

IBTI Newsletter



International Bible Training College

August 2023



Dear friends,

We are writing to you right here at the conclusion of the academic year because we have some very exciting things to share with you as we look back with gratitude and forward with expectation.

The IBTI Graduation 2023 weekend began on the Friday evening with a banquet for the students and family members who could attend. It was an awesome time with words of testimony and gratitude from both students and parents.



During the whole weekend there were prophetic words that indicated that this was the beginning of a new day for IBTI. We certainly sensed this during the actual Graduation service on the Saturday afternoon which began with dynamic worship followed by a simple but profound message from Stuart Mayho, Senior Pastor of Tunbridge Wells Christian Fellowship. We had a very special time both celebrating our current graduates, but also reconnecting with many former students who returned personally to cheer on the latest group of students to have completed the training.



LOOKING BACK WITH GRATITUDE

We are grateful to God for ALL the students who have completed the IBTI course over the past 76 years and for ALL the staff, volunteers and lecturers who have given of their time and talents so freely. Although we know God will reward each one of them for this, we strongly believe it is so important to honour people and nurture a culture of gratitude in and around the college.

Gillian Saunders was a student at IBTI back in 1982-83 and, like so many others, went on to dedicate her life fully to the cause of extending God's kingdom on earth. In Gillian's case that took the form of being a missionary of an itinerant nature; she first went to serve in different spheres in Italy followed by service in the Philippines and then her work as part of the IBTI team for the last seven years. She also served as a Trustee. We are grateful to have been one of the many places Gillian has invested her service into for a season and bless her as she goes on to continue her journey of service in the Kingdom of God with Wycliffe Bible Translators.



Pauline Goodyer is retiring after serving at IBTI for the past 20 years, assisting with office work on two mornings each week. After this year's Graduation, she told us with a smile on her face that now she has officially retired! For years to come, many former students will remember her faithful service, hospitality and the loving way she served the college. Thank you for everything, Pauline!

This leads us to shifting our attention to two of our precious lecturers who very recently went to be with the Lord.



John Cuthbert

Who taught consistently for thirty-nine years from 1975.

Andrew Parfitt

Who taught for seven years from 2012. .

They are gone but not forgotten.



LOOKING FORWARD WITH EXPECTATION

We are looking forward with anticipation to our new intake of students in January 2024. In many ways, all of our former students are the best advertisement and ambassadors for the college and we would encourage you to recommend us to any young people that you know, who want to serve God in any way. Full details of courses and how to apply are available on the website <https://www.ibti.org.uk> along with a video below indicating what recent former students say about why one should consider applying to study with us. The application deadline for UK/EU resident is in the next 3 months, but we recommend you apply as soon as possible to ensure a smooth and timely progression through this process. Applicants who live elsewhere in the world need to apply earlier to ensure enough time for visas to be processed.



SPONSORING UKRANIAN STUDENTS

It has been wonderful to have Hanna from the Ukraine with us this year as a student. She is an outstanding young lady with an amazing testimony of how God has led her and her family safely since the war began. At least four other young people from Ukraine are hoping to join us as students in January, but given their very unstable situation, some of them are under pressure from a financial perspective. If you would like to/could help us in supporting these young people in particular with their board and lodging costs (there is no fee for tuition here at the College) please contact John Whyte by writing to financedept@ibti.org.uk, If you are a UK Tax payer, would you consider Gift Aiding your donation all of which will go 100% to the Students Support. Should you desire to, please just ask for a form. Please join us in prayer for these potential students!



ONE4ALL YOUTH CAMP

We have had a busy summer so far as we have only just concluded our first youth camp after the pandemic which was relaunched as the 'One4All' Youth Camp. It ran from 12th to 20th July and campers from Spain, France, Italy and the UK had not only an amazing time of fellowship and fun, but have also testified about real encounters with God, decisions to follow Christ fully and having learnt more about how to nurture their relationship with the Holy Spirit. For us it is always a privilege to serve this generation and empower them as we are convinced they are the ones who can have significant impact on young people of their own age. As these camps have been such a blessing and fruitful in the recruitment of students, but also in simply responding to the needs that are so tangible among young people today, we are happy to announce that the college will launch an additional 'Young Adults Camp' from July 2024. Please see below for more general information while more details and application forms will become available in the autumn with early bird discounts for prompt registrations!



IBTI ONE4ALL YOUTH CAMP

10-19 July 2024

16-20 YEARS



IBTC ONE4ALL YOUNG ADULTS CAMP

24-31 July 2024

21-26 YEARS



IBTIMES MAGAZINE

Our superbly presented second Journal – “IBTimes” was launched at the Graduation service. It was designed and edited in-house and contains outstanding, relevant articles written by five of our lecturers. A copy of this will eventually be available on line but in the meantime the 36 page full colour hard copy is available for a donation of £6 (minimum) for UK and £10 for overseas (postage included). If you would like a copy please send your name and address to Phillida Bennett (admin@ibti.org.uk) together with your donation of £6 or £10 via Bank Transfer to the International Bible Training College

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Thank you for taking the time to read through this newsletter. We cannot stress enough how grateful we are for our wider family of former students, supporters and friends, as you are also very much part of this work!

Please continue to keep us in your prayers as we discover and experience what God has in store for us next.

With love,

John and Eliana
And the IBTI team

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