



Newsletter

everyone in the world . . . in the word

MAY 2011



Everyone in the world wide web ...in the Word

2011 CBSI UK National Leaders Conference

At our Leaders Conference in March we had the pleasure of having Stephen Gaukroger lead and challenge us through the book of Jude. The theme from his messages and for the weekend was 'Fighting for the Faith'. Stephen is former Senior Pastor of Gold Hill Baptist Church and now Founder and Director of Clarion Trust.

From our European Director, Glenn Collard, and his wife Dianne, we heard encouraging reports about the new initiatives that are taking place in CBSI UK and in Europe.



We were also delighted to meet our special guests, Rutherford and Tshahi Banda from Malawi, and to hear news of all that was happening with CBSI in that country. Feedback from delegates has been very positive. Many enjoyed and were challenged by the opportunity to break into groups for

CBSI UK has re-launched the national website at www.cbsiuk.org. Our new website offers an up-to-date design, easy to use publishing system and integrated social media, bringing a fresh dimension to our evangelism and communications.

Some of the useful information includes all our class locations, details on how to start a class, study references and a promotional video using testimonials. We are encouraging members to subscribe to Veronica's CBSI UK news blog via email.

As part of the national online vision, we have begun to create a family of websites which will link all our UK study groups together.

The pioneer of this is the Virginia Water, Ascot, Reading and Thorpe group. They have recently launched a local site using our new platform at www.cbsi-vw.org. It features speaker videos, an interactive study blog, an email subscription to weekly study guides, a member's notice board and a Twitter feed.

The latest class to join this family of websites, is a designated site for the Project Malawi Trust at www.cbsi-malawi.org.

If you are interested in developing a local website for your group or for the groups in your area, please email: debra@cbsiuk.org. The qualifying requirements for the support of a class/ or group website:

- A willing person who would keep your site maintained and updated. They will be given training and technical support.
- There is a minimal cost of £10.00 per year for the hosting of the address.
- The copy for the content of your site should be supplied in a word document. You will also need to supply photos to make the site look more interesting.

Amy Tyley, CBSI Virginia Water

discussion, to eat way too much food all weekend and to hear all that God is doing in and through us all in CBSI-UK. Special thanks to Diane Boothby, our Conference Organiser, and to everyone who worked so hard to make the weekend possible.

2012 National Leaders Conference 16-18 March at Swanwick, please put the date in your diary now to come along in 2012.

Karen Carron

Caleb News!

CBSI-UK Wales News There is such a sense of encouragement here in Cardiff! Since January 2011 our new pre-teen/teen class is up and running and new leaders for an adult evening class have already been trained and start in September, when they complete their current programme.

Four leaders from the Cardiff day class, were also thrilled to be able to attend our CBSI UK Leadership Conference in March.

Please pray for Janet Morgan Phillips as she returns to Wales and schedules in key meetings with church leaders in Pembroke, Monmouth and Bridgend.

Janet Morgan-Phillips

CBSI-UK Scotland News CBSI Classes are blooming in every corner of Scotland this Spring! The new Dornoch Men's Study Group

started meeting at the Royal Dornoch Golf Club in January and now have 11 men attending. Please pray for the possibility of a Young Adult Class to begin in Perth and a class at a retirement centre in Auchlochan Garden Village.

In Leith/Edinburgh the CBSI Class there has been studying Acts this year alongside the Friday morning Parents & Tots class who are studying the same book; their Children's Class is also really blossoming! Please pray for the leadership of all the CBSI classes in Scotland and Cumbria and for more people to attend to study God's Word through CBSI-UK.

Pete and Helen-Jane Peters

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what people are saying about CBSI...

We had only been in Lincolnshire for six months when we came across the CBSI stand at Grapevine

In due course we went along to the class and it was fantastic! I used to be a teacher; teaching teachers how to teach. I also used to be an Anglican reader but I kept quiet about all of this. However, someone got to know and suggested I come on team as a speaker; to do the talk at the end of the group study sessions. So I started doing that, which put my commitment up another notch! Being a group leader or doing the talk encourages you take on a bit more responsibility about doing the study, so you can help and facilitate other people.

I would highly recommend that if there is an opportunity for anybody to take responsibility in their own church or in CBSI UK to take on the challenge. It will make a huge difference to you. Step up! It's a real catalyst for growth.
- John Beverley

A long time friend of mine and her husband are now attending the Ascot CBSI group and are loving it! Her husband Paul, commented after they had been going for a few weeks, "I had no idea Bible Study could be such

fun!" What a great remark for us to hear. - Grace Wort

I enjoy CBSI because it gives me the discipline of picking up my Bible for maybe three solid sessions between the major sessions together. I can read the Word of God and have a good reflexion on it as I am guided by the questions. I am enjoying reading about the flaws in the characters of Gods people and it has been particularly interesting that Judah who abused his daughter in law is in the genealogy of Jesus. I found that fascinating to discuss with my good friends in the group. - John Flynn

I really, really enjoy CBSI. A friend recommended it to me and I was glad to come along. What I especially like about it is the way you get the information first so you can go home, pray and meditate and let God speak. So you come prepared and share and I really enjoy that. It has drawn me closer to Jesus especially studying Marks Gospel. I would recommend it to anybody. It helps you to dig deep and to get much needed spiritual meat. I was a JW for 30 years, I now have freedom! - Ian Simpson

When I started CBSI in Dartmoor Prison I thought I would bless the

prisoners. They have blessed me. One man stands out in my mind, having started earnestly searching for God, he gave his life to Him and was found in the morning having passed away peacefully. - Janet

It's amazing to see the change in my son since he started the 0-5's programme. He is a different child. - Helen

I really, really enjoy CBSI It helps you dig deep and studying Marks Gospel has brought me closer to Jesus. - Ian

I'd been thinking about doing some Bible study, but am so ill disciplined. I asked The Lord to help me find a way. Forty eight hours later someone invited me to CBSI! That was five years ago, I just love it and now lead a class. - Jane

I grew up in France and left the church when I came to England and married. I have rediscovered God since coming to CBSI, I now understand what worship is, that is something new for me! It is life changing. I see through different eyes now - Christine



John Johnston

(Easingwold Class)

1935 - 2010

John lived in York for the first 18 years of his life. He was the eldest of five children. His first experience of God was when he was 14 years old.

He left York to do his National Service in Leicester where he met Janet through the local Methodist Church. He started preaching with the Youth Team and at a later stage, after his marriage to Janet and leaving the army, he began studying to become a Local Preacher. These studies took a back seat for a while until he became qualified as an accountant in local government. John and Janet then spent five years in North Yorkshire where their two sons were born.

A move to Bradford to work in the Finance Office at Bradford University came next and this is where he stayed until he retired. Preaching, leading Sunday school and other church activities followed but life changed when the move of the Holy Spirit touch him, and others, in the 1970s. A new dimension was added to his Christian life.

18 years ago he and Janet moved back to North Yorkshire, where preaching and teaching the Word of God was still an important part of John's life. Shortly after this John was introduced to CBSI and he constantly said that it was "a life saver" for him. He wholeheartedly embraced it and after a year of David Mason's leadership of the Easingwold CBSI, John took over.

As with a lot of people in CBSI the Word of God changes lives in different ways even when the Bible has been a part of your life for many years, so it was with John.

The past three years had been difficult for John with a number of serious health problems, one causing him to have much difficulty walking, but CBSI was never something he considered giving up. John was an ordinary man whom God was able to use to teach and preach the Word God in a simple and easily understood way. John was a righteous man who had great faith in God. He was an encourager and had a real concern for people.

Miriam, a class member writes:

"Life without God was meaningless; this was so true of John, he was totally dedicated to the running of the Easingwold class. I joined in 2004 having moved into the area. I was thrilled to find a Bible Study so well structured and totally dedicated to the Word of God. John had a high standard for us all and gently guided us into the ways of CBSI.

I not only found an excitement through studying the Word of God but His Spirit came through in all that was said. With John's encouragement and not a critical word, we knew when our answers weren't exactly right and when we fell slightly short of the meaning of the Word.

Thank you Lord, for John. We shall miss his exact ways and total devotion to our class".

cbsi-malawi

It was great to have Rutherford and Tsahai Banda with us at the CBSI-UK Conference this year. They then visited some of our CBSI-UK classes, including the Virginia Water Class pictured below.



A big thank you to everyone who contributed to their work, both at the conference and in your classes; we have now raised around £2000! The latest news is that negotiations are in hand for the purchase of land for their agricultural business (chickens/crops) and it is hoped this will be completed by early May 2011. The plan is then to move ahead with the well digging and erection of buildings. Bishop Rutherford oversees around 60 churches throughout Malawi and also heads up 'Africa Hope', an indigenous Malawian organisation serving the needs of their own people. They provide help and employment by running an orphan feeding programme and a small primary school with a staff of three, where our CBSI Children's materials are used. Tsahai Banda also runs a small micro-finance service that has helped many, particularly women, with school fees as well as funds to start local businesses. Rutherford oversees 20 churches and runs a Bible School for Church Leadership – all of which use CBSI materials. As you can see, they are busy people, so please keep praying for them.

Details of how to give financially to Rutherford and Tsahai are on the cbsi-malawi.org website.

Other news: During May the Malawi National Servants Team meet in Blantyre and Bangula which is a new class for CBSI Malawi. It is also hoped to hold training in Mangochi: a strong Muslim area.

Please praise God for all of these activities and pray for the visit of Gillian and David Mason to Malawi in June/July 2011, which will include visits to the farm and to a number of classes around the country.

Thank you again for your support!

Dates for your Diary

2011

Thursday 9th June Midlands Region Away Day
Saturday 11th June National Training Day
Saturday 18th June Area Visitor's Training Day (South)
Saturday 25th June Area Visitor's Day (North)
Saturday 2nd July National Training (North)
Saturday 17th Sept Leader's Away Day (Scotland)

2012

16th –18th March CBSIUK National Conference at Swanwick
Saturday 9th June National Training Day
Saturday 16th June Area Visitor's Training Day (South)
Saturday 23rd June Area Visitor's Day (North)
Saturday 30th June National Training (North)

2013

15th – 17th March CBSIUK National Conference at Swanwick

Thank you Grace!



Grace Wort has been involved with CBSI-UK since 1997 and has assisted us by maintaining high standards in her role as Training Director. She has also worked hard on our new Manual which is far more 'user friendly', and has built up a training 'package' which we are able to use throughout the country in many different situations. Previously with Campus Crusade (Agape), Grace has a background in social work and has also spent some time in Russia as a missionary. A valued member of the National Servant's Team and former Class Leader at Chester Square, where she is still a member, Grace has now been 'headhunted' by CBSI Western Europe. Having been involved there part-time in development and training, she has now been asked to go 'full time'. That doesn't mean we are going to lose Grace. In fact, she will still be based in the UK and we will be her supporting country. This will mean that we will be praying for Grace and hopefully some of us will volunteer to accompany her as she travels to Spain, Italy, Belgium and Ireland. If you are fluent in French, Flemish or Spanish and you would like to accompany Grace, do let her know at grace@me.com

Thank you Grace for all you have done and we pray that your new role will bring blessing to many as well as to you personally.

Veronica Alvarez



Veronica's Voice

Reading the testimonies on page 2, and watching the testimonial DVD prepared for the Conference, I asked myself the question:

'What is so special about what we do in Community Bible Study?'

Primarily, of course, it is building our relationship with God through studying His Word and finding the miraculous change that occurs in our lives when we follow His lead. Another important aspect that is talked about, though, is 'fellowship' and this, of course, is 'Community'.

Jesus knew just how important this was. His disciples made up a very strong and supportive 'community'. Jesus' ministry impacted and strengthened individuals who in turn changed their communities. It was when they were on their own that they found living out their faith the most difficult; for instance, Peter and his denial of Jesus. In contrast, however, they found support with each other after the crucifixion, and when the Holy Spirit came, they were all together.

When the early church was founded, Acts 2 v 42-47 tells us that the believers devoted themselves to teaching, prayer and communion. They gave generously to those who had little, shared meals together and praised God. From that came a dramatic increase in their numbers, as people were attracted to them, joining their community and seeing lives transformed.

And so as Paul encourages us in Hebrews 10 v 25: 'Let us not give up meeting together...'

Veronica Alvarez, CBSI National Director

www.cbsiuk.org