



APRIL 2009

## First UK English/ Mandarin Class



The first class has been established in the UK using two languages, Mandarin and English. Gilbert Wong is the Pastor of the Bristol Chinese Church and had been there for just five months when he contacted CBSI (UK) via our website enquiring about our classes and material. Gilbert had been recommended to CBSI by his Archbishop in Singapore. CBSI is well established in Singapore where he comes from and was ordained as an Anglican Priest. He is no stranger to Bristol and was a student at Bristol University and is now back as the Pastor of a vibrant congregation of 150 made up of long term Chinese residents of the UK and also students at Bristol University. Gilbert also looks after some Independent Chinese churches in the Bristol area as well as a network of cellgroups.

At present there are only translations for New Testament lessons in both Simplified and Traditional Mandarin as well as 'God's Amazing Book'. Gilbert's first reaction was that he would like to follow the Alpha Course that he is running with 'GAB' and then

alternate New and Old Testament studies. The problem was that we could not provide the Old Testament studies in Mandarin. The answer came from his congregation in the shape of translators ready to go!

The Daniel study is presently being translated into Mandarin by a member of the Bath Congregation that Gilbert supervises and is being overseen by CBSI Asia Pacific. This is a thrilling prospect as we go forward with even more translations of Old Testament lessons, as we can see how God is blessing us here with a new strand to our Ministry, He will also be blessing the work done in China as well.

The classes will fit into church life in Bristol and will be run as two distinct groups, Mandarin and English after the Sunday morning Service.

Please pray for Gilbert Wong, his wife and three young children as he Ministers in the UK.

We also have so much to thank God for and are greatly encouraged by this new chapter in the History of CBSI in the UK.

*Veronica Alvarez,  
CBSI National Director*

## TRAINING...

...the excellent way to  
be equipped to lead

Start thinking now who will need to be attending training this year!! Do you have any new Leadership Team members in Class Leader, Assistant Class Leader, Co-ordinator? These individuals need training and the dates for this are: 20th June in the SOUTH and 27th June in the NORTH. Both are Saturdays to allow those who work to attend. Come and join in on the FUN!

*Grace Wort  
CBSI National Training Director*

# St Albans CBSI

Having started a successful daytime class in our church in St. Albans, we thought we would try a Sunday evening class to cater for all those who are working. It runs from 6pm to a flexible 7.30pm. It is supported mainly by the younger people from Thirlmere Church but we are also joined by others from nearby churches hungry for a deeper Bible Study and teaching.

We were thrilled to encourage a non-Christian man who has just walked in, seeing that something was happening!

We also have had a man join us with a huge amount of Biblical knowledge. In the relaxed and loving atmosphere, this variety means that all can be encouraged in their Christian walk.

We are studying God's Amazing Book to start with and have enjoyed and been challenged by excellent teaching from our own group members as well as local people.

*Phil Fryer  
CBSI St. Albans*

## Partners in prayer

### Hello from Leicester and Dartmoor CBSI!

You may be wondering, what's the connection between Leicester and Dartmoor? Let us explain...

Back in October 2008, one of the members from Leicester CBSI felt the Lord put the Dartmoor CBSI group on her heart. She prayed about this for a while, then thought, 'Why not get in touch with them?' So she did...and the first CBSIUK Group Prayer Partners (for want of a better name!) was born.

The wonders of modern technology mean that our two groups are able to be in regular contact, emailing each other at least once a month (but often more) with up-to-date, relevant prayer points. Both groups have a 'contact' person, who then, in confidence, shares prayer needs with the rest of their group.

We share anything from personal prayer needs to general prayer needs and, increasingly often, prayer requests for help with a difficult study!

We have each committed to pray for the other group every week at our CBSI meeting, and these times of prayer prove to be such a mutual blessing. It is so good to support, and be supported, in prayer.

*Emily Owen, CBSI Leicester  
Janet Clifford, CBSI Dartmoor Prison*

## Twinning

We can never have too much prayer made on our behalf. If your class feels a need to be part of this prayer partnership, ask The Holy Spirit which class He would have you 'twin' with and then make contact through their Class Leader. Let us know as well. May God open the floodgates of heaven and pour out His blessing on us all as we meet around His Throne of Grace.

*Anthea Owen  
CBSI Leicester  
owen.anthea@hotmail.co.uk*

## Caleb news

### WALES

Praise God that Janet will be able to return to Wales this May with her husband, John. Pray that they will be able to meet with people who will long for God to use CBSI to enhance the outreach of their churches and would be eager to be involved personally. Pray for God to grant favor to CBSI in the eyes of pastors who will welcome the studies without reservation. Thank you so much for praying for barriers to be replaced with bridges... for Jesus' sake.

### SCOTLAND

Pete and Helen Jane Peters are now hoping to be in their reconstructed house by July, following a devastating fire. Their next visit is loosely scheduled for September, meanwhile please continue to pray for the ongoing work in Scotland.

### Caleb Contact:

Irleand

Sam and Patti Allgood

E:allison.samallgood1@cox.net

Scotland

Pete and Helen Jane Peters

E:Petepeters7@comcast.net

Wales

Janet Phillips

E:janetmorganphillips@comcast.net

## Diary Dates

### National Training

North: 27th June South: 20th June  
(Contact Grace Wort) 0207 351 5525

### Area Visitors Day:

North: 13th June South: 6th June  
(Contact Anthea Owen) 0116 2338131

### National Servants Team Meeting

8th June  
(Contact Veronica Alvarez) 01462 768627

### Midlands Area Day

11th June  
Speaker: Carolyn Willett  
"God's Word-God's Promises"  
A day of Bible Study and Reflection.  
Venue :The Greater Parish Church,  
Oaks in Charnwood  
Contact Stuart Crossley 01530 243911

# Children's Material

We were pleased to welcome Debbie Nilson and her team who presented the Children's Programme at the Leaders Conference. If any class members have a heart for Children's Work from zero to teen please let your class leaders know. We are anticipating the training for the Childrens Work to start in September.

*Veronica Alvarez,  
CBSI National Director*

# The study in the Tree House



Andrew Goodman, Chaplain to Luton University works with a diverse group of students, many from abroad. In the Seminar at the Leaders Conference he shared how many students come to this country on their own to further their education and are really very disorientated and lost when they arrive.

They often find the language hard, the culture confusing and the process of registration far from simple. Homesickness is a real problem and making friends a very real difficulty. This is where the Chaplaincy fits in the life of a busy University. A friendly face a kind word and a place that they can call home. Andrew is a real father figure to those far from home who need encouragement and just somewhere to call home. 'The Tree House' which is the name chosen for the Portakabin that sits within the University grounds is a real Home from Home. Steeped in prayer by his team with comfortable sofas and a hot drink always offered, this is a refuge that many find invaluable. It is there that they will meet Jesus in the very presence and practice of the hospitality offered and the help given to them. Students are often put in touch with Christian families who will invite them to their homes and befriend in a very real and practical way. For those who are seeking, a 'Christianity Explored' Course is offered and having completed that course the CBSI Study 'God's Amazing Book' is run. Andrew is looking at ways to simplify this study so that we can make it available to those with English as a second language.

*Veronica Alvarez,  
CBSI National Director*

## London Marathon Project Malawi

I start with the elite men this year with a championship place! A little bit of pressure! The reason I start with the men is that the ladies targeting anything less than 2:45 will go off first before the elite men and the masses. I am targeting a sub 3 hour marathon (not sure whether I should mention that or not, in case I don't get it - but I should have confidence!).

I am running for Project Malawi (Madalitso) again - last year I raised the most I have ever raised for a marathon simply because of the charity - Project Malawi - I was running for. They still need more wells and mosquito nets and bike ambulances and much much more! Having seen Comic relief recently and the sum they raised, I really hope there are some people out there who can squeeze out a little bit more change.

I can be sponsored online: [www.justgiving.com/jennilondon2009](http://www.justgiving.com/jennilondon2009)



Congratulations to Jenni Tennesen on completing the London Marathon and her new 'Personal Best' time!

*Jenni and a fellow runner wearing bin liners before last year's marathon trying to keep warm!*

## new website for Project Malawi

Dear friends, please note that we have a new website for Project Malawi Trust it is [www.madalitso.org](http://www.madalitso.org)

Madalitso! - the Chichewa word meaning "blessings"

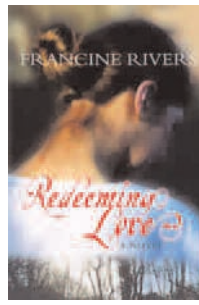
*Gillian and David Mason  
Project Malawi*



# Book Review

## Redeeming Love

by  
*Francine Rivers*



Ask anyone if they would like someone to love them unconditionally, unceasingly, selflessly, generously, courageously and I can't imagine many who would say no! That is a description of the main character in this book. Francine Rivers skilfully retells the biblical love story of Gomer and Hosea in a tale set against the exciting backdrop of the California Gold Rush. The heroine, Angel, is a young woman who was sold into prostitution as a child. Michael Hosea is a godly man sent into Angel's life to draw her

into the Saviour's redeeming love. The powerful message of Hosea is communicated in an extremely sensitive and tender way that allows you to experience God's Redeeming Love through Michael and Angel's story. Michael's compassion and love for Angel are compelling and so different from modern romantic love, the only picture of love so many have ever experienced.

This compelling novel gives non Bible readers an opportunity to understand God's unconditional love for humanity and gives an answer to the question, 'Can God's Love Save Anyone?.'

I would recommend this book and others by the same author. Francine Rivers has a real talent in sharing answers in story form to some of the deeply personal questions many of us ask.

*Daphne Hardman  
CBSI Letchworth*



# Veronica's Voice

Easter is a very special time in the Christian Calendar and pivotal of course to what we believe. God can teach us something fresh and new every year as we meditate on the Cross, what He did for us there and the amazing certainty of the Resurrection. He speaks very

powerfully to us, if we are willing to stop and listen. Often God grabs our attention in other ways, through the media, through acts of kindness, family and friends and of course personal experience. This year I was drawn into the wonderful news item that many of you will have read. The devastating news of the earthquake in Italy broke and we could only imagine the affect that this would have on people's lives and families. One particular picture struck me and it was of a man with his hands clamped over his mouth watching as people dug at what seemed flat ground. The next day there was a picture of the same man with joy on his face as his son is being brought out alive from underneath the ground. The piece was entitled 'Divine Intervention'. The story in a nutshell was that the father and family went for a few days to stay on the coast, leaving his 20 year old son in the village where they lived, staying with friends in an apartment. Whilst they were away the earthquake struck. The family rushed back, but didn't have the address of the apartment their son was staying in and didn't even know where it was. The father says that God lead him through the ruined streets, he just had to follow, he arrived at a spot and started calling his son's name. From under the ground his son replied 'dad I can't breathe'. A man with digging equipment appeared and his son was brought out alive. What a story! We are told in Matthew 24 v 7 that we must expect natural disasters and we have assurance through God's Word that death is not the end, but in the midst of such a catastrophic event to see God working so powerfully speaks to us all.

Life is so full; we can so often in our busy lives miss what God is saying to us. We seem to love noise, the radio, TV, CD's constantly grab our attention, it is as if we are afraid to just 'listen'. God is constantly speaking to us in so many ways, blocking Him out, albeit unintentionally might mean that we miss something important. Psalm 46 10 says 'Be still and know that I am God...I will be exalted in the earth.'

*Veronica Alvarez,  
CBSI National Director*

[www.communitybiblestudy.co.uk](http://www.communitybiblestudy.co.uk)