

Newsletter

Summer 2010



Heading for the Goal!

Summer is here, the season of World Cup finals, Wimbledon and Moorlands end of year Volleyball Competition! It's also a time for celebrating the academic achievements of our



champions! This 62nd year of leaving students will join our previous 3,000 graduates now serving Christ around the world. Although none of them are renowned 'prize fighters' in the sporting sense, they are indeed just that. Sports men and women struggle to become the best at their game and, like them, our students have also had to overcome many hurdles in order to achieve their goals. We gladly share in their success and thank the Lord for these times of optimism.

With rising student numbers and more in the pipeline for the coming year (even during a time of economic recession), we could be tempted to sit back and relax; but we're not taking anything for granted. Moorlands is constantly seeking ways to keep its courses relevant to the context of society and more accessible to the modern student, without losing the fundamental basis of Moorlands particular strength: the SPAR ethos.

Our approach to training, with its four-fold emphasis on Spiritual, Practical, Academic and Relational development, is well-established, and has contributed to the longevity of our graduates' ministries. However, any belief that the SPAR treatment is a 'comfortable' option would be a misconception! It could be said that Moorlands functions more accurately as a student's 'sparring partner' in the fight for personal transformation, than a place for pampering! Our students regularly testify to this, yet enter ministry more prepared and ready to engage with their calling. After all, we exist to equip people passionate about Jesus Christ, to impact the church and the world.

On Course for Growth

In order to help others join us in our training, we have developed courses which allow more flexibility, such as Placement Based Study. We've also increased the possibility for students to find employment, by offering a Youth and Community Work Degree with a JNC Professional Qualification. The MA Programme has already proved to be a great resource for Christian leaders, and by September 2011 we also hope to have achieved JNC recognition for the MA in Youth and Community Work. What's more, a Doctor of Ministry Degree and other 'blended learning' options are all in the prayerful process of development! If you would like to help us through this planning process, you can do so by filling in our 'Distance Learning Questionnaire', which can be found on the news section of our website - www.moorlands.ac.uk.

Baptist Studies

Grenville Overton, Regional Minister for Southern Counties Baptist Association, brought four lectures in May and June this year, providing an introductory series to discover the interest in Baptist Studies amongst the students. Anyone completing the course, and presenting an appropriate essay, will get a College certificate in the subject. The course also qualifies as the "Baptist History and Principles" component for anyone seeking to candidate for ministry as an accredited Baptist Union minister. Fascinatingly, Baptist origins relate to the reintroduction of believers' baptism in 1525. But, more fundamentally, it is about the rediscovery of Gospel Church: for where two or three believers are 'gathered', Christ is amongst them (Matthew 18:20).

biblefresh
 It could change your world

Biblefresh launch

On 18 March, 100 guests visited Moorlands to discover all about the EA's initiative - biblefresh. Rev Rob Cotton of the Bible Society and his partners spoke on refreshing ideas to inspire individuals, Churches and Communities to re-engage with the Scriptures. Principal Steve Brady, Colin Bennett and Alistair McKitterick presented challenging messages on how to defend and proclaim the truth of the Bible in a pluralistic and secular society. For more on this and other biblefresh events, **please visit our website.**



Good News for Grads

Vietnamese Graduate Dan Le (2005) has just completed a PhD and, after learning how to Teach English to Speakers of Other Languages, he will return to Vietnam! Dan comments, "God has truly done great things for which I truly am thankful."

Dom Bird (2007) has been elected as the National Youth Leader for the Apostolic Church of Great Britain, which will involve him travelling nationally and internationally.

Phil Coleman (2007) has been recognised as a Pastor, also within the Apostolic Church.

According to the 2009 Graduate occupations survey, 79% of grads found full-time employment soon after leaving college, with nearly half of those graduates already in full-time Christian Ministry.

New Appointments

We are pleased to announce that as from the 1st of September, Ian Kirby will become Vice Principal (Academic), Ian Coffey, Vice Principal (Strategy). Also from that date, Colin Bennett's title will be revised to Vice Principal (Development). Your continued prayer support for all staff and students, is much appreciated.

PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

A Minute's Silence

I am writing this 'corner' on the day a minute's silence is being observed throughout Cumbria, a week after a mass murder of twelve of its citizens. Derrick Bird, a 52-year-old taxi driver, a quiet man and grandfather, went on a rampage that culminated in his own death. At this juncture, the motives that led to such mayhem are far from clear. Where's God when life goes so tragically wrong?

One response is illustrated by recent adverts carried on various buses: "There's probably no God. Now stop worrying and enjoy your life." Clearly, no help or comfort there for the bereaved of Cumbria. Enjoy your life when your heart has been broken into a thousand pieces? Rather crass and hollow, I believe, in the face of real evil.

Another response is the type that the three friends of Job exhibited in his day of disaster. "Basically, Job, you must have had it coming to you." It's the law of karma. In essence, you reap what you sow. If so, then we're all in deep trouble, for there's no evidence that Derrick Bird's victims were any better or worse than the rest of us. In contrast, Jesus Christ's response, when told of a blood bath perpetrated by Pontius Pilate (see Luke 13:1-5), was very different. The victims were no more guilty than anyone else! Rather, such atrocities, along with natural disasters, accidents and the injustices of life generally, are all wake-up calls to remember life is fragile, death is certain, and turning to God in repentance and faith, grasping the grace offered in Jesus Christ, is vital, for judgement is coming. A daily minute or more's silence to remember that prepares us to meet God one day and, meanwhile, live each day with prayerful gratitude.



Best wishes,
Steve Brady

GPS



Best known as the Graduate Prayer Sheet, it is now downloadable on our website.

We would suggest that you submit a revised prayer sheet every term, and also whenever a major change occurs. We not only want to pray for you, but would also love to praise God for any answers to prayer you've seen. For this reason, we have included a box in the revised form for this information. We are committed to this prayer partnership between you and the college. This is why we've now set up an email especially for any urgent prayer requests you may have. Please send them to prayer@moorlands.ac.uk

Leaving for Distant Shores



After 18 years serving Moorlands in the role of Director of Pastoral Training, John Horder will take his leave on 26 June, to prepare for his six months visit back to Africa, starting in January 2011. John previously spent nine

years on the staff team at Likubula Bible Institute in Blantyre, Malawi. This time he will go further south with his wife Caroline towards Cape Town in South Africa, where they will be involved in theological education, as associates of SIM. If he gives all that he gave at Moorlands, Africa will be truly blessed. We'll miss you, John!

Dates For Your Diary

- 26 Jun:** Valedictory Service
- 4 Oct:** College based term begins
- 15 Oct:** Graduation Ceremony at Christchurch Priory - 7pm
- 13 Nov:** Open Day
- 18 Nov:** Children's Ministry Conference - Lucy Moore
- 7 Dec:** Christmas Carol Service, with Winton Salvation Army Band

Summer Exhibitions:

- 11-25 Aug:** Soul Survivor, at Bath & West Show Ground

Visit our website for new events!

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