



Lancaster and the House of Norfolk?

Students of British history may be swift to point out that it was, of course, Howard, the first Duke of Norfolk who fell to the House of Lancaster at Bosworth Field in 1485, along with his friend King Richard III. However, these things have little to do with events of recent months, other than that we have been active in both locations, in one way or another.

Lectures at Lancaster

In August we collaborated with the European Christian Workshop in Lancaster by

offering a part of one of Modules on their programme. It was a splendid opportunity not only to teach the word but also to publicise our work and the resources we offer.

Patrick Boyns and **Jack Paton** taught sessions from one of our Practical Modules: *Walking with God* - a module that examines the purposes of God for creation and our part in walking with him as disciples of Jesus.

One of the real joys of the event was being reunited with **Joel and Vijaya Madiki**, former students of the British Bible

School who live and serve Christ among their people in their homeland of India. Along with other students who came to us from India, and who continue to serve alongside them, they are both faithful servants of the Master and a source of great encouragement. Please see their article below.

Family Retreat in Norfolk

As you will know if you have been to one of our Family Retreats, these events are not at all intensive, but rather times for reflection and renewal among fellow believers in quiet and relaxing settings. Our Autumn Family Retreat is held at Letton Hall in the heart of the Norfolk countryside.

Letton Hall is a splendid Georgian mansion, designed by Sir John Soane in the second half of the 18th century - and yes, he's the chap who went on to design the Bank of England and Dulwich Picture Gallery. Not only is it a delightful property, full of space and character, but it has a spacious garden enabling us to make the most of the sunshine.

Following a couple of teaching sessions in the morning, led by **Steve Whitehead** and **Trevor Williams**, most of us spent the afternoon on the lawn playing cricket and enjoying each other's company.



Mark Hill, Joel Madiki, Vijaya Madiki and Patrick Boyns at the ECW in Lancaster.



Our evening activities and barbecue were followed by some hearty singing led by **Spencer Eastland** and plenty of healthy time together as family.

On Sunday we shared together in communion with Jesus, led by **Tap Nyamatore**, we

sang to praise God and to encourage each other in our faith, and we were led in another teaching session by **Guy Sandison**. With plenty of food to feed an army, we finished our weekend of sharing and service, resolute to return again next year.



Letton Hall, near Shipdham, Norfolk: the 'family' photo on the steps outside the drawing room, and gathered for praise and communion on Sunday.

Diary dates ...

Study one of our Modules at our Study Events or come to one of our Family Retreats (more on website) ...

BBS @ ABSS at Gemünden

Gemünden, Germany

The Deliverance of Israel
with **Patrick Boyns**

17th to 21st February 2020

Aberdeen Study Weekends

Aberdeen, Scotland

Ezekiel

with **Patrick Boyns** and **Jon Galloway**

6th to 7th March 2020

20th to 21st March 2020

Glasgow Study Day

Glasgow, Scotland

James: Faith in Action

14th March 2020

Northampton Study Weekends

Northampton, England

Ezekiel

with **Patrick Boyns** and **Jon Galloway**

27th to 28th March 2020

24th to 25th April 2020

Letton Hall Family Retreat

Dereham, Norfolk

18th to 20th September 2020

Bassenthwaite Study Week

Lake District, England

Acts

with **Patrick Boyns**, **Jon Galloway**, **Mark Hill** and **Jack Paton**

2nd to 6th November 2020

From India with love

Back in August and September, two British Bible School graduates from India visited the UK and spent time with old friends and various congregations up and down the country. We were blessed to catch up with them at the European Christian Workshop in Lancaster.

Vijaya Madiki was a student at the Bible School from 2001 to 2003, and Joel Madiki from 2002 to 2004. It was a true pleasure to be reunited with such faithful servants after so many years, and both seemed to be in good health. We asked them to write something for us, so here are some words from Vijaya ...

"To the saints and faithful brethren in Christ, Grace and peace from God our Father. We give Thanks to God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Praying always for you. Thank you for your continuous prayers and support for the work we are doing in India. It is a great joy for me to update the work we are involved in India.

I am so thankful for the Christian education I received at BBS. My three years at school were so formative and through my time at the school I encountered Jesus and learned how to love and know him better and I would not trade that for anything.

After our BBS graduation we came back to India started working along with my Dad, Prasanna Kumar Madiki, who is also a graduate from BBS in 1994. Prasanna is now 69, we involved in teaching and preaching Christ all these years. God blessed the work we are doing. By God's grace we are able to plant 17 new congregations



Vijaya Madiki sharing a few words at the ECW in Lancaster.

in our State. I had a personal experience of soul conversions personally baptised many people into Christ and witnessed more than 350 baptisms during these 15 years.

We are actively involved in rural preachers' teaching programme. We have rural preachers network (RPN) monthly and we meet in our church building in Samalkot from 10 am to 4pm. We spend time in serious Bible study. All these working preachers (both rural and tribal) don't have proper theological education – they did not go to any kind of preachers' training schools or Bible schools as we don't have such intuitions nearby. We started teaching programme in the name of Bharat Bible School (Bharat means India) BBS - India in 2006. RPN fellowship started with 36 preachers but now it is just above 350 preachers and helping these congregations to transform and to grow in their faith. All we do in this Bible Seminars, presenting Christ and preach Christ we also invite independent preachers with other denominational background for these classes and to know the truth. My wife Sonia is actively involved in women and children ministry through projects that cater for both spiritual and physical needs.

I want to let you know that we are working in two states of our native language in India with this teaching programme and reaching out the unreached with gospel. None of this would be possible without BBS in our Life. I strongly commend to make use of BBS Teaching resources to grow in faith and to glorify our God.

Your generous and sacrificial giving has enabled us to do this and whatever you give, we will be grateful. As long as God gives us strength and with the longevity of the team, we will continue to press on. I know God bless us all beyond the measure that we have always expected. Our heartfelt thanks to BBS and all saints who are praying and supporting us. Sonia and our son's Samuel and Paul and my Dad Prasanna joins me to send greetings to you God bless you.

*In Christ,
Vijaya Madiki"*

P.S. Vijaya and Joel may well not be back at Lancaster at the ECW this coming August, but we will be! The British Bible School will be presenting sessions from our Module on Ephesians throughout the event. The dates are from 27th to 29th August 2020. Click below for details.

Ephesians

British Bible School @ ECW 2020
Thursday, 27th to Saturday, 29th August

- Offered in conjunction with the European Christian Workshop Lancaster University
- An opportunity to complete part of your New Testament studies

ECW at Lancaster University
M: 01422 650100, 01422 650101
for more details visit our website: lenthbbschool.com

Paul's letter to the Ephesians takes us beyond his realm and into the heavenly places. Through the theological implications are met, there is a wealth of practical instruction that cannot be overlooked.

Teachers: Patrick Byrns and Bob Eckman
www.lenthbbschool.com

Recent Study Events



Some of the students in class at our Autumn Study Week in the Lakes.

This past autumn saw a rather busy schedule of Study Events. We returned to East Kilbride, near Glasgow, and visited Morley, near Leeds for our first Study Weekends in Yorkshire.

Study Weekends

Our two Study Weekends at East Kilbride introduced students to the book of the prophet Ezekiel. Though certainly not one of the most well known of the prophets, this is possibly the easiest of the longer books of the prophets with which to get to grips.

All those attending the sessions were perhaps a little surprised at just how straightforward and generally orderly is the book. The message is without doubt very powerful at times, and the relevance for our contemporary situations is vast.

As you can see from our 'Diary dates' we are due to be taking our study of this book to Aberdeen and to Northampton in the spring, so do try to get along to some of these weekends. Failing that, why not

host some Study Weekends at the congregation where you meet. Please get in touch for details.

Our first Study Weekends in Morley went well, though it might have helped if Patrick had not lost his voice during the second session of the second weekend. Other than that it was a learning experience for all which, we hope, will be repeated next autumn.

We took with us Paul's letter to the Ephesians, arguably the most beautiful of Paul's letters, and worked our way through the text. Though this is generally a reasonably well known letter, it is, like many texts, known mostly for a few particular phrases or sections. One of the advantages of such intensive periods of study is that one is better able to understand the book as a whole and so make better sense of the context.

Autumn Study Week

We were delighted to be back at Bassenfell Manor in November for another

residential Study Week. Apart from this being held in a most splendid venue set amidst the beauty of the Lake District, this event always offers an excellent opportunity for some intensive Bible study with others serious students.

Our module this year was: *The Deliverance of Israel* in which were studying the books of **Judges and Ruth**. This was something of a continuation from last year's study of the book of Joshua, and yet again filled with much practical application for believers today.

We're planning to be back again towards the end of 2020 for a week in the book of Acts. See details on our website.

Thank you

Thank you to all who continue to help with our funding. Our outgoings continue to significantly exceed our regular incomings, so we urge you to continue and we invite others to help us whenever they might be able. Please get in touch to see how you can help.

We thank you for your prayers and ask that you continue to remember the work of the School both in private and within your assemblies.

Reflections is published by the British Bible School in the U.K.



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