



TYNDALE HOUSE

NEWSLETTER, AUTUMN 2007

INSIDE

- *A vision for Tyndale*
- *Welcome new staff & residents*
- *Before the earliest manuscript...*
- *Technology is good news*
- *From war in Yugoslavia to studies in Cambridge*
- *Ethics on the move*
- *A new bursary scheme: The Erasmus Fund*

TYNDALE HOUSE
36 Selwyn Gardens
Cambridge CB3 9BA

Tel: 01223 566601

Fax: 01223 566608

Visit us online at
www.TyndaleHouse.com

Meet the New Warden and His Family

It is with great enthusiasm that we formally introduce to you Tyndale's new Warden, Dr Peter J. Williams, and his family. Peter and his wife Kathryn, along with their two children Magdalena (Lena), 6, and Leo, 2, have now already been at Tyndale for three months.

Peter and Kathryn first met in Belgium on missions in 1991, and then found themselves at the same Cambridge college (Jesus). They were married in 1996 and return to Belgium regularly for ongoing missions work.

Kathryn studied French and German at Cambridge, and has since taught both of these languages at the Herts and Essex High School in Bishop's Stortford. She has also taught French at the University of Cambridge and the University of Aberdeen. At Tyndale House, Kathryn will be leading the Ladies' Bible study and will be involved in copy editing for the *Tyndale Bulletin*.

The Williamses have come most recently from Aberdeen and Peter was a Senior Lecturer in New Testament and the Deputy Head of the School of Divinity, History and Philosophy at the University of Aberdeen. Having completed his undergraduate (double First in Classics, Hebrew, and Aramaic) and graduate (MPhil and PhD) degrees at Cambridge, and subsequently serving as an Affiliated Lecturer in Hebrew and Aramaic at the University of Cambridge and Old Testament Research Fellow at Tyndale House, Peter is no stranger to Cambridge nor to Tyndale! He has



published research on both Old and New Testaments, and has a particular interest in early translations of the Bible.

Peter's work in both New and Old Testament studies has usefully prepared him for this post at Tyndale House. Peter hopes to focus on advising, encouraging and ministering to the students and researchers whom God will lead to Tyndale in the months and years to come.

In addition to the daily responsibilities associated with his role as Warden, Peter will also be involved in ongoing research. He will present papers on the Gospel of John and the Old Syriac Gospels at the Society for Biblical Literature (SBL) Conference which is taking place in San Diego California in November. In addition, he will be on a panel presenting a paper on the Gospel of Thomas and the Diatessaron.

We are delighted for the arrival of Peter and his family to Tyndale House and ask that you keep them in your prayers as they settle in here and once again make Cambridge their home.



*... hundreds of
theological leaders
have been trained
and have gone into
Christian service
throughout the
globe...*



*But what might be
achieved in the
future could be far
greater.*



*We need labourers,
and for churches to
be willing to send
some of their best
people into biblical
research.*

A Vision for Tyndale

I feel very privileged to be Warden of Tyndale House and to have received such a warm welcome here. It is a particular privilege to succeed Bruce Winter, who was such a help to me in my own development. In recent months it has become quite clear to me through correspondence and personal contact as well as through reading Tom Noble's *Tyndale House and Fellowship: The First Sixty Years* (IVP, 2006) that Tyndale House has always had a large number of friends. Without the united efforts of a large number of people Tyndale would not have been able to achieve so much.

But what has been achieved so far, under God, through the ministry of Tyndale House? Of course, that is a question we do not know enough to answer. Our perception is limited to certain tangible effects, but these are not small: hundreds of theological leaders have been trained and have gone into Christian service throughout the globe; even more written resources have been produced for the church; the benefits of confessional Christian scholarship within the academy have been demonstrated and there are now more openings for such scholarship than before.

How has this been achieved? A core part of our strategy has been the concept of a Christian community based round a specialised biblical studies library and information centre. Behind this has lain the conviction that studying the scriptures in the context of a believing community is healthier than on one's own.

Tyndale has come a long way: its library holdings, which are already world-class, are constantly improving; it has increasingly close connections with the University of Cambridge; the circulation of the *Tyndale Bulletin* has been in-

creasing, to mention just a few things. But what might be achieved in the future could be far greater. I would like to see confessional Christian research that is consistently of a *higher* standard than that done in the best secular or non-confessional institutions. We should not content ourselves with equality. I would like to see PhD students we support, research fellows, the *Tyndale Bulletin*, in the future acknowledged as superior to non-confessional counterparts. If the standard way is to require people to take a Masters degree and then a PhD, could we be used to channel resources for people to take two Masters degrees (one in each Testament) and then a PhD, so that those we support have a broader and more rigorous education? I should like to see more projects like the *Gospel Perspectives* project or the *Book of Acts in Its First-Century Setting* project playing a major role in shaping academic discussion. I should also like to see close working with churches about the resources they need. I do not see that there is any need to trade off usefulness to the church and high academic standards against each other.

But with these opportunities there are challenges, including the pressing need to begin expanding the library (about which I hope to say more in the near future) both to accommodate more books and to offer more spaces in the library. We would also love to offer postgraduate bursaries within Biblical Studies and related areas (see the article by John Taylor on the Erasmus Fund).

We need labourers, and for churches to be willing to send some of their best people into biblical research. We need devoted prayer support and also financial support. I know of some close friends without much disposable income who have sacrificially com-

Continued from Page 2, *A Vision for Tyndale*

mitted themselves to give a small sum on a monthly basis. In order of priority our needs are: (1) prayer; (2) labourers; (3) finance. Perhaps you can consider how you or your church can help us in one of these three ways.

P.J. Williams

To find out more about Peter's vision for Tyndale House you can read his interview with Justin Taylor online at:

<http://theologica.blogspot.com/2007/08/interview-with-peter-williams.html>



Pictured above is a group of readers and staff taking advantage of a sunny afternoon with a game of croquet during the afternoon tea break.

Welcoming Our Newest Member of Staff

We have been delighted to appoint Charlotte Reeves as Secretary to Tyndale House in the Front Office. Charlotte joined us on 3rd September and in this role she will serve as the main point of contact for visitors, readers and residents as well as PA to Peter Williams. Charlotte graduated from the University of Florida with a Bachelor's of Science in Human Resources Development. She graduated in the top of her class and brings a wealth of knowledge and six years of human resources and administration experience to the post.



Charlotte is married to Ryan Reeves who has been a reader here at Tyndale since October 2006 when he began his PhD in the Divinity Faculty at Cambridge.

Ryan's research focuses on politics and theology in sixteenth century England, the Royal Supremacy, and Protestant views of civil government. Charlotte and Ryan are residents of Tyndale House and are both originally from Orlando, Florida.

WELCOME TO TYNDALE'S NEWEST RESIDENTS:

Christian & Stephanie Askeland
Heidi, Morgan, Christian Joel

Jason & Kristen Fout
Alex

Rebecca Idestrom

Jim & Lisa Johnston
Claire, Julia, Sarah, Andrew

Jim & Angela Leonard
Sara, Matthew, Virginia

Daniel & Lauren Lowery

David & Jennifer McNutt

Eugene & Iris Park

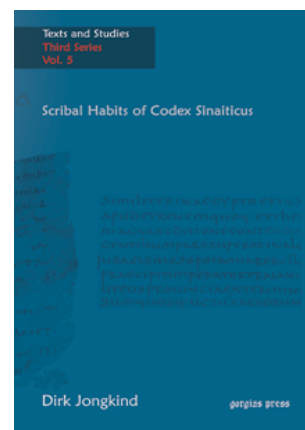
Myrto Theochaurus

Julie Woodson

Before the Earliest Manuscript...



This summer saw the publication of *Scribal Habits of Codex Sinaiticus* (Texts and Studies, Third Series 5; Gorgias Press, 2007) by our Research Fellow in New Testament, Dirk Jongkind. The result of a PhD thesis in the University of Cambridge, this examines a famous 4th-century manuscript, which is the earliest manuscript containing the entire New Testament. Dirk has discovered that by comparing the different 'habits' of the three scribes who copied the manuscript he is able to describe better than ever before how, when, and why scribes made mistakes. In other words, he has developed a technique for reconstructing the text of manuscripts *before* the earliest surviving copy of the whole New Testament!



Technology Is Good News

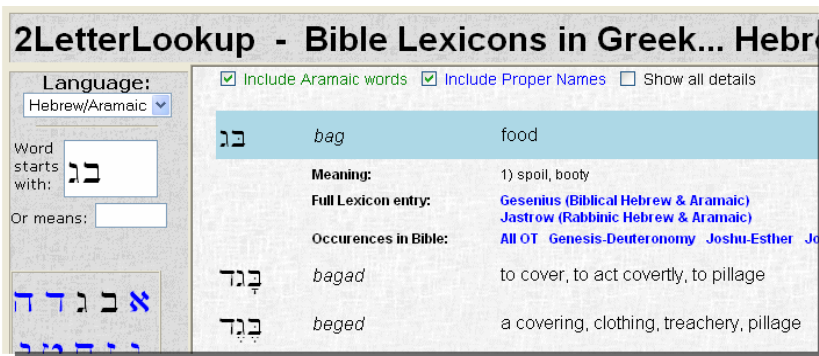
A library is judged not by how much information it stores but how easily visitors can access it. One of my challenges as Technical Officer is to make that information accessible to everyone else. So, for example, our catalogue (www.TynCat.com) links to online readable versions of the books, whenever possible.

The Tyndale Tech mailings keep everyone informed about the best ways to use computers in Biblical Studies. During the last year they have included a survey of web Bible tools, academic search techniques, how to use Hebrew fonts and easy backup solutions. Email Tech@Tyndale.cam.ac.uk if you don't receive these.

Lexicons are the time-consumers of Biblical scholarship and, till now,

electronic versions required typing a foreign word and provided only abridged information. Tyndale's new site, www.2LetterLookup.com gives you full academic lexicons without requiring any typing in foreign fonts. You just pick the word listed when you click on its first two letters laid out as alphabets in Greek, Hebrew/ Aramaic, Latin, Syriac, Coptic or Akkadian. Lane's 8-volume Arabic lexicon will be added next. My favourite feature is its intelligent check for weak Hebrew letters which might be missing from the root – a check which can take twenty minutes with a lexicon. I also added a 'magnification box' which floats round the lexicon pages like a large hand-lens – very useful for the over-forties.

David Instone-Brewer



From War in Yugoslavia to Studies in Cambridge Meet a Tyndale Reader and His Family: Kevin & Rahela Conway

After several years in sales and management with IBM and GE, including a period where he ran his own company, Kevin Conway went on a short-term mission trip to Croatia with his home church from Atlanta, Georgia, USA. This trip took place during the most recent war and gave him a chance to experience first-hand what our Lord meant when He said, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest." There was also a very attractive Croatian lady there who had recently graduated from the local seminary. Rahela served as their guide and translator at the refugee camp where they shared the Gospel. Later on Kevin answered the call of God to be a worker in the harvest in Eastern Europe. Rahela became his wife and they now have three children, Abi, Joseph and Kara, all born in either Croatia or Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Continued at the bottom of page 5

271 THESES AT TYNDALE

At a recent count, the library now holds 271 donated doctoral dissertations. If we estimate that this represents about four-fifths of the dissertations that have been written at Tyndale, then the number of dissertations written at Tyndale is around 340. The majority of authors of the dissertations go on to significant ministry elsewhere.

Ethics on the Move

The Kirby Laing Institute for Christian Ethics (KLICE) completed its first year of operation with a great sense of gratitude to God for the opportunities provided to advance work in Christian ethics in the UK. Recent issues of *Ethics in Brief* (formerly *Whitefield Briefings*) have addressed themes in biblical ethics (sexual ethics, hermeneutics), political ethics (toleration) and medical ethics (treatment of PVS patients). In Spring we successfully recruited six high-quality doctoral students in ethics as recipients of financial awards, and they will be joining several others at the first KLICE research seminar in October. It has been very encouraging and exciting to be able to resume these vital and formative activities of the former Whitefield Institute, whose former grantees now occupy many significant leadership positions in the UK. By nurturing the growth of articulate defenders of Christian ethics KLICE aims to make a key contribution to the church, the academy and eventually to wider society. Building on the momentum of the successful launch event in January, two other conferences have drawn significant

audiences and generated valuable interaction. A day-long seminar on 'Theological Visions and Public Languages', aimed at public policy practitioners and public theologians, was held in April 2007, and attracted representatives from nearly 20 faith-based organisations. The first 'KLICE Book Colloquium' was held in July 2007 around the latest book of Professor Oliver O'Donovan, one of Britain's leading political theologians, with 25 specialists in attendance. The director has been able to take advantage of many speaking and writing opportunities for church, academic and other settings, in Cambridge and elsewhere in the UK, as well as in the USA, Canada and the Netherlands. He has been appointed a member of the Cambridge University Divinity Faculty, an advisor to the Cambridge Christian Graduate Society, and a member of the new Theology and Public Policy Advisory Commission of the Evangelical Alliance. A new 'KLICE Associates' scheme was introduced in summer to widen the circle of support for KLICE's work. New features have been added to the KLICE website, which you can visit at www.KLICE.co.uk.

Continued from Page 4, *From War in Yugoslavia to Studies in Cambridge*

While later serving in Bosnia-Herzegovina as church planters among Muslims they recognized that they could leverage their efforts more by training nationals who had already been called into ministry. They then moved back to Croatia to teach the Scriptures at ETS, a strategic seminary with students from all over Eastern Europe and beyond. They also served as the Student Deans and directors of the school's practical ministry, where the students had the chance to put into practice the lessons they were learning in the classroom.

They are currently living at Tyndale House while Kevin pursues his PhD in the New Testament. They report, "We have been blessed to be part of a wonderful evangelical community in the midst of a secular university environment. Besides having the opportunity to learn so much, we have also benefited from meeting excellent scholars who have expressed an interest in joining us as visiting teachers once we return to the seminary in Croatia upon completion of Kevin's studies."



Whilst there is always hard work going on in the library, there is quite often hard work going on in the back garden as well. We would like to say a special thanks to Lisa Johnston whose recent efforts in the garden have been much appreciated!

"We have been blessed to be part of a wonderful evangelical community..."

The Conway Family





“Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your father in heaven.”

Matthew 5:16

Donations to Tyndale House may be sent to:

The Warden
Tyndale House
36 Selwyn Gardens
Cambridge, CB3 9BA, UK

Or online at:
<http://www.tyndalehouse.com/Support.htm>

Tax-deductible donations in US dollars may be sent to:

American Friends of
Tyndale House
Cambridge, Inc
PO Box 4920
Orlando, FL 32802-4920

Introducing a New Bursary Scheme: *The Erasmus Fund*

This year we are launching a new fund to provide bursaries at Tyndale House for students from the UK. It will be called the Tyndale House Erasmus Fund. It will be administered by the Academic Committee of the TH Council and when it has built up sufficiently it will be available to provide modest grants for needy and deserving British students who wish to undertake postgraduate or doctoral research in Biblical studies and/or Theology in the UK. Recipients of the grants will be required to show that they are fully in sympathy with the theological principles of the UCCF.

Why only British? Because Americans have greater access to funds from the USA, Australians have the Leon and Mildred Morris Foundation to turn to, many third world candidates can apply for Langham scholarships, and Tyndale House has the Hemer Fund also for students from overseas. But there has been nothing for would-be students from the UK.

Why Erasmus? Well, they say that "Erasmus laid the egg that Luther hatched". In other words, by his passionate desire to reform the church through biblical scholarship, Erasmus can be regarded as one of the founding fathers of the Reformation. Tyndale House too, in its own small way, has endeavoured to bring about similar reform in our own generation.

How will it work? All contributions will go into a "protected" Erasmus General Fund, and we invite friends who share this vision to respond to the launch of this fund. Legacies and gifts of a capital nature may also be received and will be held in an Erasmus Endowment Fund, interest from which will be paid into the General Fund to be made available for distribution.

The first £100 has been received. Who will add to it to build up an invaluable resource for up-and-coming British scholars? Cheques payable to "Tyndale House" and earmarked for the Erasmus Fund, please.

The Rt Revd John Taylor

We would appreciate your prayers for...

- The work of all of Tyndale's current readers and visiting scholars and for continued fellowship and community amongst them as they study
- The impact of resources produced at Tyndale on churches and scholarship throughout the world
- Students nearing submission of their theses and moving on to new ministry
- Peter Williams and his family as they continue to settle in Cambridge
- For wisdom in decisions pertaining to the growth and future of Tyndale House