



IBTI Newsletter December 2021

Dear friend,

Christmas is here again and for society this is simply a time for gifts and festivity without Christ at the centre. However, for us it is a celebration of the coming of the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords. His coming, his life, his sacrifice and a world in need of his salvation and love are foundational for the vision of the IBTC and the reason that young people come to train and prepare to serve him.

We look forward to welcoming our first group of students onto the brand new six-month Certificate Course after the Christmas holidays as we continue to fulfil this mission.

Wishing you all a time of blessing and peace.



Latest news from Eliana

For the past 6 months, as some of you know, Eliana has been resting from work related responsibilities. At the completion of the IBTI 2020/21 session in July, her local GP signed her off for a minimum of 6 months, diagnosing acute burnout both physically and mentally.

This has now been extended until the end of January 2022. She has had a very difficult time so far and only now is seeing signs of improvement. Making decisions was never an issue for her in the past but this is something she is finding difficult, however she is now seeing small changes in this area.

She has asked us to convey her thanks to all who are standing and praying with her. Any words of encouragement for Eliana are very welcome and beneficial but please send them via John (johnnyeliana@yahoo.com) and not directly to Eliana so as to lessen the pressure on her.



Mission in time of Covid

Together with the other second-year students, I had the opportunity to go on a ten-day placement in a church in the UK. The purpose of this was to gain first-hand experience of working within a local church context. The fourteen of us were divided into small groups, going to Nottingham, Folkestone, Chatham, Bromley and IBTI's hometown, Burgess Hill, for this full immersion experience.

We participated in a number of different areas of church life including mid-week activities, which often focused more on the community. For example, toddler groups where parents could come into a Christian environment, meet other parents, and also receive Christ-centred teachings.

Through our involvement in these activities, we discovered that church is not just about the Sunday morning but is so much more. The work that is required to run a church is immense and is a full-time job, so, in seeing this first-hand I personally have developed a much greater respect for pastors everywhere.

I believe that this part of our training has been a key factor for us as we work towards our Diploma in "Applied Theology" because we were able to apply the things we had learnt in the previous year and understand what it means to be involved full time in ministry. This was an incredibly rewarding experience for all of us!



A Time for Giving

A heartfelt thanks to all of you who have prayed for and supported us in any way over the last year as we have faced various challenges and changes. Your interest and help have been and still are invaluable.

We have seen God answer prayer and provide for our needs in amazing ways, and we would appreciate your continual partnership in prayer and, if you feel led, financially! Even small donations, when given regularly, soon add up.

So, why not set up a standing order or give a one-off gift and be a part of this faith-based and faith-filled ministry as so many other people have done over the years? Visit our website on www.ibti.org.uk/support-us/.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

Eliana & John Whyte
with IBTI staff and students

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