



Valedictory and Graduation 2009

Over 350 people were present at Moorlands College on 4 July, in order to say their farewells to our 60 leaving students at our 61st Valedictory Service. It proved to be the usual mix of joy and sadness as the students were 'sent off' into ministry. Rev Dr David Coffey OBE, President of the Baptist World Alliance, awarded the students with the Charge and delivered the address, challenging and inspiring those embarking on their first ministerial position. Not only has Moorlands received its highest intake of students over the last couple of years, but this year has also produced its

best ever results! Some 41 undergraduate and 7 postgraduate students graduated with degrees, diplomas and certificates, all validated by the University of Gloucestershire. Its representative, Dr Gordon McConville, Professor of Old Testament Theology, presented these. Dr John Lennox, Professor of Mathematics, University of Oxford, delivered the sermon on *Contending for the faith in the twenty-first century*. It was an inspiring and challenging word for all who desire to maintain their impact for Christ in today's world.



Open Days in 2010

You may be considering the big question of whether God is leading you to prepare for a whole lifetime of effective Christian service. We would like to invite you to spend a day at Moorlands. This will give you a chance to look over the college, sit in on a lecture, talk informally to staff and students and meet others thinking the same issues through. See the dates below

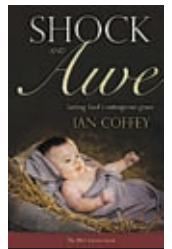
and contact us or visit our website to book an Open Day.

Open Day Dates - 10.00am to 2.30pm

Saturday 6th February 2010
Saturday 13th March 2010
Monday 3rd May 2010
Saturday 5th June 2010

In Shock & Awe!

Having completed his first academic year as Director of Leadership Training, Ian Coffey is enjoying his sense of fulfilment at seeing students move on from College into Christian leadership. He's also delighted by the news that his latest book, *Shock & Awe*, published in September by BRF in time for advent, reached number four in the best selling religious books chart, published by the Church Times. For more on faculty publications, please visit our website.



An Eventful Year!

We hit the road running in terms of events at the College this year. Starting with the 'Faith Action Audit Presentation' in October. Twenty leaders and community workers came to hear the results of an audit of faith communities, and their contribution to the community of Bournemouth. Students Emma Denovan and Kalee Rothwell carried this out. Adrian Thomas, chair of Bournemouth Vision 2026, was the keynote speaker.

The 'Ministering to Children for God's Sake' Conference in November, headed up by Paul Butler, Bishop of Southampton, was joined by Scripture Union and the Children's Society along with 40 delegates, who discussed issues ranging from 'Godly play' to personal holiness. Rev Vic Jackopson from Hope Now with his team from the Ukraine did not fail to entertain the 100 guests who came to Moorlands on 1 December to support their work with orphans and widows. **Thank you to all who supported these events, please keep your eye on our website for new events in 2010!**



PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

A recent film about alien abduction, *The Fourth Kind* (2009), has an intriguing strap-line: 'This fall the truth isn't waiting to be found – it's waiting to be believed'. The story purports to be based on real events in Nome, Alaska. A cursory glance via Google contains a barrage of criticism and charges of 'hoax' and 'fake' about the alleged facts of the film. But, like Dan Brown's *The Da Vinci Code*, facts don't seem to matter too much when you have a film to make or a book to sell. So 'truth' becomes something we can make up as we go along. If something looks good, sells well and makes you feel better, even if it is a lie, where's the harm in that?

It is an interesting exercise to ask people why they should 'tell the truth'. In a recent BBC Radio 5 Live programme, a huge majority of callers believed it was OK to lie, depending on the circumstances. About the same time, there was on-going public outrage at the scandal surrounding MPs' expenses, some of whom, it is alleged, had cheated the system. It seems that 'truth' and 'integrity' only matter in certain

circumstances – we demand integrity in public life but turn a blind eye to private infidelity. The problem is, as someone put it, when immorality is permissible in the bedroom, don't be surprised to discover dishonesty in the boardroom. If we allow deception where we want it, soon we'll discover it where we do not want it. In contrast, Christians are called to be people of integrity for formidable reasons: they are to reflect what God is like, Light, in whom there is no darkness, and follow One who claims to be 'The Truth' itself and whose 'word is truth' (see John 14:6 & 17:17). That is why the work we do here at Moorlands is so vital. We need leaders who deeply know this God of truth, and who live his truth in a world of 'smoke and mirrors' of deception. In the gospel of Jesus Christ, the truth is both found and still 'waiting to be believed'. That's Christianity of the *The First Kind*.



Best wishes,
Steve Brady

Out and About

How do they do it: direct teaching programmes, lecture, mentor students, write books and find the time for speaking engagements around the world? Ian Kirby, Director of Training and MA Course leader, has recently returned from Istanbul, on behalf of a mission agency, in order to teach discipling and mentoring to mission partners. The aim of this trip was to help missionaries be more effective in their ministry and their own self-development. Ian came away with a deep sense of privilege, as Christians are very much in the minority there.

Principal Steve Brady, along with Ian Coffey and his wife Ruth, flew off to Melbourne, Australia, for the Belgrave Heights Convention in late December, and then in February Steve continues onwards to Japan for their Keswick Convention! Evidently, the college still firmly believes that its faculty, who represent a broad range of ministries, is able to teach, not only from established knowledge, but also from fresh experiences and current perspectives.

Students On The Move

Moorlands students are also encouraged to get out into the 'field' and practise what they learn in the lecture room. The beginning of 2010 saw 28 third year students going out on their block-placements as far as Toronto, Mumbai, Czech Republic, Kampala, Lebanon, Seattle USA, Spain, Kenya, Madras, Athens, and a variety of locations across the UK. Keep an eye on our website for news on their return in February!

New Developments

New Website: We are pleased to announce that our new website has been 'live' for a couple of months now. If you are interested in the courses Moorlands is now offering, or don't want to miss out on our latest news and forthcoming events, take a visit. You can now do much more online: book an open day, order a prospectus and apply for a course!



New Audio Visual suite: We now have an audio-visual suite available for staff and students to complement their seminars and assignments. The exciting range of up to date technology includes: video camera, recording and editing equipment and more!



The National Youth Agency has re-endorsed our BA (Hons) in Applied Theology (Youth and Community Work Course), enabling our Youth work students to gain a JNC professional qualification in youth work along side their BA (Hons) degree.

Former Student Awarded MBE

Mark Edwards, Moorlands student from 1984-86, has been awarded an MBE in the Queen's New Year's honours for community and voluntary work and ministry in two deprived parishes in Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria. Mark is the author of 'Tears in the dark, a journey of

hope'. After 14 years of serving the community in Cumbria, he moved to Northumbria in 2008 to take up his post as Vicar and Force Chaplain to Northumbria Police. For more of this story please visit the news section on our website.

Dates For Your Diary

- 11 Feb:** Leaders' Day: for students' church leaders
- 3 Mar:** Len Kageler event: *Bearing Fruit that will last in Youth Ministry*
- 18 Mar:** Biblefresh Launch: Evangelical Alliance event at Moorlands
- 11-14 May:** Exhibiting at CRE in Bible Fresh Zone
- 22-30 May:** Moorlands Mission Week
- 30-31 May:** Exhibiting at Big Church Day Out
- 26 Jun:** Valedictory Service with Rev. Lyndon Bowring

Visit our website for new events!

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Remember our telephone number
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Contact us

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