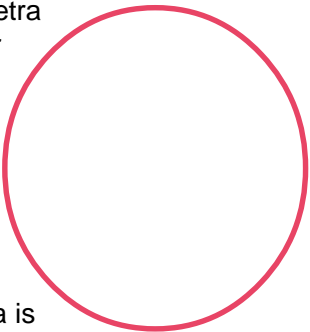
*Make cheque in British pounds
payable to IBTS*

Directors' Conference

The 10th to 24th October saw 38 American Baptist pastors and leaders on the IBTS campus to attend a conference on Anabaptist faith. They were joined by IBTS Baptist and Anabaptist Master of Theology students. The conference, entitled 'An Anabaptist Faith for a New Millennium' was organized by David M Brown and Reid Trulson from International Ministries of the American Baptist Churches, USA. Participants heard 14 presentations on Anabaptists and their history, lifestyle and theology. Lecturers included IBTS Directors Keith Jones, Ian Randall, and Parush Parushev. Special guest lecturer was C Arnold Snyder of Toronto, Canada, one of the foremost Anabaptist scholars in the world. During the conference, Wes Brown acquainted the guests with Bethlehem Chapel and other Prague Reformation sites. They also learned about Czech Baptists in a meeting with Milos Šolc, the President of the Czech Baptist Union. They were introduced to the history and ministry of IBTS, including a tour led by Petra Živnůstková, the newly-appointed IBTS Director of Finance and Administration. Participants also sat in on one of the IBTS academic lectures, joined the Morning Prayer times with the IBTS community, and were deeply inspired by a meeting with IBTS students. All were impressed with the facilities and ministry of the seminary. They especially appreciated the mix of cultural traditions, and the friendly and hospitable IBTS staff. *'This was the best conference.. I have ever attended!'* said one conferee. [This was] *a tremendously interesting, informative and transforming experience. I'm returning to our home church refreshed, and with a great appreciation for the work of IBTS and the EBF.'* said another.

NEW DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

On 6th November, the Board of Trustees and the Rector announced the appointment of Mgr Petra Živnůstková to the position of Director of Finance and Administration at IBTS. Mgr Živnůstková (pictured right), a Czech national, has worked as Acting Head of Finance and Administration since May and has been on the staff of IBTS, firstly as a translator and then as Legal and Property Manager, since 1996. Petra is a lawyer and has an intimate understanding of Czech accounting procedures. Petra, a native of Prague, is a member of the Šárka Valley Community Church, which meets on the premises of IBTS, and is a member of the Czech Baptist Union (BJB). She is pursuing part-time doctoral studies and her masters dissertation was on environmental law, in which she is an acknowledged expert in the Czech Republic. In that capacity she will do some lecturing and post-graduate seminars in the Applied Theology Department of IBTS. Petra says, *"I have a deep love for IBTS and the community here... I am delighted that the Board of Trustees and the officers of the European Baptist Federation have shown such unanimous confidence in me and I intend to serve IBTS to the best of my abilities, the Lord being my helper."*



Student Week

A successful student week was held at IBTS from 5th to 10th November. Thirty-two students attended from eleven different seminaries in Europe. Countries represented included Belarus, Denmark, England, Estonia, Germany, Lithuania, Poland, Russia and Ukraine. The students attended the Hughey lectures delivered by Dr Theo Angelov (see page 5). They also heard lectures by all the Directors at IBTS and participated in the daily worship of the community here. A particular theme on the last day was the theme of Christian Discipleship and Formation, with sessions led by Dr Parush Parushev, Director of Applied Theology. This was a great opportunity to share with students from sister seminaries.

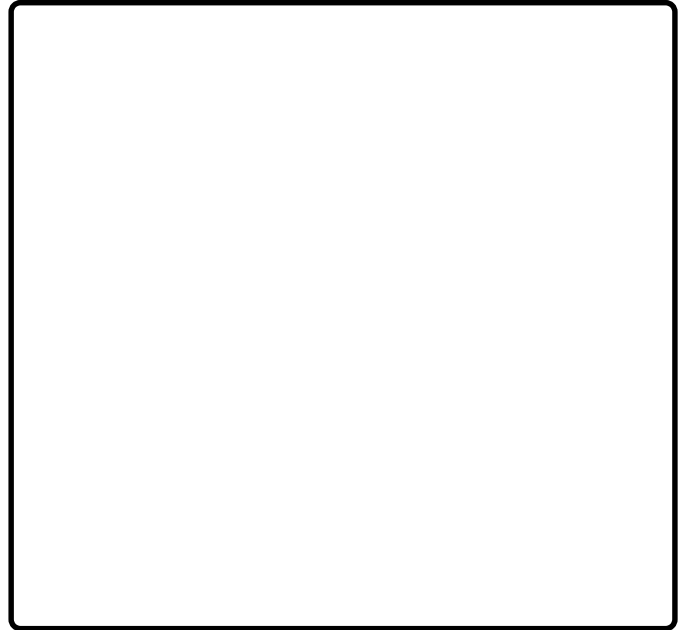
Thanks to our Volunteers!

In November we again said 'goodbye for now' to Larry and Betty Maddox of Waco, Texas. This was their fourth visit to IBTS and they were busy for 4 months on a wide variety of tasks around the campus. Larry and Betty initially came to IBTS in 1997 with a group of volunteers from the First Baptist Church, Waco, and have returned each year since then. On their first visit, Larry could see, through the work at IBTS, the importance of training young people for ministry in their own countries. *"I believe that this is the most effective and efficient way of trying to do mission",* says Larry. The work that Larry and Betty have been involved in at IBTS contributes to realising that aim. One of their major tasks this year was to set up G Building ready for the 18 students studying on the Certificate of Applied Theology programme. There was a lot of work - painting, cleaning, and the setting up of a library of 1200 course books which had been transported from the International Baptist Lay Academy. *"This task involved approximately 15 stages to complete for each book - labels, cards, cataloguing...."*

And so you would think they would be glad to go home for a rest.... *"No, we're really going to miss everybody*

*Larry and Betty Maddox
pictured with Martina, Arthur and Lisa on the new playground*

- it's like a family here! I think it's so true that wherever God puts you, that's home," says Betty. Larry added *"We feel that there is a positive and up-beat atmosphere here at IBTS - here we are - a couple of old folks, and felt such love and acceptance by the people here, especially the young students, who have made us feel so welcome. We feel that particularly in the student body, IBTS has turned a significant corner."*



On 18th September 2000, Dr Jarold K Zeman, former Professor of Church History at Acadia Divinity College and perhaps the most significant Canadian Baptist leader in the last half century, went to be with the Lord. Dr Zeman was born in what was then Czechoslovakia and grew up in the era of the depression and then the invasion of the Nazis. In his home he learned to trust in Christ and to love learning and music. His education was interrupted by the war but in 1946 he began to study at the University of Prague. Before his second year of University he felt a call to ministry and switched to Theology. Just after the Communist takeover of the nation, he received a scholarship to study at Knox College in Toronto. He chose to remain in Canada and to become a Baptist. Two years later, in 1951, he married Lillian, who visited IBTS in Prague this year. He served local Canadian churches as pastor, had a strategic post in home mission, and was later president for nine years of the Baptist Federation of Canada.

Jarold Zeman studied at IBTS, Rüsclikon, from 1956 to 1957. In 1965 he took leave to undertake doctoral studies at the University of Zürich and during this time he was a fellow at Rüsclikon. His doctorate was published as the seminal book, *The Anabaptists and the Czech Brethren*

Dr. Jarold K. Zeman

in Moravia, 1526-1628. His interest in the world Baptist movement led to his involvement in the Commission on Baptist Heritage of the Baptist World Alliance. He was the Vice-Chairperson of this Commission.

In 1968 Dr Zeman became Associate Professor at Acadia Divinity College. He will be remembered most for the investment he made in the lives of his students. He inspired a group of Baptists to take their own history seriously, organized two of the early Canadian Baptist Heritage Conferences and initiated the significant Atlantic Baptist Heritage series. All the while, he continued to produce scholarly work in his own field of Hussite and Anabaptist History. As he came to retirement he helped establish and direct the Acadia Centre for Baptist and Anabaptist Studies. Martin Marty called him the 'best church historian in North America.' He received one of seven medals struck by the Protestant Faculty of the University of Prague to be awarded as the Comenius Medal for outstanding scholarship in areas of Czech and Church History.

Adapted from a tribute by the Professor of Church History at Acadia Divinity College, Dr Robert Wilson.

DR. THEO ANGELOV FOCUSES HUGHEY LECTURES ON BALKANS

Dr Theo Angelov, General Secretary of the European Baptist Federation, presented the J.D. Hughey Lectures on 'The Baptist Movement on the Balkan Peninsula' on 6th and 7th November at IBTS. The lectures brought together a fascinating combination of valuable historical research, together with personal experiences. The audience included this year's student body, the Rector and Directors, several members of the Board of Trustees, and visiting seminarians attending the annual Student Week. The Balkans have for centuries been a battleground religiously, with the forces of Islam, Eastern Orthodoxy, and Catholicism being the major players until the arrival of the Nazis, and then later of communism, in the 20th century. As Dr Angelov pointed out, Baptists have brought their witness and established churches in this challenging and complex context, primarily since the mid-19th century. German Baptists, inspired by Johan Gerhard Oncken, were reaching out to Germans who lived in the Balkans. Colporters with the British and Foreign Bible Society made a significant contribution, for when people studied the Bibles that were distributed, they concluded that a believer's baptism is the New Testament pattern. The small Baptist congregations struggled against successive forms of opposition, said Dr Angelov, from Turkish occupation, to Orthodox priests, to communist oppression, and now again in certain areas, to strong Orthodox animosity. Tracing Baptist foundations and growth in Yugoslavia, including Vojvodina in the north, in Croatia, in Bosnia, and Bulgaria, Dr Angelov paid tribute to pioneers who often suffered persecution and imprisonment. What have we learned from the times of persecution, the confiscation of properties, and the imprisonment of our leaders? asked Dr Angelov. First, that we have a great Lord who was present with our spiritual leaders throughout those difficult periods. Second, we have been witness to a great miracle: the survival of the church, despite every effort to destroy it. Third, the role of endurance in Christian life: we are inheritors of their faithfulness to the Lord—a precious heritage. Dr Angelov recalled that his late father, the long-time pastor of Sofia Baptist Church, had led a delegation requesting the communist Minister of Religion to return particular confiscated church property to the Baptists. Dr Angelov saw the reply of the Minister to the Baptists, stating that they would *never* return the building to the Baptists. In 1993 however, the building *was* returned, and Dr Angelov

and others took the key and entered the empty, former church, its windows broken and the baptistry cemented over. Imagine the celebration when the first person was baptized in the reclaimed and re-dedicated building! Look out for some of this material in a future issue of our *Journal of European Baptist Studies*.

Dr Theo Angelov speaking in the chapel at IBTS

The Pilli Family at IBTS

Revd Toivo Pilli and Einike stayed at IBTS for one month, along with their children Iisak (5 years), Simeon (2 years) and Timoteos (4 months). Toivo is the Rector of the Theological Seminary in Tartu, Estonia, and a part-time student at IBTS as well as the Vice-President of the Estonian Baptist Union. Einike is a Lecturer of Education in the University of Tartu. Toivo has been working on his PhD research in the field of Baptist and Anabaptist studies, concentrating on the theme of Estonian Baptists during the Soviet era. Einike is working on her PhD at Tartu University in Religious Education for adults. They spent their time here pursuing their research, finding this period worthwhile since they both achieved more of their research than they initially thought. They also enjoyed their stay on the IBTS campus. *'With the CAT students there is so much more energy and life on campus,'* Toivo commented. *'They give something important to the Seminary.'* This time has been particularly productive for Einike who found useful books on the subject of education in the IBTS library, and was able to focus on her studies here more than she would at home.

*We wish our readers a joyful
and peaceful Christmas.*

With every blessing for the

year 2001...

*from all the staff,
students & volunteers*

at IBTS.



*We love to hear from our former students, and
so if you have any news you would like to send
us to be published in **The Link**, please contact
the Public Relations Office here at IBTS. You
can contact us at the address below, or by email:
PR@ibts.cz.*

Alumni Chronicle

1990's

We are pleased to announce the marriage of **Jenny Kähler** to **Peter Jörgensen** on 29th July 2000 in Berlin. Jenny studied at IBTS between 1996-1997. Peter and Jenny's new address is: Eggerstedtstrasse 86, 22765, Hamburg, Germany.

1970's

New Address:

Paul & Caroline Beasley-
Murray
The Old Manse
3 Roxwell Road
Chelmsford
CM1 2LY
England

In memoriam

The Revd Joop Bouritius

Joop Bouritius studied at Rüscliikon from 1954 - 1958. He served in many Baptist churches in the Netherlands, retiring from Arnhem-South at the age of 65. Upon retirement, Revd Bouritius and his wife Minke moved to Hoogeveen, where they were able to enjoy their retirement. Joop Bouritius died on 28th December 1998.

*Contact Denise@ibts.cz to order your
copy of *The Journal of European
Baptist Studies!**

The International Baptist Theological Seminary
of the European Baptist Federation o.p.s.

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publication without prior consent of the author.*

Rector

The Revd Keith G Jones

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IMPRIME