



*Still burning  
brightly*

Front cover design based on an original  
idea by the late Colin Hale ... a faithful  
prayer partner of Flame Trust.

*Making Jesus visible in  
communities across the World*

## **SEASON'S GREETINGS**

and thank you for all your support





**The brand new playground project at the Kindergarten School in Comanesti, Romania has just opened! See pages 2 & 3 for more details and pictures.**



# Flame Trust

- 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

## News & Prayer Update Christmas 2022

*Dear Prayer Partner*

**'Making Jesus Visible'** was the theme for our very first **Family Day** that was held here in the West Midlands in October. It was a most encouraging time, particularly as so many of you were able to be with us and it gave a wonderful opportunity of being able to share 'first hand' what has been achieved through Flame over the past year and to give an insight into our plans for the future.

As I prayed and planned for that day, my mind went back to a visit to Pollsmoor Prison in South Africa just over 10 years ago. I was introduced to that institution by good friend and colleague, Philip Yancey and his wife, Janet, who in turn introduced me to Joanna Thomas – a remarkable lady who, along with her husband, committed to visiting Pollsmoor – perhaps the most violent and intimidating institution in the sub-Sahara –

every day for one year. At a subsequent meeting, Philip expressed incredulity that Joanna was able to introduce 'faith' into that situation, particularly because of its hostile reputation.

**Joanna, without even faltering, commented ... 'No problem. God was already in Pollsmoor. I just had to make Him visible'.**

I have used that remarkable story and illustration many times and will continue to do so. Joanna was an amazing lady, and sadly, no longer with us, but her grasp of understanding her commission and moving into places where God was already in evidence has been a wonderful incentive to me, as Flame has responded to the challenge of ministry opportunity .

'Making Jesus Visible' seems to be such an appropriate 'strap line' for all that we do



through Flame's ministry, and it certainly is more than appropriate as I share what has recently been achieved.

### THE PLAYGROUND PROJECT

November 8<sup>th</sup> was a very special day for children at the Kindergarten School in Comanesti. In previous days, they had watched with great excitement some new structures arriving on the waste land adjacent to where they were, and in no time at all, workmen arrived and a play facility began to take shape.

On the morning of the 8<sup>th</sup>, after a small dedication event attended by the Director of the School, representatives from Habitat for

Humanity, the Mayor and our very own Calin Rezmues, the entry gate was opened, and fun and frolics followed, accompanied by squeals and shouts of great delight. There was laughter from the children and tears from some of the staff!





*Calin, pictured above, and far left, alongside the team from the School and Habitat for Humanity*

It was your support and generous giving that has made this provision possible, and we are so grateful. Calin also has done an amazing job in 'leading from the front' and he was on site for the whole time, making sure that everything went according to plan ... and it did!

***Thank you again for enabling this to happen and yes...'Making Jesus Visible' in a very simple and practical way in Comanesti.***



## CHAPLAINCY MINISTRY

We continue to see great encouragement from our Chaplaincy support ministry.

Gerry Denston reports that the conference on climate change went really well and proved to be so timely in the light of the recent event in Sharm El Sheikh.

Recruitment is also underway, and we are delighted to see growing interest in volunteers coming forward to help in this ministry. A number of students are also showing up at church fellowships, so please pray that this will be a real blessing to churches and students alike.

## Q3 ACADEMY: Langley

My input into the development of the Q3 Academies dates back to 2004 when I was first invited to give consideration to having input into 'failing schools'.

Little did I imagine the long term outcome of what would follow, but I am grateful for every opportunity that has presented itself to see the development of three Academies in the Q3 family, all embracing the Christian ethos.

Just recently, it was decided to merge with the Mercian Trust – a larger group of schools that also endorses a similar ethos – and I have continued to enjoy being Chair of the Academy here in Langley, in the West Midlands.

However, I now know the time is right to consider the days that lie ahead, and I have shared my intention to step down from this role in the summer of next year - primarily for two reasons:

1. I think that too many leaders hold on to position and responsibility and outlive their 'sell by date'! I have seen this so many times in Christian organisations, and I am committed to introducing new people into leadership and giving encouragement and opportunity in the transition.
2. It is important to listen carefully to what God is saying. Often the busyness of our diaries and the 'noise' of our hectic(!) masks that 'still small voice', and I sense that I have served my time and maybe usefulness in this role. And I want to see others introduced into leadership and carrying the same ethos baton.

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*for the latest news, event information, making contact with us and details on how to make a donation online*



Of course I still want to have strong links with the Academy and it has been suggested that I continue my involvement in a Chaplaincy role. I am very comfortable with this and indeed, in a few weeks' time, I shall be addressing all students and staff as part of my responsibility in bringing the Christmas message.

**We shall see how all of this develops, but do pray for me and my colleagues at Q3 as we make some changes.**

### COMING UP

As you will be aware, Flame usually organises a **SPRING BREAK and 2023** is no exception. We are planning a retreat in Malta: April 13<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup>, in a lovely hotel in

St. Paul's Bay. The hotel is unashamedly comfortable and hospitable, and Ian and Ruth Coffey (pictured below left) will be leading our fellowship times. The interest has been fantastic, and we now have over 40 people registered for this holiday, but there is room for more....

And we are also planning a visit to **ISRAEL - Nov 7<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup> 2023.**



I lead these 'pilgrimages' every 10 years and so this might be my last, but Worldwide Christian Travel organise all of the detail and this is attracting interest.



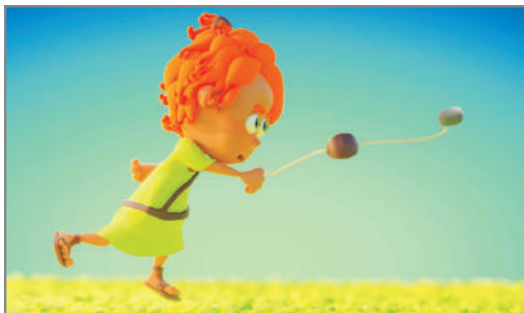
More details for both events can be obtained from Jackie and also via the Flame website:  
**[www.flametrust.org](http://www.flametrust.org)**

## **I conclude with some specific Praise and Prayer items:**

1. A recent visit to my consultant has confirmed **a real improvement in my Afib episodes.** I have also received confirmation that the issue with a blocked artery in my neck has also been resolved. The latter has created some questions for the radiographer, but it enabled me to explain that I do believe that God intervenes when people pray.

As you can imagine, I am very thankful for this news, and although it is yet to be totally confirmed, the indication is that blood flow has been restored. Thank you Lord.

2. We have recently had some involvement with a young pastor



in Portugal who has established a wonderful ministry for children using computerised animations of Bible stories.

Many of you met Ismael and his

family when we were in Madeira and we were able to make a gift to encourage him in his ministry. He has subsequently been accepted by a Portuguese Mission organisation, and we



continue to explore linkage with him, particularly as his work has been recognised and used on national TV.

**Great opportunity to reach children in a medium that they understand... (Long gone are those flannel graphs!!)**

3. **Pray as we begin to research the possibility of extending the Playground initiative.** It gives a wonderful opportunity to influence local authorities and schools, and also to improve the lives of children who are disadvantaged for whatever reason.

It is all part of 'Making Jesus Visible' in the community. Ideally, I would want to

develop a mid-term plan ... probably for a three year period, so that we can research funding to enable this to come to fruition.

**Pray, that as I talk to some business leaders and others, that God will show us what is good, right and true for this initiative as we plan for the future.**

**4. Please pray as we consider when and where to organise our Flame Family event for next year, and please feel free to comment and offer suggestions.**

There is obviously an appreciation of being able to gather together; timing and geography is always an issue, and we want it to be a blessing not just another date in the diary.

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I conclude by giving my thanks and appreciation to 'Team Flame': Jackie, Calin, Jen, Clare, Gerry and Stewart all play a vital part and their involvement is different, according to their time and skills.

I am also mindful of Flame's Board members where we have some health challenges at the present time.

**(Do visit the Flame Prayer Fuel area at [www.flametrust.org](http://www.flametrust.org) for more detail).**

And my final note of appreciation is to you – for your prayers and financial support – neither of which are taken for granted. Thank you so much, and may I also take the opportunity of wishing you a truly blessed Christmastime with family and friends, and every blessing for 2023.

**Take every opportunity to 'Make Jesus Visible'.**

*Dave*



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