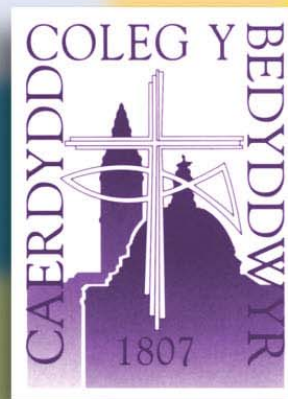


South Wales Baptist College

Summer News 2006



Is this a Vision of the Future?

Could this extensive property be the future for South Wales Baptist College? Surprisingly no. Because it is not the future but the **HERE AND NOW!**

On Friday 17th February 2006 the College property portfolio expanded to occupy three major buildings on one site. Only two days earlier the Trustees had taken the momentous step of approving a proposal from Management Committee to bid at auction for No 52, Richmond Road (on the right of picture).

"We never dreamt that while the Principal was away on sabbatical, we would be making a bid for a new property!" said **Dr. Karen Smith**, acting Principal of the College. "However, we felt strongly that this was an opportunity we should not miss!" The College response was triggered by the intention of the sellers to go for a quick auction. And the resulting process was less than two weeks from awareness of a sales board to a successful bid at auction. That fortnight was a hectic time that will not quickly be forgotten. But the College envisages even immediate benefits, not least in terms of car parking spaces!



Is this a vision of the future?

The move would not have been possible without everyone in the College family giving concentrated attention to all aspects of the opportunity. This commitment stretched from tutors, bursar, College officers right through to the Management Committee and Trustees. Vision mingled with sober financial assessment led to a growing unanimity and a clear mandate to bid up to an agreed price – which proved high enough to take the purchase.

In the meantime loans had been forthcoming to cover the period of the sale of flats on the other side of Richmond Road which will substantially help to finance the venture. Along the way everyone responded superbly to this sudden challenge and opportunity. Dr. Smith commented: "It was fantastic to see how everyone pulled together. Our Bursar, **Mr. Keith Dennison** did a great job. He worked behind the scenes making sure that all the details were in place and then went to London to the auction."

The expanded vision

Ironically, the College had already had the opportunity to buy the property thirty years ago and passed it up. "At the time", Dr. Smith said, "I suppose people had a very specific view of the College's calling. Its mission was focused almost exclusively on training ministers here in Wales. But 30 years

on our enlarged vision also includes a continuing international centre for ministerial training".

This larger vision today also embraces the training of Christians drawn from a wide background. There are now 'open option' students training while still exploring their calling (see the inside page for the story of one). And now the College has become the recognised officer training centre locally for the Salvation Army. Two Romanian postgraduate students have been with us this year and will complete their studies in September. Next year we may have students from North America and Poland to join the intake of new 'home' students. Home applications continue to come in so the enlarged vision does not neglect our main aim for training ministers for work in churches here and in the wider Baptist family!

The premises already host other Christian organisations such as the South Wales Baptist Association, the Alewyd housing association and Cytun Churches Together in Wales. "With four different Christian organisations on site, we are already moving toward a wider sense of sharing together in ministry and mission across Wales" added Smith. "This was not simply about acquiring more property. We had a very clear sense that this was a step forward in the mission of the College. We believe that the College site is a valuable resource for God's mission and we are keen to see it developed and used in creative ways for God's glory".

Trem yn ôl (3)

Emynwyr Caerdydd (1807-2007)

Dichon nad cyfraniad mwyaf llachar y Coleg i ddiwylliant Cymraeg yw ei gyfraniad i Ganiadaeth y Cysegr, ond, er hynny, y mae'n gyfraniad nodedig.

Er iddo wrthod caniatáu canu emynau mewn angladdau (am nad oedd sôn am wneud hynny yn y Testament Newydd) cyhoeddodd **Daniel Jones** (1788-1862) gasgliad o emynau, Crynhodeb o Hymnau Cristionogol (1845). Yn ei ragymadrodd i'r llyfr, dywed fod ei gasgliad yn cynnwys yr emynau "mwyaf chwaethus allan o'r lluaws llyfrau ag oedd genyf wrth ddodi y 'CRYNHODEB' ynghyd", a hefyd "cannoedd o'm cyfansoddiad fy hun ar amryw bynciau". Ysywaeth, er ein bod yn dal i ganu rhai o'r emynau "chwaethus" a ddewisodd ar gyfer ei ddetholiad o 748 o emynau, aeth cyfansoddiadau Daniel Jones ei hun yn angof.

Golygodd y Prifathro **William Edwards** (1848-1929) gyfrol o emynau Saesneg, The Baptist Book of Praise for Public and Private Worship, gan gynnwys ynddo 37 o'i emynau a'i gyfieithiadau ei hunan o'r Gymraeg. Y mae ei gyfieithiad o "Dyma gariad fel y moroedd..." ("Here is love, vast as the ocean...") wedi ennill ei blwyf mewn casgliadau Saesneg yn y blynyddoedd diwethaf.

Mae cyfieithiadau gan **Raymond Williams** (1928-90) i'w gweld yn Baptist Praise and Worship, tra bod rhai o'i emynau gwreiddiol yn Caneuon Ffydd.

Ni welodd Caneuon Ffydd hi'n dda i gynnwys un o emynau **Charles Davies** (1849-1927) o'r Llawlyfr Moliant Newydd, na chwaith emyn hyfryd **Fred Morgan** (1872-1923) i blant ("Iesu annwyl, gwna fi'n brydferth / Fel y rhosyn yn yr ardd..."), ond mae'n cynnwys amryw o emynau **D. R. Griffiths** (1915-90) ac **R. S. Rogers** (1882-1950).

Diddorol nodi hefyd mai yng Ngholeg y Bedyddwyr Caerdydd y gorffennodd yr Hybarch **Meurig Llwyd**, Archddiacon Bangor, ei radd gyntaf mewn diwinyddiaeth. Ef yw awdur emyn rhif 668 yn Caneuon Ffydd.

Bu Coleg y Bedyddwyr Caerdydd hefyd yn gysylltiedig â ffurfio **Côr Cambrensis**. Ar daith i gyfarfodydd Cynghrair Bedyddwyr y Byd yn Toronto yn 1980 yng nghwmni Iorwerth Budge a Peter Idris Taylor, cafodd Dr Dafydd Davies y syniad o ffurfio Côr Bedyddwyr De Cymru, a droes, maes o law, yn gôr Cambrensis. Ymddangosodd y côr ar lwyfan Neuadd Dewi Sant yng nghwrdd ymadawol y myfyrwyr o dan arweinyddiaeth Kelvin Thomas yn 1983. Honna Dr Dafydd Davies mai hwn oedd y côr cyntaf i ymddangos ar lwyfan Neuadd Dewi Sant ar ôl iddo agor.

Open-option students in the placement family

Juliet Lloyd is an 'open option' student at the College. This means that she is being trained for Christian ministry, but still at this stage exploring whether it will finally be through accredited ministry. She comes from a background of secondary mathematics teaching. Among her ministry gifts in the past have been singing and song writing, working with children, leadership of conferences and pastoral counselling. But having experience does not deter her from pursuing new training opportunities. She says: "Because I believe God can use all experience, I am willing, even excited, to take advantage of all the training and practice I can get my hands on!"

So she has welcomed her placement module based at Bethel Baptist Church in Cardiff. It involves a whole year and she prefers this to a short block placement. "It gives longer to nurture trust on both sides," she maintains. "Hopefully, I'll come to understand the congregation's needs for a clear focus. It's about commitment to longer term ventures, involving me in an Alpha course, a one-to-one Bible study and planning of services."



Juliet has also welcomed the opportunities to preach, lead services or counsel. "They have been a welcome chance to put my Biblical and theological studies into practice – after all, that's where the 'rubber hits the road'!" she points out, "and as a bonus, God has shown me new ways to use my creative gifts within worship and teaching."

The senior minister, Rev'd Simeon Baker comments on Juliet's time at the church: "It has proven to be helpful to both her and the church. The experience gained and shared makes this programme a valuable partnership."

Juliet also has expressed her appreciation for the warmth of the welcome of the Bethel fellowship. She is particularly grateful for the wise and timely advice of Simeon Baker, together with his "unfailing encouragement and, most of all, his trust." She has especially appreciated it, she says, because she is really venturing out in fledgling attempts at 'minister-hood.' "Working as part of the team," she adds, "has been an immense blessing to me and I hope and pray that, by being an extra hand on deck, I have been a blessing in return."

To obtain further information on varied placements for your church get in touch with our placement tutor, **Rev'd Simon Woodman** at the College.

Q&A

Ben Dare is in his second year in the College, having come from Calvary Baptist Church in Canton. He is on the BA degree programme.



Ben Dare

1. Who or what most influenced your decision to train at College?

I wanted to learn about God and do a degree. Having the opportunity to do that alongside other Christians, with the College there to help was an opportunity too good to be missed.

2. What has most surprised you during your training?

The variety of people training alongside me. It's great that we're all so different but all wanting to do stuff for God.

3. Any words you over use?

Not sure, but I think I under use the word 'please'.

4. What is your favourite place?

Without a doubt it's Cardiff, preferably Cardiff while on a bicycle. If there was a second place it would be Siberia in winter.

5. What would be one particular aspiration that you have for Baptist churches in Wales?

That the congregations would get to know themselves really well and become families central to the life of the communities around them.

6. What piece of advice would you give to a student starting at the College?

Know that you have lots learn but also that you have lots to share as well. And try and keep that in your mind the whole time you are here as it would be a shame if you left the college having not done both.

7. Write yourself the epitaph you would most like.

I'm a bit young to be thinking about my epitaph but how about "Here lies a five times Noble Peace Prize Winner"?

Valedictory 8th June 2006

The Leaving Students and the churches they are in fellowship with:

Sue Phillips

From: Ebenezer Baptist Church, Abertillery
Placement: Elim Baptist, Pontllanfraith

Ken Franklin

From: Bethel Baptist, Pontyclun
Placement: Albany Road Baptist, Cardiff

Huw Anderson

From: Pantagwydr Baptist Church
Placement: Brachla Baptist Church

Gareth Evans

From: Pantagwydr Baptist Church, Swansea
Placement: Central Baptist Church, Tredegar

Elaine Jenkins

From: Kensington Baptist Church
Placement: Merthyr Vale, Treharris & Trelewis

James Karran

From: Ebenezer Baptist Church, Magor
Placement: Ararat Baptist Church, Cardiff

Steve Jones

From: Pantagwydr Baptist Church, Swansea
Placement: Aion Baptist Church, Brynoch

Theo Corney

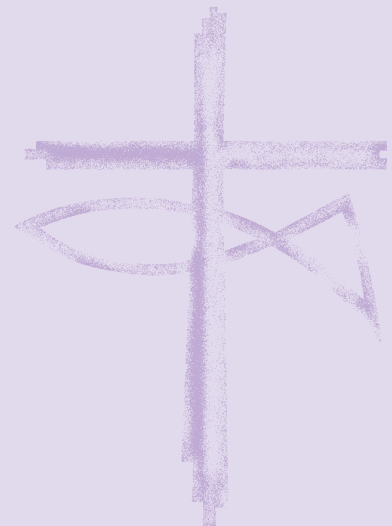
From: Caton Baptist Church, Lancaster
Placement: Llanbradach

Roger Morgan

From: Nebo, Cwmdare
Placement: Tabernacl, The Hayes, Cardiff

David Mann

From: Raglan, Monmouth
Placement: Ponthir



And the next step...

This is the time when leaving students are at a variety of stages in negotiation with churches. We are always pleased if a conclusion to the process is reached before valedictory. We have seen over half so far called to a church this year, some quite recent. So our warmest wishes for a fulfilling and fruitful first ministry to all leavers whatever stage they are at. At the time of writing we know where the following are heading. They are:

Huw Anderson
To BMS World Mission, bound for Italy

Sue Philips
To Ebenezer Baptist Church, Abertilly

Theo Corney
To Hatch Beauchamp and Ashill, Somerset

David Mann
To Ponthir

Steve Jones
To Aion Baptist Church, Brynoch

Anne Rendell (2005 graduate)
To Camrose & Sutton,
Nr Haverfordwest

James Karran
To Ararat Baptist Church, Whitchurch, Cardiff

1807-2007: The time draws near

The bicentenary of the College will soon be upon us. As soon as we can finally announce the key dates in the celebration these will appear on the website. Also make sure you get the next newsletter because it will contain information. We look forward to celebrating with our supporters 200 years of theological and pastoral training in Wales.

Publication

Rev Roy Jenkins is the college chairman and well-known for his long involvement in the campaign against torture. He has been a member of Amnesty International for more than 35 years, and has been involved in the Welsh churches' human rights campaign Christians Against Torture since it began 24 years ago. His Edwin Stephen Griffiths Lectures this year and challenged many. A book, based largely on lectures is being published shortly. And there is additional material from a colleague in the cause well-known in Cardiff, **Professor Malcolm Evans** who teaches Law in the University of Bristol.

College Prayer Guide

The College Prayer Guide continues to be mailed to those asking for a copy or who are registered as 'Friends of the College' If you would like to keep in regular contact with people and events of college and support us with your prayers, fill in the return slip below and we will send you the Prayer Guide quarterly. Or, if you prefer, email or write to the College Office.

If you would like to keep in regular contact with people and events of College and support us with your prayers, fill in the return slip and we will send you a regular Prayer Guide.

Name

Address

Return to: South Wales Baptist College, 54 Richmond Road, Cardiff CF24 3UR. Tel: 029 2025 6066 Fax: 029 2041 1566.

Please note that the college email address is admin@swbc.org.uk and the website is www.swbc.org.uk