

# The Link

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## IBTS IS REPRESENTED WELL AT THE BWA CENTENARY CONGRESS



*Dr Denton Lotz addresses the guests at the IBTS luncheon*

**Take** a historic banqueting hall in Birmingham City Council with a fine spread of British food. Add over 100 Baptists aged between 1 and 80 years who have come together for the IBTS luncheon at the Baptist World Alliance Congress and mix them together. Allow them to mingle and share their stories of involvement with IBTS –

- some over many years with memories of Ruschlikon, such as Denton and Janice Lotz and our current BOT Chair, Emmanuel Wieser,
- others involved in both Ruschlikon and Prague, such as John David and Joanne Hopper and David Nixon
- and others with only the experience of Prague in their stories, such as recent graduates Hikmat and Krista Kachouh, Lina and Linas Andronovas,



and current students like Tina and Marko Grozdanov.

**Add** speeches by our Academic Dean, Rector, Professor Graham W Ashworth and the special moment when Denton Lotz and John Sundquist responded as their names are added to the IBTS Scroll of Honour. Watch alumni and former faculty and staff from across the generations sharing stories, reviving memories, simply enjoying being together in this IBTS party.

**Then take** a short walk from the City Hall to the Birmingham National Indoor Arena where over 12,000 women, men and children are gathering for the evening sessions. Enjoy

listening to several of our present IBTS community as they take part –

- students Helle Liht from Estonia, Tina Grozdanova from Macedonia;
- academic team members Parush Parushev and Keith Jones;
- European Baptist Federation General Secretary, Tony Peck;



*JUDr Petra Veselá recognises John Sundquist as a new addition to the IBTS Scroll of Honour*



*Lauran Bethel with former US president Jimmy Carter and his wife*

- receiver of the Baptist Human Rights Award, Lauran Bethel.

Did we hear someone comment if IBTS, Prague the only seminary to feature at the BWA Centenary congress? Well, no, but we certainly had more people on the platforms than anybody else !

**Finally**, take a walk amongst the delegates at the Congress and meet hundreds of people who have IBTS in their hearts and prayers and who continue to provide financial support for its present students.

**An amazing** occasion that will live in all our memories.

# IMPORTANT BAPTIST MEETINGS AT IBTS

September 22-24, IBTS welcomed over 120 participants of the European Baptist Federation (EBF) General Council to the Prague campus. The General council is the supreme decision making body in relation to IBTS and these were very important meetings for us. The sessions of the Council took place in the chapel, classrooms and other facilities of IBTS. The Council's opening ceremony was held in Prague's Betlémská Kaple (Bethlehem chapel) where the Czech reformer and martyr Jan Hus had preached 600 years ago. For this opening event of the Council, the Rector of IBTS, Keith G Jones, was asked to give the address. An IBTS music group and choir led by Lina Andronovienė featured both in the opening service and in the worship each morning throughout the council. Dr Peter F Penner, Director of the Research Institute in Mission and Evangelism at IBTS delivered an important key note address to the council on mission in Europe today.

During this Council meeting, EBF accepted three new members. The Swedish fellowship of churches Interact and the small union of Baptist congregations in Kosovo were brought in as full members. Also the Baptist congregation of Baghdad, Iraq, became an associate member of the EBF.

The Council elected a new president for the coming two years, Helari Puu (Estonia), who had been the EBF vice-president for the previous term. Helari Puu replaced the Norwegian Billy Taranger, Rector of our sister seminary in the Consortium of European Baptist Schools, at Stabekk, Oslo. Toma Magda from Croatia was elected as the new vice-president of the EBF.



*The Revd Keith G Jones gives the EBF Council opening address in Betlémská Kaple*

Many in the IBTS community were crucial in helping the meetings run smoothly: driving to and from the airport and train stations; providing support services in making sure rooms were prepared with the necessary materials and with water for the members; navigating Council members through the streets of Prague and

assisting more senior Council members in carrying cases to their rooms and back. For the IBTS team, this event, although a challenging one logistically, was a joyful and meaningful occasion. The leaders of various EBF member Unions were glad to connect with those students whom they have sent to study at IBTS.



*Former and new EBF presidents: Billy Taranger and Helari Puu*



*IBTS Community Autumn 2005*

## INTRODUCING THE NEW STUDENTS OF IBTS, AUTUMN 2005

As is true every year the IBTS campus was buzzing with new and returning students for the orientation and intensive weeks at the end of August and first weeks of September.

IBTS welcomed 14 students from 9 different countries

this year for the nine month Certificate of Applied Theology (CAT) programme. Included in this number is one student participating in the three month intensive English course.

In the PhD programme there are 12 new students who have enrolled with varying interests, with the Master and Magister programme bringing 13 new faces to the IBTS campus.

We would like to introduce to the LINK readers a few of the full-time students here on the IBTS campus.



*Johanna Lenart, Hungary*

**Johanna Lenart** is a new **Master of Theology** student this autumn, but definitely not a new face on campus. Last year she successfully completed the IBTS Certificate of Applied Theology (CAT) programme. Johanna was study-

ing for a degree in Mission and Social Work at the Baptist Seminary in Hungary when she was first introduced to IBTS through her Union's newspaper. She decided to extend her formal education in Prague because of her interest in Contextual Missiology and her desire to learn and be challenged. Moreover, she agrees with the seminary's emphasis on the need to remain relevant to the changing world. As this is her second year on campus, Johanna is looking forward to another enriching multicultural experience within the IBTS community. She especially enjoys being taught and mentored by lecturers from both the east and the west with the broad perspectives they bring. After finishing her Master degree next year, Johanna plans to return to Hungary where she has aspirations of partnering with her Union to expand their focus on social work among Hungarian families.

**Daily Adam (Master of Applied Theology)** first heard about IBTS from Tovia Pilli, who is the current course leader in Baptist and Anabaptist Studies at IBTS. With his encouragement, she came to inspect the school in November 2003, and subsequently enrolled as a part-time master student in Baptist and Anabaptist Studies. She chose this program because of her interest in church history and researching new information particularly about Estonian Baptists. Prior to this year, Daily worked first as the Librarian and later as the Academic Dean for the Theological Seminary in Tartu, Estonia.

On a personal level, her life has changed considerably since beginning her studies at IBTS. This past summer as she married another IBTS student, Dejan Adam, Following her wedding, Daily moved to Prague to join her husband. She especially enjoys the beauty of the campus as well as meeting and learning about and from different people in the IBTS community. Daily plans to finish the first half of her Master's program requirements this year while Dejan completes his Magister degree. Although uncertain of their future beyond IBTS, they are confident in God's



Daily Adam, Estonia

leading and desire to be actively involved in ministry.



Alan Abboud, Israel

One of **Alan Abboud's** first experiences as a **Certificate of Applied Theology (CAT)** student at IBTS was the celebration of his eighteenth birthday. After recently graduating from The Sisters of Nazareth School in Haifa, Israel he was looking for another opportunity to study. He heard about the EBF's International Baptist Theological Seminary from his pastor's daughter, who was a CAT student in 2002-2003. She recommended IBTS as an unique experience and opportunity

to learn. Alan already is realizing this as he encounters different Christian practices and learns to cherish the similarities as well as the differences among traditions. Though still adapting to find his place at IBTS, Alan sees himself growing and learning much through living in community with students who have very diverse cultures and customs. After finishing the CAT program in May, Alan is interested in pursuing an education in the fields of technology and medicine.

**Nikolay Uzchakov** traveled from Bulgaria to the Czech Republic with several objectives and consequently will be quite busy during the three month intensive **English programme** at IBTS. The first objective is quite clear – to learn English. Nik spends every day either in the classroom or informally developing his English language skills. After completing the intensive English programme this winter, Nik wishes to continue his formal education at IBTS. While at IBTS Nik also desires to gain knowledge and experience which will broaden his approach to ministry back in Bulgaria. He is already benefiting from new friendships in which there is a mutual sharing and learning though coming from quite varied backgrounds. Nik learned of IBTS from our Academic Dean Parush Parushev, who was a lecturer during Nik's studies at the Bulgarian Evangelical Theological Institute. He graduated last year after finishing diploma work on the need to empower young peo-



Nikolay Uzchakov, Bulgaria

ple for mission involvement and practice. When Nik returns to Bulgaria, he will resume working with youth and believes that his expanded English ability and broadened perspective will help him be more effective in ministry.

# THE EUROPEAN BAPTIST CAMPUS

At the EBF Council in 1999, we launched a campaign asking each member Union to donate a piece of artwork or a painting to our European Baptist Campus to help beautify the buildings and to create a very specific way to reflect our common ownership and identity with this site.

**Estonia** – one painting in the Hubmaier Pavilion, **Armenia** – one painting in the chapel and **Holland** – one painting in the chapel.

We have also received contributions from other groups and individuals:



*Karl Heilesen's painting in the IBTS chapel*

We are very grateful to the Unions and others who have responded with enthusiasm to this campaign – some, like Norway and Denmark, to an amazing degree! Strolling around the European Baptist Campus, one can enjoy the various art pieces which have begun to decorate the site.

Thus far we have received contributions from the Baptist Unions of **Norway** - five painting in the “Norwegian corridor,” **Denmark** – one painting in the chapel and one in the library,

**Yorkshire Baptist Association** – a wall mural in Helwys Pavilion, **Barnoldswick Baptist Church, Yorkshire** – a banner for use in the chapel, **John Bunyan Baptist Church / ArkT Centre, Oxford** – Indian Christian batik in chapel, **Harry Moore (former IBTS Professor)** – stained glass window in the chapel, **Larry Maddox (IBTS Chaplain), Waco** – a painting in the chapel, **Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, USA** – a banner for use in the chapel and the **Federation of Baptist in El Salvador** – FEBES logo.

Thank you to all of you! If your Union has not participated in this common vision yet we invited you to do so. Below you will read a short introduction to one of the artists whose paintings are decorating IBTS.

**Karl Heilesen** was born the day before Christmas Eve in 1918, in a town in Northern Jutland, Denmark. As a 14 year old boy, Karl was the first in his family to become a Baptist. He grew up in his grandparents' home together with his mother and younger brother and sister. From the age of nine, Karl wanted to be an artist. He began his study at the Academy of Art as a young man, after marrying his wife Karen with whom he has two daughters, but was never able to make a living from his artwork. Instead he became a teacher of art and woodworking at the Baptist school in Toelloese near Copenhagen. He only painted in his spare time. The chairmen at a famous art exhibition advised Karl to divorce his wife for a wealthier woman, so he could concentrate on his art. Karl's Christian belief made him instead turn the establishment down and he never became famous apart from his church related artwork. He has made stained glass-windows for a number of churches of different denominations. One can even be found in the church of an African congregation. Some of his woodcuts are on the walls of many Baptist homes in Denmark. However, he is most known in the Baptist family for his logo for the Baptist Union of Denmark - the shattered white cross on a blue background and with a red rose in the heart of the cross.

## CONGRATULATIONS!

We are delighted to announce that **Einike Pilli**, our IBTS lecturer in the field of learning and education, was awarded a **Doctor of Theology** degree from Tartu University for successfully defending her dissertation on 20 September 2005. Toivo Pilli, Einike's husband came to IBTS in 2002 to join the lecturing team, Einike then followed in the autumn of 2003.

Einike is a graduate of the Estonian Baptist Theological Seminary in theology, and has received her master's degree from Tartu University in the field of pedagogy. Einike's research and teaching interests are in lifelong learning, adult education, applied theology and educational ethics. She has taught several courses and has written various academic papers in these fields. Einike has received, among others, a research scholarship from the Estonian Council of Churches (2001) and CIMO stipend for additional studies and a research visit to Helsinki University (1998-1999, 2002). She is member of the Estonian Academic Association of Theology, the Estonian Academic Association of Pedagogy and other professional societies.

With the dissertation title, *'A Holistic concept of Lifelong learning in the context of Estonian Protestant Churches'*, the markers emphasised the relevance of Einike's research for the Estonian context, where little has been done in studying the

relationship of learning and the church's mission. Her doctoral dissertation argued that in order to fulfil its mission better in the changing Estonian society, which can be characterised by having post-Communist, post-Christian and post-modern features, the protestant churches need to be involved in a continuous learning process. This process does not take place only in formal learning settings but also in informal learning environments.

You may find a copy of her dissertation in the IBTS library.



*The Rev Toivo Pilli and Dr Einike Pilli*

## THANK YOU!



*Katie Jones and Emma Binder, volunteer IBTS artists*

IBTS again would like to recognise the recent volunteers who have helped us in many ways. We could not operate without the ongoing support by such volunteers from Europe and North America.

Last Spring, Nick and **Ann Skipper** through "Friends Of IBTS" sent a work team from the **First Baptist Church in San Marcos, Texas**, who finished the gazebo on top of our hill. **Jeff Carter**, together with **Canadian Baptist Ministries**, brought a team of 15 youth to Prague to paint the exterior windows of the IBTS buildings as part of their Czech Ministry trip. **Wayne Ferguson** returned to our campus for his tenth volunteer trip! He picked up the brushes after the Canadians left and painted an amazing amount of

windows and doors during his weeks here.

**Karl Sauerteig** and his wife **Hedda** came to IBTS through the **Germany Missionary Fellowship**. While Karl mainly assisted Wayne in painting, Hedda worked in the library helping our staff with acquisitions and donations. Over the summer months the German Missionary Fellowship also sponsored **Helmut Kwasney** who helped in the IBTS library.

**Richard** and **Diane Taylor** returned with their friends **Janet Cook** and **Christopher Blackburn** to work in the campus gardens and surveying the IBTS buildings. The results of the surveying was a much needed maintenance schedule for the buildings. **Rhoda Smith** has been on campus twice in the past few months. First, donating time to our gift shop and guest lounge and then returning to assist with administrative work during the EBF council meetings.

**David Leuzinger** and **Sheldon Bassett** have arrived on campus as volunteers in the English department, focussing primarily on the Certificate of Applied theology programme. Most recently, **Katie Jones** and **Emma Binder** visited campus to paint a mural on a dining room wall. It is a wonderful rendition of the highlights of Prague which adds to the friendly atmosphere of a common gathering place on campus.

We are deeply thankful to each of these individuals for their time, as well as the sponsors which provided funds for their travel and work at IBTS. We can always use more volunteers! If you are interested please visit the volunteer link on our website.

## ALUMNI & STUDENT NEWS

**MICHAEL HENIESE** (MTh 2004) and Neisazonuo Yhome were married on 2 June 2004 in Neisazonuo's home Kohima Village, Nagaland. Another wedding ceremony was held in Maine, USA on 3 July. Michael began his part-time PhD studies at IBTS this autumn and Neisazonuo began full-time studies at Palmer Theological Seminary in Philadelphia, PA, USA.

**GRAHAM WISE** is now half-time Rural Churches' Adviser for Baptist Rural Mission on behalf of the Baptist Union of Great Britain, and half-time Pastoral Director for the Fellowship for Evangelising Britain's Villages.

**ISTVAN-ANDRAS ELEKES** (CAT 2004) began studies as a civil construction engineer in Cluj, located in north-western Romania in the Transylvania region.

**MARINA SILINSKAYA** (CAT 2003) gave a birth to a healthy baby boy in mid-October 2005.



*Adam and Valk wedding: an IBTS couple*

Full time MGr student **DEJAN ADAM** and Part-time MTh student **DAILY VALK** were wed in Tartu, Estonia on 6 August 2005. Both are now full time students in the Baptist and Anabaptist Studies programme living on campus at IBTS.

## IBTS PUBLICATIONS

### OCCASIONAL

#### **Baptists and the Orthodox Church**

On the way to understanding

Editor: Ian M Randall

2003, 112 pages, 200 Czech Crowns + p&p

#### **Involuntarily Free or Voluntarily Bound**

Singleness in the baptistic communities of post-communist Europe

Lina Andronoviené

2003, 60 pages, 150 Czech Crowns + p&p

#### **The Nordenhaug Lectures 2003**

Theology in a Postmodern Age

Nancey Murphy

Revised Edition 2004, 64 pages, 150 Czech Crowns + p&p

#### **The Whitley Lecture 1999**

##### **A Shared Meal and a Common Table**

Some reflections on the Lord's Supper and Baptists

Keith G Jones

2004, 27 pages, 100 Czech Crowns + p&p

### RESEARCH

#### **Mapping Baptistic Identity**

##### **Rival Versions of Theological Enquiry**

Rollin G Grams

2005, 200 Czech Crowns + p&p

#### **Christian Presence and Witness Among Muslims**

From a Conference at IBTS in February 2004

3 DVDs

Speakers: Dr David Shenk, Bishop Kenneth Cragg and Walt White

2005, 300 Czech Crowns + p&p

Book to complement the DVDs edited by Peter F Penner

2005, 430 Czech Crowns + p&p

#### **Mission in the Former Soviet Union**

Papers from an IBTS Research Conference held in February 2003

Edited by Walter W Sawatsky and Peter F Penner

2005, 295 pages, 395 Czech Crowns + p&p

**To order any of the above publications  
please contact [Denise@ibts.cz](mailto:Denise@ibts.cz)**