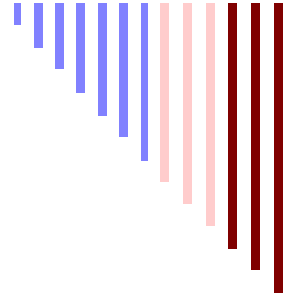




# Tyndale House

## Newsletter

### Summer 2009



## Summerhouse Development Commences

After a number of years of discussion, work to restore the Edwardian Summer House on our grounds has now begun. We are very grateful to those who have contributed to make this possible.

The intention is that this will provide accommodation for further users of Tyndale House, with a specific focus on short visits by those from countries particularly lacking in resources for the scholarly study of the Bible. The Summer House should be ready for occupation by the autumn.



At Tyndale House we continue to receive far more requests to stay in our accommodation than we are able to fulfil. We hope that this restoration project will be just the first of a number of steps to expand the accommodation facilities here.

The unique Summer House was designed for Blanche Athena Clough (1861-1960), former Principal of Newnham College, Cambridge, whose love of gardens also left a profound effect on the beautiful grounds of that college.

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## Bible & Church Launched

Tyndale House has now started a ministry which seeks to bring biblical scholarship directly to ordinary Christians. *Bible and Church* plans to run a series of conferences aimed at lay people across the UK. The first of these was held on June 20 in Westminster Chapel, London, and resulted in very positive feedback. Drs Peter Williams, Dirk Jongkind and Simon Gathercole gave talks dealing with some of the major aspects of conspiracy theories about early Christianity which circulate in the media. These included the ideas that the four





## Bible & Church (cont.)

gospels were too removed in time or space to give us access to the ministry of Jesus, or that the text of the New Testament had been deliberately corrupted, or that the gospels of Thomas, Mary or Judas contain a true portrait of Jesus. The event was recorded on video (email or call to order). Further *Bible and Church* events are currently being planned for 2010 and details will be announced.

## The Warden's Travels

At Easter, the Warden and his family visited Riga, Latvia, where he spoke in a wide variety of churches as well as doing interviews for radio and magazines. Shortly afterwards he was leading and speaking at the European Theologians Network at the European Leadership Forum. He is spending the month of August in Oxford on sabbatical working on an edition of an early translation of the four gospels into Syriac.

**Forthcoming trips:** October 14-17: Finland and Sweden  
October 22-26: Chicago and West Michigan



Kathryn, Leo & Lena Williams  
with their Latvian host Alvis Sauka



"Brer Fox" visiting the  
Warden's garden

## Wildlife at Tyndale House

Though Tyndale House is just a short walk from the centre of Cambridge, parts of the site are frequented by various forms of wildlife. Most common are squirrels (the grey sort). We are also visited by ducks (though these tend to get chased by the children). Those with keener eyes, or who observe the more secluded parts of the site, may also see pheasants, a fox, or even a small deer, who sometimes grace us with their presence.

## PhD Success

Congratulations to these Tyndale House readers who have achieved PhD success recently:

Mary Hom, Ludmila Ginsbursky, Hilary Marlow, Jonathan Moo,  
University of Cambridge

Ela Lazarewicz-Wyrzykowska, Manchester University

Stuart Rochester, Durham University

Almost finished: Kevin Conway & family are returning to Croatia.

## Volunteers Making Hi-Tech Contributions

We are starting to see what Biblical Israel really looked like, in the Geography module of STEP (*Scripture Tools for Every Pastor*). This Tyndale project aims to provide far-flung believers, free of charge, with the best Bible software tools capable of working on phones and on low-spec computers with little or no internet facilities. Volunteers are working on Geography (David Emanuel), History (Colin Bell), Translation analysis (Galen Goldsmith & Kate Gaze), and the Database engine (Troy Griffiths, Chris Burrell & David Hollands).

The Geography module combines rare high-scale maps at Tyndale with GoogleEarth satellite images including geographical features and local photographs. Here we see Mt Carmel, where



Elijah confronted the prophets of Baal, near the modern town of Haifa. The old maps show agricultural details, traditional placenames and old pathways which have now disappeared under concrete. These two technologies complement each other to give the Biblical events new depth and reality.

## A Fruitful Time at Tyndale Comes to an End

Two families have increased in number during their stay at Tyndale. We say goodbye to Ryan & Charlotte Reeves whose daughter Zoe was born last October, and to Jason & Kirsten Fout who came to Cambridge with daughter Alexandra and leave with another, Samantha, born in January.



Mila with proud Dad

Our congratulations go to Tyndale reader **Ludmila Ginsbursky** on completing her doctorate on Matthew's gospel & Judaism & securing a postdoctoral position attached to Birmingham University supported by the Rothschild Foundation for Jewish Studies in Europe.

## Christian Ethics in the House of Commons

A recent publication by Jonathan Chaplin, Director of the *Kirby Laing Institute for Christian Ethics* (KLICE, which is based at Tyndale House), was officially launched at a House of Commons breakfast seminar in June with 20 MPs, Peers and parliamentary staff present. *Talking God: The Legitimacy of Religious Public Reasoning* is available at [www.theosthinktank.co.uk](http://www.theosthinktank.co.uk).

We are delighted that KLICE doctoral grantee Joshua Hordern has been awarded a one-year Junior Research Fellowship at Wolfson College, Cambridge. During the year Joshua will also serve as KLICE's first Research Associate. See the latest KLICE Newsletter at [www.klice.co.uk](http://www.klice.co.uk).

Congratulations to Tyndale Fellowship member Richard Bauckham who has just been awarded the Michael Ramsey Prize 2009 for his book *Jesus and the Eyewitnesses* (Eerdmans).

### Sir Kirby Laing, 1916 - 2009

Sir Kirby Laing, industrialist, philanthropist and devout Christian was born on July 21, 1916 and passed away on April 12, 2009, aged 92.



Sir Kirby played a leading role in the Laing Group, one of the largest construction and engineering companies in Britain. The Group was known for its generous treatment of staff and its excellent craftsmanship. Sir Kirby was knighted in 1968 for services to the industry. The *Kirby Laing Foundation* (est. 1972) which helps fund Christian, medical, educational and artistic charities, is a major donor to Tyndale House. In 2006 the foundation helped establish KLICE, based at Tyndale. There will be a memorial service on 1st Sept. 12 noon in St Margaret's Church, Westminster Abbey.

## Worldwide Fellowship

The Tyndale Fellowship is a body of evangelical scholars engaged in biblical and theological research. In early July 120 delegates from around the globe met in & around Tyndale House in a successful conference arranged by the Fellowship, when a variety of special interest groups met to share research in seminars & lectures. This is a stimulating & invigorating time where younger scholars rub shoulders with established experts whose names appear on their bookshelves, and much fruitful chat could be heard during the all-important coffee breaks. There was also a very well-attended public lecture from Dr Wayne Grudem of Phoenix Seminary. To see more about the Fellowship go to [www.tyndalehouse.com/TF/](http://www.tyndalehouse.com/TF/)

<b>Provisional dates for 2010 Study Groups</b>		Old Testament	5th - 7th July 2010
Christian Doctrine	1st - 3rd July 2010	Biblical Archaeology	6th - 8th July 2010
Ethics & Social Theology	1st - 3rd July 2010	New Testament	7th - 9th July 2010
Philosophy of Religion	1st - 3rd July 2010	Biblical Theology	7th - 9th July 2010

## Tech Byte - Toolbar Sweeps across Africa

Fran Etemesi, Bible college librarian in West Kenya, gave an enthusiastic talk about the Tyndale Toolbar at an African Christian librarians' conference. She concluded:

"There is so much to this toolbar that, despite having used it for a couple of years, I have yet to discover and use many of its tools and links. .. I have described the tools that are useful to us as librarians. When I change my hat to being an editor of an academic theological journal, there are other tools/resources I use more but... As a librarian I ABSOLUTELY couldn't do without my TYNDALE TOOLBAR!!!"

**Download to your computer by going to  
[www.tyndalehouse.com/toolbar](http://www.tyndalehouse.com/toolbar)**

## Iraqi Palace Wall in Tyndale

Tyndale House is pleased to have on display a unique collection of 22 ancient cuneiform tablets, some as old as Abraham. This tablet was part of the palace wall of Assurnasirpal II (884-859) at Nimrud, about 20 miles from modern Mosul in Iraq. He was the brutal ruler of the mighty Assyrian Empire. These artefacts were acquired from Prof. Donald Wiseman.



## 'Forgery Trial of the Century': Expert Witness at Tyndale

Dr Martin Heide captivated a Tyndale House audience as he spoke in April at the day conference entitled 'The Bible and Recent Discoveries'. Having recently been an expert witness in what has been branded the 'Forgery Trial of the Century' in Jerusalem, he was well equipped to explain to a lay and scholarly audience the details and significance of recent discoveries including the remains of seal impressions from some ministers of the kingdom of Judah.

He returned to give the Tyndale Fellowship Biblical Archaeology lecture at the beginning of July, this time addressing the long-standing dispute in scholarship about whether the domestication of the camel could go as far back as Abraham. Since he had worked as a specialist on ancient texts within Munich's department for the study of the domestication of animals, Dr Heide brought significant new insights to the issue and gave a persuasive account of the way camels are portrayed in the Bible.



## Open Chapel

*You are invited to join with readers and staff in their regular act of worship at 10:30am. This will be followed by coffee, a chance to see the library, meet the staff, hear a short talk by one of the Research Fellows, & round off the morning by having lunch together.*

### DATES

November 3rd 2009

February 23rd 2010

May 11th 2010

*If you wish to join us please RSVP to: [Secretary@Tyndale.cam.ac.uk](mailto:Secretary@Tyndale.cam.ac.uk) or call +44 1223 566601*

## Myrto Theocharous: From Cyprus to Cambridge



Myrto Theocharous

I come from Cyprus, of Greek-Cypriot nationality. I studied Theology in Athens while serving in a ministry to women in prostitution and human trafficking; then I went to Wheaton College, Illinois for graduate studies.

After being accepted to study at Cambridge University, I needed to find a warm Christian community of scholars and their families which I could actively be a part of and where I could benefit from their hearts and minds. The excellent library of Tyndale House is a mine of rare treasures but also a place where the continuity between biblical scholarship and church service is emphasized.

I am researching the Old Greek translation of the Old Testament (popularly known as the Septuagint). I am particularly interested in points of disagreement between the Hebrew and the Old Greek text.

I will always think of Tyndale as a place where excellence in Biblical scholarship is promoted as congenial to Christian worship and mission in the world. Tyndale was the home where I saw my academic skills develop and where I was sharpened in discussions with various Christians from all over the world. I hope to keep coming back for research here and maintain this connection.

My hope is to teach at the Greek Bible Institute in Athens, the only evangelical academic institution in a country of 98% Greek Orthodox people, as well as to contribute in the production of Greek publications relating to biblical and theological studies. I am also planning to maintain my ministry involvement with prostituted women.



***Excellence in biblical scholarship in service of the church***

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*Donations to Tyndale House may be posted, or made online at:*  
[www.TyndaleHouse.com/Support](http://www.TyndaleHouse.com/Support)

*Tax-deductible donations in US dollars may be sent to:*  
American Friends of  
Tyndale House Cambridge, Inc  
PO Box 4920, Orlando,  
FL 32802-4920

### **Looking Ahead**

We are extremely grateful to those who have supported us so that our income actually matched expenditure in the last year. Following the successful beginning of the restoration of the Summer House, we are now setting our sights on the next goals.

We continue to need to expand the library, but before that, in the coming year, we believe that we need to increase our number of regular supporters. The number of those who support us with a monthly gift is considerably lower than for comparable organisations and we believe that we need a stable base of support before we begin to expand.

If you would be able to make a regular monthly donation, of whatever size, or encourage your friends to join you in doing so, that would greatly help us.

Alongside this we are also seeking to raise £200,000 in the next 12 months specifically to upgrade the facilities at the existing site in advance of a major expansion. Any contribution towards the Capital Fund for this purpose would be most welcome.

*Peter Williams, Warden*

