

The Link

Spring 2003

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



This edition of the Link is full of good and exciting information about progress in an outstanding 54th Academic Year. More students than ever before, new programmes, state recognition, new environmental policy, stimulating conferences, students from more countries, dedicated faculty and staff, active volunteers, positive affirmation by EBF member Unions and support from the international Baptist family.

All this is cause to give thanks to God for his answers to prayer!

Yet we live in troubling times of international political tension and major economic problems and IBTS is much affected by these issues. Now our prayers need to be that we will not have to cut back on Scholarships and turn down students because of retrenchment in donations and the world economic downturn. For two years we have experienced a decline in donations, so our prayer is that God will raise up cheerful givers to support our work. in 2003.

RECORD NUMBER OF STUDENTS

Students, academic teachers, staff and community members of the International Baptist Theological Seminary gathered in the IBTS Chapel on 9 September 2002 for the inauguration service of the 54th academic year.

No less than 48 new students from 18 countries have been enrolled in the doctoral, masters and certificate programmes, making a total student community of 95, the highest since the seminary was founded in 1949.

During the inauguration service the Revd Dr Parush R Parushev

(Bulgaria) was installed as Academic Dean in succession to the Revd Dr Ian M Randall (Scotland). At the November meeting of the Board of Trustees, the

Rector announced he had appointed Dr Randall a Senior Research Fellow, a post Dr Randall took up on 1 January 2003 when he ceased to be Director of Baptist and Anabaptist Studies.

The Revd Dr Peter F Penner (Germany) was recognised as Director of Mission and Evangelism and the Revd Dr Cheryl A Brown (USA) as Director of Biblical Studies. The Revd Toivo Pilli (Estonia) was welcomed as a new Lecturer in Baptist and Anabaptist studies, and on 1 January 2003 he became the Director of Baptist and Anabaptist Studies in succession to Dr Randall. We have also been pleased to welcome Mr David Catto (England) as Head of the English Language Department, with the

Revd Susan Lindermann (USA) and Mrs Judy Plant (Prague) also teaching in the Department.

Linās Andronovas (Lithuania), the Student

President, 2001- 2002, led the student body in affirming the IBTS community covenant and the Rector, the Revd Keith G Jones, was the speaker.

The act of worship was led by the Revd Dr Ian M Randall, Director of



Dr Ian Randall - new Senior Research Fellow



The IBTS community

Baptist and Anabaptist Studies, with readings by the Kvestor, Mgr Petra Živňůtková and Dr Cheryl Brown. The prayers for the new Directors and Lecturers were offered by the Chaplain, the Revd Wesley H Brown and prayers for the wider community by adjunct lecturer in education, Dr Bill Weldon.



The English department team of IBTS



NEW STAFF WELCOMED IN THE IBTS LIBRARY



Librarians Mirka, Jana and Katharina

Whilst many of our valued IBTS staff continue working for us year after year, this past twelve months have seen something of a turn-round in the Library team. This has been brought about by our existing library staff moving on to more senior posts elsewhere, or to a wider experience.

As we enter 2003 Library catalogue automation continues apace and our new Library team is in place with Jana Horká as Head Librarian, assisted by Mirka Kolenatá and Katharina Penner.

HUGHEY LECTURES 2002

POLISH THEOLOGIAN LECTURES ON “BAPTISTS AND POLITICS”

Polish theologian Dr Tadeusz Zielinski delivered the 2002 J D Hughey Lectures in November drawing on his eight years' service in Poland as a member of Parliament. Baptists and Politics, his theme, was in keeping with the tradition that the Lectures deal with Baptist History and Identity.

Baptists have long differed in their attitude toward involvement in public life and politics. At times, said Dr Zielinski, this was due to historical situations where Baptists were treated with disdain as a sect. Where Baptists are a small minority, they may be excluded from major roles in political life.

Dr Zielinski emphasised that Baptists have struggled throughout their history with finding balance between their emphasis on the individual's personal response of faith and participation in a voluntary community which has responsibilities in society. Baptist individualism affirmed the Reformers' emphasis upon salvation by grace, through faith alone, and through Jesus alone, and the value of the individual before God. But they also emphasised the community.

The lecturer repeatedly illustrated from the stream of Baptist history which was influenced by Puritans and Calvinists in England. Lively discussion followed each lecture, especially from those who see a greater influence from the Anabaptist tradition and its strong emphasis on community. Dr Zielinski underscored that Baptists' understanding of community entails voluntary co-operation.

What should contemporary Baptists say about political involvement? Anabaptists were historically

forced to withdraw from any participation. On the other hand, one can make a strong case for active involvement. Dr Zielinski cited the example of Roger Williams, who, with John Clarke, fought for the charter of the Rhode Island colony in America in which no church was to be established by the State.

Baptists, while committed to the separation of church and state, have often encouraged individual involvement in politics where their Christian values may shape their decisions. He cited the examples of Martin Luther King, Jr., and of American Presidents Truman, Carter, and Clinton, while not necessarily affirming all of their actions or policies.

If a person has been endowed with the gifts for public office, and senses that this is God's calling, then one should prayerfully seek God's guidance about the possibility of entering political life. Such participation, said Dr Zielinski, involves strong temptations to compromise Christian principles, carries heavy responsibilities, but may also be satisfying and fulfilling

God's purposes.

Dr Zielinski served in the Polish Parliament, and now teaches systematic theology (is currently chair) at the Christian Academy in Warsaw and serves as Academic Dean at the Warsaw Baptist Theological Seminary. He is also a member of the Human Rights Commission of the Baptist World Alliance. He is the author of two major books, one on Roger Williams and the other on Justification by Faith within the evangelical wing of the Church of England.



Dr Tadeusz Zielinski

RIVERSIDE SCHOOL AT IBTS

The disastrous Prague floods in the summer of 2002 continue to have their effect on Prague. Work goes on throughout the city to dry out buildings. Gradually the metro system is coming back into action.



Head teacher Sue Anderson with some of her pupils

The buildings of Riverside School, an English-language school in Sukdol, were badly damaged by the flooding. Riverside, a private Christian school, has close connections with IBTS, with children from our Missionary and Directorate families studying there since its inception, and various former members of staff have served on the Board of Trustees of the school. So, it was natural that Riverside should turn to IBTS to see if we could help.

From September 2002, 120 children aged from 3 – 11 years have been on our campus, with various rooms throughout the seminary being turned into classrooms. It is likely they will be with us for the whole academic year whilst their own premises dry out and are being refurbished.

Peter Daish, Director of Riverside, and Sue Anderson, Head Teacher of the Junior Department, have both expressed their delight at the help offered by IBTS and the co-operation we enjoy. Parents, too, have been pleased with the solution found in difficult circumstances. The seminary community has adapted to having the school on site and has enjoyed special events and concerts performed by the school children.



NEW PERSONAL ASSISTANTS IN DIRECTORATE

2003 sees changes in the line-up of support staff at IBTS with the retirement of Maureen White as Personal Assistant to the Rector. Maureen continues to serve IBTS as Clerk to the Board of Trustees and was thanked for her service during the November BOT meetings.

Adjustments to responsibilities and bringing Conference and Public Relations work to the heart of the Department of Finance and Administration places many key support activities in the hands of three women – Lina Andronoviene, PA to the Rector; Lucie Ebnerová, PA to the Kvestor and Dáša Karlová, Administrative Assistant to the Kvestor.



Lucie, Lina and Dáša

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

IBTS has been privileged to have many volunteers from around the world working to develop and maintain our Prague campus and services. With the campus at full stretch there is a continuing need for volunteers in specific areas and we appeal to all readers of the Link to help us in recruiting people for our Volunteer programme.

• English Language Teachers

This on-going need is for people with a 'Teaching English as a Foreign Language' Certificate and, preferably some teaching experience. We need people most of the year (August – June) who can come either for a minimum of six weeks or up to one academic year. Special help is always needed in August, September, October, January and February.

Teaching is for those seeking to learn English through a residential course, students on our Certificate Programme, and support for Masters students in reading essays and helping with technical language.

• Librarians

Qualified Librarians willing to come and serve for at least one month. Must be computer literate and able to work with an automated catalogue.

• Summer Work Teams

Groups of people (preferably no more than eight) willing to come for one or two weeks in the period 30

May to late August, to do general painting and repair work and gardening.

Our web site gives details on how to volunteer and the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, American Baptist Churches International Ministries, North Carolina Baptist Men, the Baptist Missionary Society (UK) and the Baptist Union of Scotland all have volunteer programmes supporting IBTS. So, contact your local mission agency to find out more, or look on our web site.



Bob McQueen, Volunteer Co-ordinator



Volunteers at work



THIRD INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON BAPTIST STUDIES 16- 19 July 2003 at IBTS, Prague.

This major event will feature lectures by leading Baptist scholars from throughout the world including Professor Eric Geldbach (University of Bochum, Germany), Dr Ken Manley (Alumnus of IBTS, Whitley College, Melbourne, Australia), Professor Samuel Escobar (Eastern Seminary, Philadelphia), Henry Mu-

gabe (Baptist Seminary, Gweru, Zimbabwe), Dr Karen Smith (South Wales Baptist College, Cardiff), Dr William H Brackney (Baylor University, Texas). Contact Lina Andronoviene (Lina@ibts.cz) for full programme and to reserve your place.

STUDY AND CONFERENCE OPPORTUNITIES AT IBTS

IBTS offers a unique opportunity for study and relaxation in an international multi-cultural community focused around a cycle of community worship and in the setting of an environment of learning. Whatever you see as the next stage in your Christian growth and development we are sure IBTS with its advanced degree programmes and research institutes can offer you a good opportunity.

Here is a selection of what we have to offer –

Advanced Research: PhD and MPhil

Part-time and full-time postgraduate research programmes with the opportunity to gain the Master of Philosophy or Doctor of Philosophy degree in applied theology, biblical, missiological or historical studies.

Advanced Study: MTh and Mgr

Part-time and full-time postgraduate advanced study leading to the degree of Master of Theology (University of Wales) or Magister in Theology (IBTS, Czech Republic) majoring in one of the following disciplines – Applied Theology, Baptist and Anabaptist Studies, Biblical Studies, Contextual Missiology. A single module enrolment on any of the degrees is also possible.

Certificate in Theology: Cert.Theol.

A nine-month residential programme, with a general introduction to Biblical and theological studies and English. This programme is intended for young people pre or post higher education, aiming to make their career in another discipline, but wanting to acquire good skills in English language and a thorough introduction to Biblical and theological studies so that they can better serve the church.

English language courses

Part-time or full-time English language study in the context of this Christian community. All levels from beginner to obtaining Cambridge Certificate.

Sabbatical study

For serving pastors, teachers and denominational leaders who want to spend between one and six months in study leave. We offer a special package and full access to the courses and seminars of IBTS and to our excellent library.

Research Associates

A programme to enable young scholars to spend two to four weeks at IBTS working on their own research for publication. There gives opportunity to participate in the life of the community, participate in post-graduate research seminars, have access to the library and the support of a member of our academic team.

Directors' Conferences

Several major conferences are held each year, organised by the IBTS Directorate and relating to issues of major concern for Baptists and to the research programme of IBTS. These are always international in character and give opportunity to grapple with key issues for the Christian community today.

Special Lecture Series

In early November each year either the Nordenhaug or Hughey Lectures are presented, when a leading scholar is invited to share her or his latest thinking.

For more information on any of the above see the IBTS web site or contact Registrar@ibts.cz

Recreation at IBTS

Don't forget, Prague is also a marvellous holiday destination. Throughout the year we have hostel, single room en suite, twin en suite, and apartment accommodation to rent. Again, full details on our web site or contact Reservations@ibts.cz



Seminar in progress

IBTS BOARD OF TRUSTEES AGREES ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

The Board of Trustees of the International Baptist Theological Seminary gathered at IBTS from 8-11 November 2002 for their twice yearly meetings under the chairmanship of Dr Friedrich Emanuel Wieser of Vienna.

Each meeting receives a report from the Directorate on the activity of IBTS and also considers strategic issues for the future. At the November meeting a major policy decision was the approval of a seminary environmental policy. This had been drafted by a special Environmental Management group consisting of representatives of the Directorate, staff and students and including, as consultant, Professor Graham W Ashworth CBE, President of the Founda-



Tree planting in Enviromental Month, November 2002

tion for Environmental Education and a British Baptist.

The policy addresses how environmental issues are taught throughout the curriculum, practical action to be taken and developed by IBTS towards a sustainable environment and how the seminary might work with others in the community on environmental issues.

Already, IBTS has added to the number of items being recycled and is in conversations with the Orthodox Academy in Moravia, who specialise in environmental concerns, looking at various energy-saving plans including solar panels and biomass heating.

IBTS went on to hold a special environment month with introductory lectures and community activity, looking at how more trees can be planted on the campus; the management and recycling of waste, conservation of energy and general environmental concerns. Children from Riverside School, which currently meets on campus, assisted students in the planting of three new fruit trees in the IBTS orchard.

The full environmental policy can be read on the IBTS web site www.ibts.cz/directorate



KVESTOR AWARDED DOCTOR OF JURISPRUDENCE

Congratulations to IBTS Kvestor and Director of Finance and Administration, Petra Živnůstková, on being awarded the degree of Doctor of Jurisprudence in the Law Faculty of the historic Charles University in Prague. Petra graduated as a Magister in Law in 1999 and went on to submit her dissertation on European environmental law, undergoing her oral examination in January 2003.

Petra was awarded her diploma in a degree congregation held in the historic Carolinum building in central Prague in early February. She continues to do research and lectures for IBTS on environmental issues. She is a member of the Czech Christian Academy Environmental Section Committee.



*Kvestor
JUDr. Petra Živnůstková*

ALUMNI NEWS

The Revd Dr Frank Adams We are delighted to announce that Frank Adams, General Secretary of the All Africa Baptist Fellowship and IBTS alumni has been awarded the degree of Doctor of Philosophy. Frank has undertaken this part-time in Oxford.

NEW POST FOR FORMER PROFESSOR

Dr H Walker Pipkin, former Professor of Church History at IBTS when in Rüsclikon has been appointed Director of the American Baptist – Samuel Colgate Historical Library in Rochester, New York, with effective from 1 February 2003. This appointment has been made by the American Baptist Historical Society. Dr Pipkin served at IBTS from 1978 – 1989.

Whilst at IBTS Dr Pipkin inaugurated the Institute of Baptist and Anabaptist Studies and the Hughey Lectures. We wish Dr Pipkin ever success

in this new post.

ISSUES OF THE LINK

We apologise that in the course of preparing the Autumn 2002 Link the issue number inadvertently changed from 106 to 107. In order to avoid further confusion this Link is numbered 108. There is no Link 106.

WENDELL SLOAN

We are saddened to record the death of Wendell Sloan, a good supporter and volunteer at IBTS, who served as interim Business Manager and for some months as Acting Co-President at IBTS in 1997. We extend our deep sympathy to Martha and the family as we give thanks for this faithful servant of Jesus Christ who did so much for IBTS.

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Rector
The Revd Keith G Jones

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