

OCTOBER 2013



www.ibnetworks.org

IBN NEWS

Autumn Programme

October 4-15

Visit of Revd. Ernie Whalley
President of BUGB

November 21-24

Visit of Dr Lina Andronoviene

21st Nov. Annual Meeting & Evening of Songs and Hymns from European Baptist Communities.

23rd Nov. Seminar for church leaders on 'The Growing Minority of Singles: Challenge for the Church'

24th Nov. 10:30 Holywood Baptist church service.

24th Nov. 7pm Windsor Baptist, special event: 'What Singleness Reveals about Freedom, Loneliness and Happiness: Lessons for the whole Church'

Notice of

IBN Annual Meeting

21st November 2013

at 6.30 pm in

Hollywood Baptist Church

Tea will be served from 6pm. The AGM will precede the evening event of European Baptist Praise

Special guest

Dr Lina Andronoviene

Please note this date in your diary.

Sharing the Vision

If you would like someone from IBN to come and speak to your church or group about the vision of IBN and building relationships with the wider Baptist family please contact:

david.mcmillan@ibnetworks.org

Lithuanian Baptist Musician, Theologian and Leader to visit Northern Ireland in November



Lina Andronoviene

Lina was born in the port of city of Klaipėda, and since her early days has been involved in the life of the Baptist church there. She never thought she would be a theologian, and had focused her energies on English language, literature, and creative writing.

However, some years ago, due to an almost accidental visit to the International Baptist Theological Seminary (IBTS) in Prague, it

dawned on her that theology did include literature and the rest of humanities, and two passions became one. Before earning her MTh and PhD from IBTS, she studied at the Lithuania Christian College.

At IBTS she is the Pro-Rector/Academic Dean and Course Leader for MTh in Applied Theology.

Her doctorate was in the area of Social Ethics (particularly looking at involuntary singleness and the church's response to it). Her other areas of interest include homiletics, spirituality and worship.

Lina was one of the initiators of NEBIM, a non-residential Bible School of

the Baptist Union of Lithuania, which was started in 2003 to fulfil the pressing educational needs of the Lithuanian Baptist churches. She continues to serve as the Acting Director of NEBIM.

We will be keeping Lina busy on her short visit to us. She is currently engaged in a major project collecting songs and hymns song by European Baptists from Soviet time to the present. She has kindly agreed to lead an evening of Songs and Hymns from European Baptist Communities on 21st November at 8.00pm in Holywood. Lina will also lead two Seminars with a focus on the Church (continued over)

Reflections on the Ministry of Pastor Roy McMullan



Sixty people gathered in Windsor on 10th September to hear Roy share significant insights into his life story. John Warke set the tone for the meeting in welcoming everyone and

speaking of the depth of love and appreciation for Roy and Diane in Windsor and beyond. From the very beginning of the interview with Roy, Hadden Wilson was able to draw out the real sense of God's hand on Roy from earliest days. As the story progressed everyone in the audience became fully engaged and appreciative of fascinating stories going back to the earliest influences of Pastor Willie Mullan; Roy's challenges and critics during the early days of the troubles on the Antrim Road; examples of experiences through his days in Finaghy, IBC, and

Windsor . By the time Roy shared the sense of God's hand on him and Diane during his major surgery for oesophageal cancer everyone wanted the interview just to keep going and to delay lunch! Those present gave a standing ovation to affirm Roy and Diane and to thank God for what we had heard. Nothing was exaggerated in the telling and many people over lunch shared stories of how Roy had "been there" for them in hard times. We assure Roy and Diane of our prayers and encouragement as they both continue to serve their Lord. A recording of the morning is available and will be posted on the IBN website.

Lithuanian Baptist Lina Andronoviene's visit to Northern Ireland (contd.)

and those who find themselves involuntarily single. On Saturday morning 23rd November at Windsor the focus will be primarily on church leaders, pastoral workers, youth leaders and others who are interested in gaining a better understanding of this increasing minority in the church. The topic will be: The Growing Minority of Singles: Challenge for the Church.

On Sunday evening 24th Lina will lead an event on the theme of 'What Singleness Reveals About Freedom, Loneliness, and Happiness: Lessons for the Whole Church.' The focus and emphasis will be on the challenge Jesus presents to the current perceptions of happiness so often adopted by the church. Lina is personally well qualified to deal with these themes from her studies and her personal journey. Her forthcoming book will address these issues in depth.

Partnerships work!

IBN rejoices in our first ministry partnership.

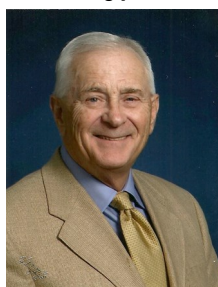
We were approached in August 2012 by retired Texan Baptist Pastor Jim Hancock who was referred to us by the Baptist World Alliance. Jim was interested in establishing personal and prayer support links with some Baptist work and witness in Ireland. Over time we became convinced that God was in this and with much care and prayer we explored some possibilities. With the kind help of Gordon Darragh (BM Director) and the Ireland Committee the option of a link with Cavan Baptist Church and their Pastor Ivan Watson emerged.

By September 2013 Jim Hancock was in Ireland for the first time.

After a weekend in Northern Ireland visiting 3 churches and meeting IBN folk he

headed to Cavan for 12 days. Ivan has just sent us this update:

When you volunteer to establish a relationship with a retired Texan pastor at a Baptist Missions committee meeting you really don't know what you are letting yourself in



for! I praise the Lord that this connection proved to have been made by Him for the good of the church in Cavan & my encouragement in the work. Jim Hancock spent two amazing weeks in our home & church. He humbly called our children his brothers and sister and rose each day with seemingly boundless energy to selflessly give himself to visitation and encourage-

ment. I enjoyed many interesting discussions with him and learnt a lot from his attitude and experience. He has a special place in the hearts of the Cavan believers who continue to be encouraged by their trans-Atlantic prayer partner who is remembering many of them on a daily basis.

Jim comments:

'My experience in Cavan has been nothing but amazing. It has been wonderful to bond with the church here. It has been a blessing to work with the Watsons. Ivan is doing a wonderful work here.'

Jim distributes a regular email of practical ministry and encouragement. If you would like to receive it email Jim at:

james.hancock59@yahoo.com

One of Irish Baptist Networks aims is to promote fellowship with the wider Baptist family through visits and exchanges. We thank God for this new prayer and personal partnership.

Like Stars in the Universe- Reclaiming Philipians for Today's Church.

This is the challenging theme for Ernie Whalley's Presidential Year for BUGB. We are delighted he is coming back in October to the land of his youth to be guest speaker in Tobermore, Windsor and Ballynahinch. A coffee morning for conversation and fellowship is planned for 14th October in Ballynahinch. He has prepared a booklet with 6 Bible Studies on this theme and there is online copy of it and discussion on www.likestars.org.uk. Why not take a look!

IBN is now a member of the European Baptist Federation (EBF). David and Stephen participated in the EBF Council meetings in Bratislava 25-28th September when 150 representatives from 43 of the 58 member bodies met together.

It was enriching to have brother Mazen from SYRIA and brother Mounir from EGYPT both share their stories. A full and insightful report from Nabil Costa



on the overall situation in the Middle East included an update on the excellent relief work being provided through EBF Aid in Lebanon to Syrian refugees.

For more info on the Council resolutions visit the EBF website: <http://www.ebf.org/council-resolutions>.

The offering to be taken up at the special evening of praise on 21st November will be sent to the EBF Relief Fund for our Syrian brothers and sisters.