

THE LINK



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

**Summer 2000
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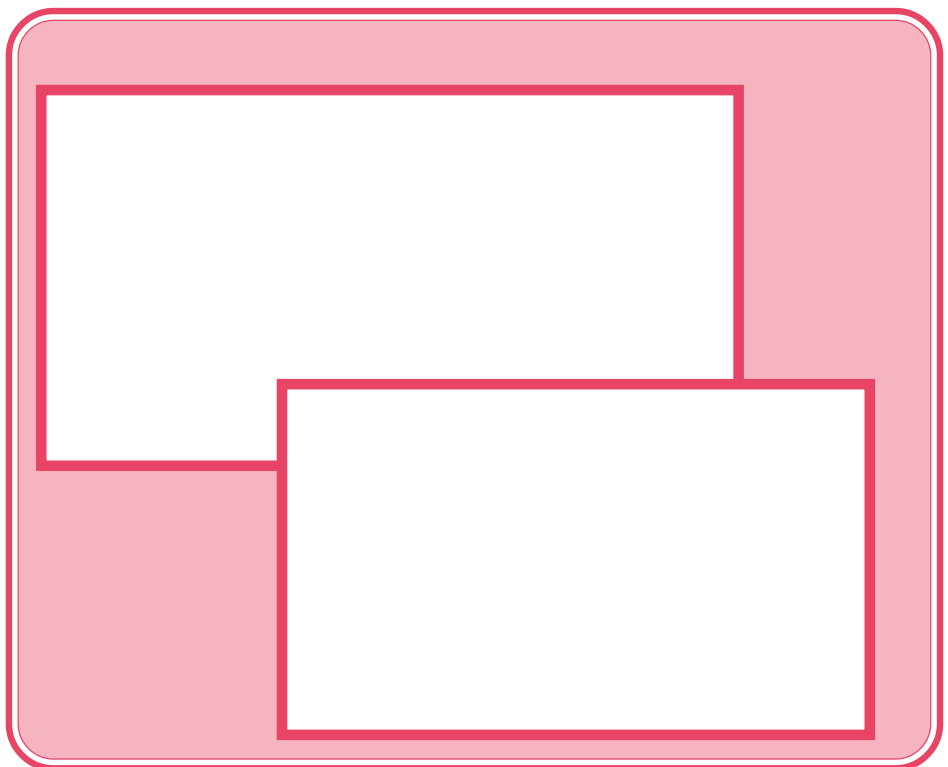
Students on the road

On Friday, 3 March, 11 students, their spouses and 5 children travelled to Český Krumlov for a 3-day student community-building event in the Czech Republic.

Český Krumlov is an old medieval town in Bohemia and is encircled by the Vltava River. For over 300 years Český Krumlov was the residence of the Rosenbergs. The students spent the night there and visited the castle. On Saturday the students visited Vyšší Brod and a monk showed them around the huge monastery including an old library. They travelled on to Hluboká and Vltavov, site of another old castle, with well preserved gardens. Karlovy Vary was the final destination on Saturday evening.

Sunday was a special time for the students. They and their families sang together as Veniamin Kondor played the piano and Miroslav Živkovic the guitar when they led the service at Karlovy Vary Baptist Church. Miroslav Živkovic and Katerina Pospíšil joined together in a duet. Petro Palykhata preached and Radek Pospíšil translated into Czech. Petro's message concentrated on the importance of a personal relationship with God. Ivo Šrajbr, the pastor of the church, had invited the student body to join their congregation.

The rest of Sunday was spent in Karlovy Vary, also known as Karlsbad, an old medieval town having more than 60 hot springs (Bohemian spa). It was named after the Bohemian king and German and Holy Roman Emperor Charles (Karl) IV who allegedly found the springs in 1358 during a hunting expedition. Radek, the Student President, commented: " This gave us one opportunity to become closer as a student body by travelling together on the trip to the various cities, eating and worshipping together. We grew closer together as a student community ".



DEPARTURES AND APPOINTMENTS AT IBTS

The period around the April meeting of the Board of Trustees was a time of departures and the announcement of departures, together with some new appointments.

After almost five years at IBTS, David and Ellen Brown are heading back to the United States.

In August 1995, Dr. Brown came to IBTS as the Director of Continuing Education, with responsibility for an expanding SITE ministry (Seminary Institute for Training and Education).

Ellen assisted David as Conference Coordinator, and has also served as Manager of the Book and Gift Shop, Chairperson of the Social Committee, and mentor and support for seminary women.

Last year, when SITE was fully integrated into the seminary programme (as "IBTS Directors' Conferences"), David was appointed Director of Christian Pedagogy. His primary task was to design the incorporation of IBLA (the International Baptist Lay Academy). That new programme will begin this autumn as a Certificate in Applied Theology (CAT). Dr. Brown said recently, "Our ministry here has been wonderfully fulfilled! Through this transition time, SITE and IBLA have been integrated and the whole new seminary programme has now been fully accepted by the EBF family. The time has come for my position to be filled by a European. It's a great day for IBTS!"

David and Ellen are looking forward to staff roles with International Ministries (ABC, USA) with whom they have been associated for the past five years. David will be the Director of a new "Global Specializations" team (including a theological education emphasis), and Ellen will assume responsibility for the pastoral care of missionaries and their families.

During the Board meeting Dr Davorin Peterlin tendered his resignation as Pro-Rector, Academic Dean and Director of Biblical Studies, for personal and family reasons with effect from 31 August 2000. Dr Peterlin served at IBTS from

1997-1998 as lecturer in New Testament and was then appointed to his present post in September 1998.

Johnny Jonsson, Chair of the Board, expressed deep appreciation to Davor for the great help he has been in the initial phase of refocusing the programmes of IBTS. Keith Jones, Rector, speaking on behalf of the Directorate, praised Davor for his hard work and vision in establishing the new post-graduate programmes and for his teamwork within the Directorate.

Dr Ian M Randall is now serving as acting Academic Dean and Dr Cheryl Brown, working with EBF-TAG Europe has been seconded to work full time with the Biblical Studies programme at IBTS for the Autumn 2000 Trimester.

Dr. Cheryl Brown

On 8 May the Board of Trustees and Mr Reinhard G Geissler, Director of Finance and Administration, mutually agreed to conclude his employment with IBTS. The Board thanked Reinhard for his period of service, firstly as European Volunteer Co-ordinator, then Business Manager and latterly as Director of Finance and Administration. His wife, Ingrid, has also concluded her service to IBTS as PR Manager.

The Rector, with the concurrence of the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees, has appointed Mgr. Petra Živnůstková as acting Head of the Department of Finance and Administration.

Petra, a citizen of Prague, is a law graduate of Charles University, Prague, and has worked for IBTS ever since the property was first purchased, serving initially in the Construction Office, then more recently as Legal and Property Manager.

JILL AZUMAH AWUNI GRADUATES

Jill Azumah Awuni was awarded the degree of Bachelor of Theology on Thursday, 16 March 2000 in the Chapel at IBTS. The Seminary community, friends and dignitaries were invited for this special occasion. A prayer of invocation, welcome and introduction, reading of the scripture and songs began the ceremony. The Revd. Keith G. Jones conferred the degree.

Dr. Davorin Peterlin gave the graduation address. "As the wise builder or the king seeking truce in the parables, students of theology are also invited to plan ahead their studies and make wise choices.

Jill has strategized well. In the following leg of her life and ministry she should be equally prudent. Christian ministry is not always easy, and difficult moments will come, as the text from Proverbs shows. The main goal is to hold to the truth and the conviction of God's calling and not to seek people's praise. Above all, the work for the Kingdom of God involves submission to the King and sacrifice."

Several of Jill's close friends from Ghana sang traditional praise songs. The first song composed and led on drum by Jude Yabani, "Me kywen Awuradi enim", expressed the good results of waiting on the Lord.



Members of the Directorate and teaching staff with Jill

Jill stated in her response that she was happy to be the first IBTS student to graduate in the new millennium. She was thankful to the Directorate, staff, students, and to friends for their support during her time of study. The ceremony ended with refreshments and Ghanaian food prepared by Jill, Jude and friends. The guests not only enjoyed the food but the entertainment that was

provided.

"My future goals are to return by September to begin the M.Th. Programme offered at IBTS," Jill said. "While I am in the Czech Republic, I will be working voluntarily to form a strong Christian group with minority tribal groups from around the world more specifically African students and dignitaries."

DEVELOPING MEN'S MINISTRY

25 to 27 August, 2000

International Baptist Theological Seminary

This conference, offered in cooperation with the BWA Men's Department (Europe), will motivate men to be more effective in

their important ministries in the local church. But more than that, we will seek ways for representatives to build effective men's ministries in their Union's churches. We will learn how to listen to the special needs, difficulties, and opportunities that men have, and discuss the possibilities of a supportive and encouraging network among men's ministries throughout the EBF. Come and enjoy 3 days of great fellowship with men from across the EBF!

A limit of 2 applicants will be accepted from each Union

*if your Union sends non-English speakers, we may ask you also to provide a translator

Total conference participants: 50

(IBTS Scholarships for conference fees are available for individuals attending from Unions which do not have sufficient resources to fund participants. Scholarships are also available for transportation at the lowest ground rate available. Special travel circumstances will be taken into consideration, as requested.)

For more informations you can contact Mrs. Marureen White, email White@IBTS.CZ

**IBTS CONFERENCE ON MISSION & EVANGELISM:
GREAT EXPERIENCE!**

During early May (2-7) the first Mission and Evangelism Conference at IBTS since the refocusing took place, with the theme 'Rethinking Mission and Evangelism for the 21st century'

With 30 participants from 13 countries within the EBF-family, it was a special time of reflection and sharing. The conference started with a lecture by the Revd. Nico van de Leer, a Dutch pastor and missiologist who was invited to take part by Dr. René Erwich (Director of Mission & Evangelism at IBTS), dealing with the challenging European context in which mission takes place today.

This session led to valuable discussions and to the affirmation that both strengthening the identity of the churches and faithfulness are necessary components. In preparation for the conference the participants had been asked to send a description of their own situation and context, their dreams, vision and difficulties.

The afternoon of the first day worked on some case studies, the material being supplied by the participants themselves. The outcome of these studies was constructive. Training of church members and more involvement of people were emphasized.

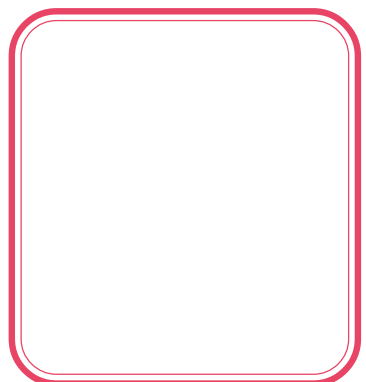
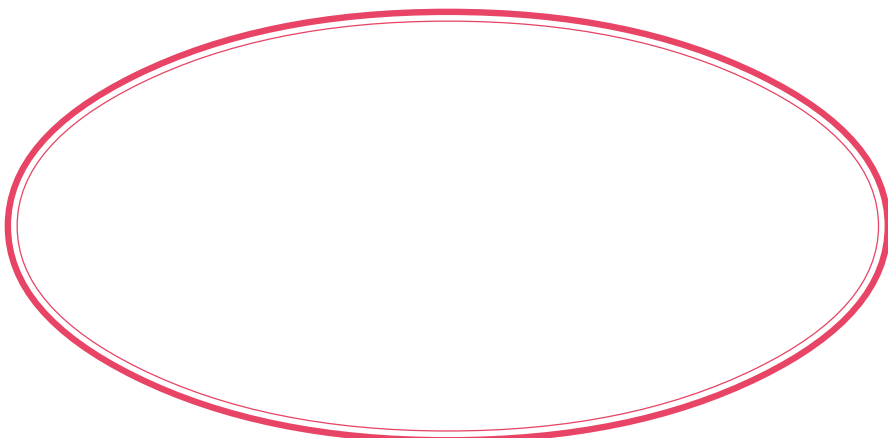
The participants were well motivated and an encouragement for each other as they worked in groups.

From the new mission context of Europe the participants moved to another issue: how to develop missionary congregations. The groupwork following this session led to new ideas and models for the renewal of the churches. One group developed a model which they called the 'Ezekiel 1,16-church' referring to the dynamic spiritual process regarding church life and the witness of the church. The groups all stressed the importance of new terminology in the communication of the Gospel by the churches.

Workshops were held on the Alpha Course, Spirituality and Renewal of the Church and Styles of Evangelism and Church Planting. Prayer for each other's ministries, and other sessions on the Biblical images of the church in mission were exciting, and formed a

colourful composition which stretched the horizons of the participants.

Evaluating the conference it was said by participants that laughter, prayer and reflection had encouraged them and had helped them in understanding their own situations afresh. It was a moving experience to see people from different backgrounds working together so closely. With heart and mind filled the participants left for their home countries to do their work. A great experience - the Spirit was moving.



A VARIETY OF VOLUNTEERS

Every year we at IBTS are very grateful to the many Volunteers who come to us from Europe, the Middle East and the United States of America. They come to do a wide variety of jobs on campus. Many return year after year and come totally committed to our work and ministry.

This is a chance for people to use their everyday work skills, such as professional librarians and builders. For others, it is a chance to have a real change and to use other gifts that they may have.

For example, the Revd Malcolm Goodspeed and his wife, Ann, from Oxfordshire, England joined us recently.

Malcolm is Head of the Department of Ministry of the Baptist Union of Great Britain. Ann, a trained teacher, is working in Oxford with refugees from Kosovo. They motored half way across Europe to bring special electric power boxes for our camping area and installed them! A somewhat different occupation. The photograph shows Malcolm near our Volleyball court installing one of the new power boxes.

Rhoda Smith, our Volunteer Co-ordinator, has been glad to welcome the return of Joe and Joann Proctor who were with us for a month. They were involved in many tasks, working in the library, serving in the shop, cleaning, cutting the grass and getting rid of the weeds, painting and carpentry.

Carol and David Darmstadt from the USA have come until the end of August to be the Hosts to the Volunteers. They have been busily preparing the building where the volunteer teams will be housed.

Conny Vikman from Finland will be busy until the end of the year working on bringing the Website up to date and helping Information Technology Manager, Ivan Heran.

David Creighton, from Scotland has been working as a part-time Volunteer whilst seeking work in Prague. Since March David has been measuring rooms for legal purposes, putting the many records of the buildings into folders, working in the library and other odd jobs around the place. He has now found work in Prague.

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*The editor reserves the right to edit all submissions
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IMPRIME