



Flame Trust

**NEWS & PRAYER UPDATE
MAY 2023**



All photos used by permission

- education
- supporting disadvantaged people and the voiceless
- local and worldwide community involvement
- mentoring and social development in a variety of cultures and situations
- tours and events bringing insight and challenge to audiences in the UK and overseas

Cover pictures: children in Comanesti, Romania enjoying using the playground that we built last year in partnership with Habitat for Humanity. Further details inside.



Dear Prayer Partner

This newsletter may well be more reflective in its content than some that I have penned in recent years.

Perhaps that comes with the Anno Domini territory, but maybe as a result of the unprecedented times in which we find ourselves, where we seem to be constantly reminded of the paucity of wisdom at a senior level, and where many people are asking sensible questions but not finding answers.

In the student environment, where I spend a lot of time, the incidence of absenteeism and behavioural disorder is at an all-time high, and acceptance of 'what will be, will be' chimes too easily with those who have succumbed to going with the flow.

Part of my early studies took me into the realm of understanding and being trained in helping people who experienced PTSD... Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, and although not wanting to make excuses for the current tide of dissatisfaction and unrest, the Covid pandemic has undoubtedly caused a shift in the stability of many people. Many are now struggling, and the cost of living and access to provision that we need, provides huge challenge.

I could write further on this matter, but I have realised in recent years that the good news that we know, love and share, must be contextualised. It has to respond to the age in which we live. I used to sing a song 'Jesus is the answer, for the World today', but in these times of challenge, we must also be sure that we are understanding the questions!

And so, in recent months, I have tried to listen twice as much as I speak, to make sure that what I share resonates with the times in which we live.

ALL CHANGE AT Q3

I have decided to retire as Chair of Q3 Langley in July this year.

The merger with the Mercian Trust has now been in place for over twelve months and is going well, even though some things have significantly changed.



However, the Board has asked that I remain at the Academy and continue to help develop the Christian ethos which is essentially why I do what I do, so I have accepted that role and responsibility.

I would like to see a team of people have input into the Academy, so that the spiritual

development of staff and students, together with a presence in the school, is a shared privilege.

Please pray that these plans will develop and a structure will emerge to offer the valuable support and encouragement for such a time as this.

THE PLAYGROUND PROJECT

We have received some further pictures of the children in Comanesti using the playground that we built last year (see the front cover of this newsletter and overleaf), and we continue to enjoy good relationships with Habitat for Humanity and the staff at the kindergarten.

Subsequently, quite a number of you have been in touch indicating that we should consider building another(!), and that playground development for disadvantaged children should be part of our ongoing portfolio.

Well, we shall see how that develops, but for sure, we are now considering a facility that is in real need in the city of Iasc. Calin was in touch with the Habitat Director a few days ago, and he is conducting due diligence to make sure that the need is there and that the site is appropriate.

We will keep you posted via the website, but again, please pray that we might discern what is appropriate at this time.

ISMA PINTA: A Portuguese Childrens' Ministry

I have been in touch with Ismael, the young Portuguese Pastor that some of you met on our visit to Madeira last year.



He is continuing to produce brilliant animated Bible stories for TV transmission, and he and his family have recently been accepted to join the staff of MEVIC, a Portuguese Mission organisation that will help support him and his family.



Through the generosity of a Flame Prayer Partner, who met Ismael last year, Flame has also been able to make a contribution to this ministry, and I will keep you updated as to how this outreach progresses.

I think many of us have forgotten how important it is to introduce Bible stories to children. (I was



Playground project in
Comanesti, Romania

amazed to discover last Christmas that some students had never heard of Bethlehem). **We wish Ismael every blessing as he develops this ministry and responds to good opportunity.**

THE MALTA VISIT

The Spring Break in Malta went exceptionally well (pictured below), and was a time of spiritual refreshment as well as relaxation.

The hotel overlooked St. Paul's Bay – the traditional area where Paul was shipwrecked and from where he ministered to the people of the Island. We also linked with a local pastor who gave us an insight into Christian witness on the island. The ministry sessions were led by Ian and Ruth Coffey, supported by Ian and Linda Watson and the feedback from our guests has been exceptional.

PERSONAL NEWS

I continue to have the opportunity of helping direct and advise a number of people as they develop ministry opportunity.

I think there is an assumption that because I am still involved in Christian ministry, that I must have been consistent in the past 53 years! If only people realised that I have probably made more mistakes than most and am still wearing my 'L' plates, but perhaps the realisation that God's strength shows up in weak people is my best qualification.

I always enjoy receiving ministry from others. Ian and Ruth Coffey ministered to us on the book of Ruth in Malta. Such a blessing, and indeed Ian's brother David,



well known to those of you who came to our Time Out events in Paignton, is publishing a new book that is essentially written as an encouragement to his grandchildren, but which covers some of the talks he gave at Flame conferences. We will post further detail on our website when it is published, and it can be ordered direct from David.

I've had a few Afib episodes of late, and a chat with my cardiologist has brought up the question of considering an ablation, as and when the medication ceases to be effective. This is an invasive surgical procedure that cauterises part of the heart that sends out erratic electrical signals from time to time.

We shall see, but I am realistic again in the Anno Domini impact! And when I consider some of the health challenges that close colleagues are experiencing, I consider myself to be blessed.

IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

***Flame Family Day:
Saturday 30th September 2023***

**It will be held at Himley Road
Methodist Church, Lower Gornal,
Dudley DY3 2TS
10.30.a.m. – 7.45.p.m.**

Pastor John Price (*above right*) from Kingsway Church will be our Guest Speaker, and Chris and Abby Eaton will share in a Concert at the end of our time together.



More detail will be published on our website in due course and circulated to all our prayer partners, including links for accommodation arrangements.

A day of encouragement, teaching and fellowship ... and some fun! Plan to be with us.

Spring Break 2024

Even as I write this letter, Travel Counsellors are researching opportunities for next year. It is likely to be in a timeslot just after Easter, in early April, but we will keep you up to date as and when full detail is available.

**Visit www.flametrust.org
for the latest news, event
information and details on how to
make a donation online**

Israel 2023

This visit is filling up fast, but there is still capacity, so do plan to be with us.

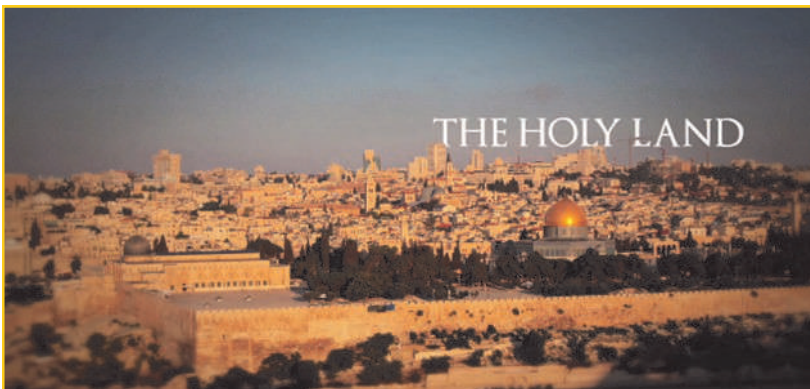
The dates are: 7th – 16th November, and all bookings and enquiries are being processed by Worldwide Christian Travel

www.christian-travel.com Tel: 0117 973 1840

Full itinerary details and the Booking Form are available on the Flame website: www.flametrust.org/holy_land

Worldwide Christian Travel are exceptional in their attention to safety and detail as they have many years of experience in taking Christians to the Holy Land.

Their price is competitive and this visit will provide all of the opportunity to appreciate very special places.



TIME TO CLOSE

I am so grateful to you for your faithful prayer and practical support, and know that this is the basis for Flame's effectiveness in all that we are called to do.

Despite the promises made by those in Westminster, I choose to recognise that these next weeks and months are going to be quite a challenge at many levels.

However, I was so taken by a statement that Ian Coffey made during his talks in Malta, when he said **'If you can't change the circumstances, ask God to change your attitude towards them'**.

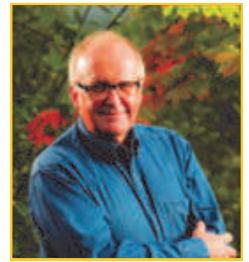
Great advice indeed and so appropriate for such a time as this.

Our confidence and trust is in a Higher Power and Authority, and although there will be times when we wonder what 'on earth' is happening, we can be certain that 'in heaven', there is strength, grace and wisdom available to guide us through.

May that be your experience in these days.

God bless,

Dave



*'If you can't change the
circumstances,*

*ask God to change your
attitude towards them'.*

Flame Trust, PO Box 15, Dudley, West Midlands DY1 1YQ

☎ 01384 232786 ✉ office@flametrust.org www.flametrust.org
Registered charity no: 1134374 Company no: 06778011

