

Reflections



Bringing you news from the **British Bible School**

Summer 2014

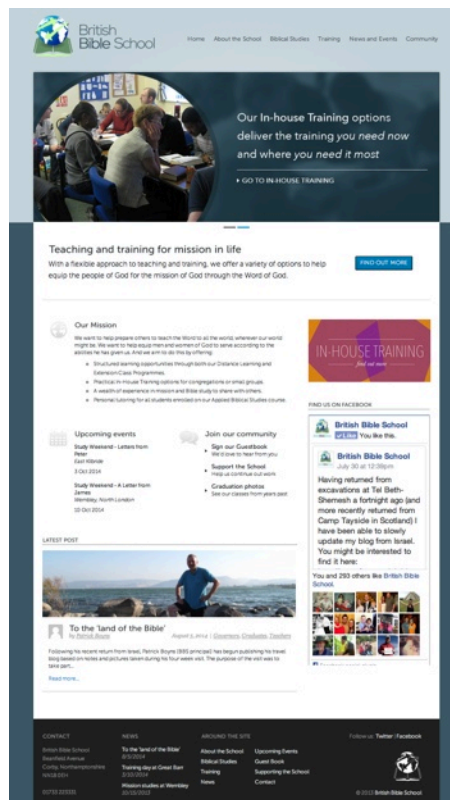
Back online in style

We are delighted to announce the arrival of our new web site which has finally gone live. You will find a much improved site that has been designed to meet our current needs whilst also provide sufficient flexibility for expansion.

The newly designed menu should help you find what you are looking for, whether it be opportunities for Biblical studies, options for congregational training, or simply more information about the School.

You will find our latest newsletter there, along with news updates and details of upcoming events. You can sign our guest book, look through our growing archive of pictures, or even make a contribution to the work of the School. It's all at:

www.britishbibleschool.com



Study Weekends

There are some tremendous advantages to being able to study through distance learning, not least the ability to study from where you are without having to uproot yourself from your local, home environment. But there is something about learning within a real classroom environment, alongside fellow students, that just cannot be experienced in any other fashion.

Our Study Weekends are designed to help provide that sort of experience, on an occasional basis, by delivering complete Modules over two weekends about a month apart from each other in the same location. We are making them more accessible to any who want to attend and who want to immerse themselves in the study of a particular book or related subject in a relatively short period of time. To that end the emphasis will be more upon the classroom teaching and less on the optional assignments available for those wanting to pursue a BBS award.

Though there is always the option of taking things further, all are welcome to attend and benefit from the lessons delivered by teachers with recognised experience in their subjects. Study Weekends generally begin with a couple of hours in the classroom on a Friday evening, followed by six or seven hours classroom teaching and activities on the Saturday.

This autumn we are offering studies in *A Letter from James* (Wembley, North London) and *Letters from Peter* (East Kilbride, Glasgow). Please see details elsewhere and on web site.

Preparing to shoot

Work on our new Access Learning Programme is progressing as we prepare to begin filming this autumn. Unlike our Distance Learning Programme which is aimed at the more serious student able to set aside a few hours per week, this new project will appeal to a wider audience and will also provide a useful tool for small group study.

Each series will have no more than twelve lessons, each lesson consisting of a 30 minute video presentation along with a few notes and questions to ponder or discuss.

And unlike our Distance Learning Programme modules which come under our assessed curriculum, there will be no marked assignments or tests to be taken.

We plan to make use of our virtual classroom set up as we have done with some previous video productions in conjunction with *FreeD Media Group*. This enables us to create varied classroom or studio scenarios at very limited cost.

We have not yet set a launch date, but we do hope to have the first few series available sometime next year.

Unearthing the past

This summer Patrick Boyns travelled to Israel to take part in a four week archaeological excavation at Tel Beth-Shemesh. Situated less than 20 miles west of Jerusalem and overlooking the Sorek Valley, where Samson was to meet Delilah (Judges 16), Beth-Shemesh was one of the 48 cities assigned by Joshua to the tribe of Levi (Joshua 15; 21). It was in this same valley, where the inhabitants of Beth-Shemesh were reaping their wheat harvest, to which the ark of the covenant returned after being captured by the Philistines years later (1 Samuel 6).

Excavations at Tel Beth-Shemesh have revealed occupation from at least as far back as the Middle Bronze Age (from about 1800 B.C.), continuing until Iron Age II (c. 7th century B.C.) after the Assyrians appeared to have driven off the last inhabitants. During the Late Bronze and Iron Ages, Tel Beth-Shemesh found itself at the geographic meeting point of three different ethnic and cultural groups: the Canaanites, Israelites and Philistines. This makes the site particularly interesting as a scene of significant historical events and cultural changes, in addition to



Patrick pictured after discovering a 19th Dynasty Egyptian scarab seal on site.

shedding some light on the Biblical story.

If you would be interested in hearing more of this expedition, of the processes of archaeology, of the Biblical significance of discoveries, or of Patrick's experiences 'in the field' then please get in touch with us. He is putting together a number of presentations for congregations that have already expressed an interest in hearing more and these are listed on our web site.



A view of the excavation site on Tel Beth-Shemesh, overlooking the Sorek Valley towards Philistine territory.

Training needs

All of benefit from ongoing training in many areas of life, and that is no less true within the lives of our congregations. To book an *In-House Training* event, take a look at our web site and choose from the following options:

- Missional outreach
- Back to basics
- Congregational growth
- Leadership
- Good stewardship
- Youth issues
- Praise and worship

Diary dates ...

Study one of our Modules within a classroom environment at our Study Weekends.

Central Scotland Study Weekend

East Kilbride, Scotland

Letters from Peter

with **Jon Galloway** and **Jack Paton**

3rd to 4th October 2014

14th to 15th November 2014

North London Study Weekend

Wembley, London

A letter from James

with **Patrick Boyns** and **John Griffiths**

10th to 11th October 2014

14th to 15th November 2014

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And you can follow us on **Facebook** or **Twitter** - see web site for links.

The **British Bible School** is a work of the congregation meeting in Corby, U.K.