



# **IBTI** Newsletter



**International Bible Training College**



**Christmas 2023**







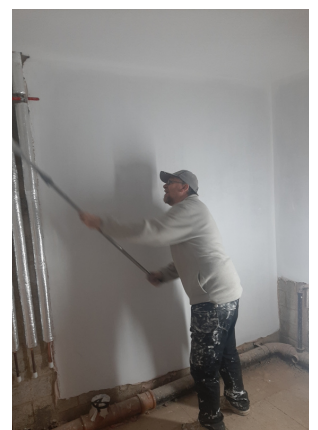
Dear friends,

We are excited as we look forward to the intake of new students arriving by January – and we are believing for a wonderful 77th year here at the College.

We are so grateful for all our former students who are still serving God around the world and for all of you who pray for us and have supported IBTI financially over the years.

## Progress on the Building

One of our great projects this coming year is firstly, to complete the Community Connect Hub in the new building. It is all ready to put in the ceiling, floor and fittings and fixtures - including a kitchen area. When it is finished it will become a vital resource where students can relax, and also meet with staff and visiting lecturers for life-building conversations.







## Annexe 1

The old Annexe 1 has disappeared! We know that lots of former students have got many happy memories of that place. This means that the final entrance to the new building can now be built and we'll also be able to finish the guest rooms and the new Chapel.

Will you join us in making these plans become a reality? Click [Support](#) to support our project.



## IBTI Leaders Breakfast

At the end of November we held this event for the first time to introduce IBTI to new friends and update old friends with what is happening at the college. It was well attended and took the form of a Saturday morning breakfast which was beautifully prepared. There were presentations from Eliana and other members of staff, and everyone agreed it was a great success.







## Honouring Phillida Bennett

No words can fully express our gratitude to God and to Phillida Bennett herself, for all the years she has served at IBTI. She has worked well beyond retirement age and the time has come for the heavy burden of administration to be lifted from her shoulders. However, the good news is that she will continue to live at the IBTI and continue to serve here - but in a lighter capacity. Thank you Lord, and thank you Phillida!

## Former Student Spotlight

Starting with this newsletter, we are introducing a new section as part of our regular updates entitled 'Former Student Spotlight'. We have so many former students who are doing amazingly in their service of the kingdom and we want to celebrate and honour them. In particular, we would like to highlight an event that occurred a few weeks ago whereby one of our former students from the class of 2003 - 2005, Simon Pastorello, handed over his church to another former student, Emmanuel Ofosu, 2016-2018.

Simon was originally from Milan and he was among the group of students who were here when John and Eliana first returned from their mission in Spain to serve the IBTI. Simon has stayed in touch ever since and throughout his 14 years at an Elim church in Blackburn where he was able to bring transformation to the congregation and lead it into reaching out to the surrounding community and towns. When Simon returned to the IBTI as a lecturer a few years ago, he met one of our students, Emmanuel, who had also come to us from the north of Italy. The two of them hit it off straight away, Emmanuel ended up going to "The Beacon" in Blackburn (Elim Pentecostal Church) for an internship and the rest is history as they say.





Eliana and Lisa were able to be present at the celebration of Simon's farewell and Emmanuel's induction. To us as a college this has been a real cause of celebration in seeing a model of God's inter-generational purpose and the beauty of passing on a legacy on the one side and growing into embracing it on the other. Every blessing to both Simon and Emmanuel as they step into the next chapter God has already written for them in eternity.



To all former students: We love to keep in touch so please do write to us with updates on your missions, ministry and personal lives! Feel free to send an email to [marketing@ibti.org.uk](mailto:marketing@ibti.org.uk)

## Upcoming Events



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LEARN MORE





# Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

We teach practical theology here at the IBTI and what could be more practical and theological than the message of Christmas - when the Word became flesh and dwelt among us? When Mary said, "Be it unto me according to your Word" that could well have been the moment when the Holy Spirit overshadowed her - and the virgin conception took place. Ever since then, those who hear the call to serve God with the help of the Holy Spirit are applying that theology and making the Word flesh in our world today.

We send our warmest greetings and pray for a most blessed and happy Christmas to you all!

Much love,  
John and Eliana  
With the IBTI team



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