



HARVEST BIBLE COLLEGE IS GLOBAL!

By Jerolyn Kelley

Early in our missionary career we came across a tiny plaque that says, "There is no limit to what a man can do or where he can go if he doesn't mind who gets the credit." This little plaque has hung in our kitchen for over 32 years and is a constant reminder of the beauty of teamwork.

When we look back over the years and see all that God has ordained for the full time Bible School of the United Pentecostal Church of Great Britain & Ireland, we are amazed at the hand of God. In 1996 when the church in Glasgow, Scotland miraculously acquired two buildings with two parking lots on a main thoroughfare for only \$130,000.00, my husband prophetically told the congregation that these facilities were for more than the local church.

A part time Bible college was established in 1998 and two ministers from London came each month to teach classes. A chance conversation between my husband, Bro. Leroy Francis and Bro. Jimmy Austin was the birthing of the vision for a full time Bible college. Our late General Superintendent, Bro. James Dallas, joined in the vision and the action began. One of the last things Bro. Dallas gave approval to before his sudden death was that Glasgow should be the location for a full time Bible College for the United Pentecostal Church of Great Britain & Ireland. Never in our wildest dreams could we imagine all that God had in store.

Planning and work began. In 2002, diligent work began to get the second building ready for a boys' dorm and other facilities for both the church and college. All the work was finished by the end of July—painting, decorating, carpet, new kitchen, shower room, furnishings and so forth. Classes were set to begin the first Tuesday of September. The work finished on a Tuesday and the district conference and a time of dedication were held that same week. On the following Monday the

General Board viewed the facilities and the next day a freak once-in-a-hundred year flood hit our side of the city. The newly renovated building ended up with 5 inches of sewage water in it. What a wet mess!

We were devastated and disheartened. But, to say the vision died would be totally inaccurate. Someone asked if the college was still going to open and I told them there is no way we would let the devil have the last laugh. Despite very cramped quarters, Harvest Bible College opened that year and the dream became reality.

In order to give a wide range of expertise to the college, the decision was made to bring in guest teachers each year for one and two week courses. This has proven to be a wonderful decision as students have had a smorgasbord of teachers from the United Kingdom, Europe, Canada, America and even Guatemala. One of the strengths of the college has been the very close interaction students have with teachers, both in class and outside of class. The personal impact of the 125 teachers who have come to teach in both the part time and the full time college has been immeasurable.

Although the college was designed for British students, international students have given a great flavour and variety to the college. A very good number of students have enrolled in the A.I.M. Education Program giving them the opportunity for Bible School Education and missionary experience at the same time. Consequently, in 2008 the school was thrown into a dilemma when the United Kingdom immigration authorities ruled that in order for colleges to accept foreign students they would have to be accredited. The school board decided to pursue this.

Blindly, we dove into the whole long and tedious process. We were stretched to our limits mentally, spiritually, financially and physically. The long process was intense and so many times we felt totally inadequate for the task. Prayerfully, we proceeded step by step through the maze of regulations and requirements.

At the same time Harvest Bible College was pursuing the accreditation, there was also an unending maze of new immigration requirements that affected the missionary and AIM personnel coming into the United Kingdom as well as prospective students. Rules and guidelines were constantly changing and we were expected to keep up with all of this on a nearly daily basis. Different directives would come from individual personnel within the immigration system and often the instructions were conflicting. It was a nightmare!

Immediately preceding the first accreditation inspection there were key workers deported out of the country. At the same time, it was discovered that the walls in the boy's dorm did not meet fire standards and one thing after another began cropping up. My husband and I moved into the college. We were teaching, pastoring, administrating, doing building work, doing district work, etc., etc., etc. We told the students before the inspectors arrived to just act as if all was normal. (This was wonderful training for ministry.) The students did a great job and the inspectors were impressed with the strength of the students and the attitude of the students towards the college.

The inspectors gave some adjustments and conditions the college had to meet and set a subsequent inspection date for a few months later. When they came back they were very impressed with how quickly the requirements had been fulfilled. It was only God!

On June 9, 2009, I ran into the hallway of the college and let out a loud squeal! Full accreditation for the college had been granted! It was an absolute miracle of God and the teamwork of so many

people. Also, in this same year we became approved with G.A.T.S. (Global Association of Theological Studies)

We had to furlough that year and the accreditation agency had given a further six months to formalise all the syllabi into learning outcomes for the classes and have it approved by another external awarding agency. Our brains were completely fried by this time, so to speak. I couldn't get my head around all that was required even down to the verbiage that was used. In God's providence, He brought our son Kyle and his family to Scotland to oversee the college while we were gone. Kyle had been educated in the British system and knows how the British think. He was able to capably take on the task of formalizing all thirty-nine courses with the proper wording and establishing means of assessment for each course. High marks were received from both the accreditation agency and the external awarding agency on the work Kyle did. This was a huge academic hurdle to overcome.

In 2014, H.B.C. received its second full accreditation approval. The next one is scheduled for 2017. Each year when the external awarding body comes and assesses the individual portfolios of the students, the college receives very high marks. This is truly miraculous.

This year we are entering a new phase of development as the college begins to offer a second year course that will be an internship program along with some distance learning. We have joined in a partnership with Urshan College who will be supplying the distance learning courses. We look forward to on-going aspects of our partnership with Urshan College.

Between the part time school and the full time college, there are 151 who have graduated. Harvest Bible College Alumni are working for the Lord in seventeen countries of the world on five continents. In the United Kingdom, there are graduates who are greatly involved in ministry and leadership. Nothing is more heart-warming than to see graduates involved in the work of the Kingdom globally.

The teachers who have come through the years sacrificing their time, money and expertise to pour themselves into students from around the world have been highly impacting. There have been administrative staff and cooks come from numerous places and give of their time, money and expertise to making the college run smoothly. (One of the students said to advertise the college by advertising the food.)

Fellow missionaries and nationals from the United Kingdom have done extensive building work as well as teaching. Long-time AIMers, Associate Missionaries and missionaries have helped to oversee the daily operation of the college--namely the Robert Harris Family, the Jonathan Follmer Family, the Bonner Longs and the Eric Cokers. Our daughter and son-in-law, the James Beeks, have made valuable contributions to the running of the college in both the music ministry and overall daily operation. What an honor it has been to have retired missionaries, teachers and pastors come and teach.

The United Pentecostal Church of Great Britain & Ireland has been truly amazing in their support and giving to Harvest Bible College. The school board has been so helpful and given guidance to the college. The New Life Church Family in Glasgow and church staff are truly gifts from God. They have opened their arms and their hearts to the students year after year. The Global Missions Staff and Regional Directors have given counsel and encouragement through the years. The Ladies Ministries of the United Pentecostal Church International have given financial contributions through the years

that have been such a help to the students. The sacrifice and concern of so many has been humbling.

The prayer and moral support of many saints of God in the United Kingdom and beyond as well as family and friends have been what has kept us going through thick and thin. Only eternity will tell the true impact of the ministry of so many who have given in so many ways to make the college a success.

It would be a mistake to try and list all who have poured themselves into Harvest Bible College because no doubt someone would be inadvertently overlooked. You know who you are and, more importantly, heaven knows your name. Be assured that Harvest Bible College will always be grateful to you for the investment you have made in the expansion of God's Kingdom.

We were recipients of the "I Am Global" offering at the 2015 General Conference. Miraculously, we only had to do 13 weeks of deputation services. Our hearts are full of gratitude. It is truly an honor to represent the United Pentecostal Church in Northern Europe. We are global and we give God thanks for making Harvest Bible College a global ministry. To God be all the glory! The true credit belongs to Him alone!

For more information about Harvest Bible College, go to www.harvestbiblecollege.co.uk or write to hbcgbi@aol.com.