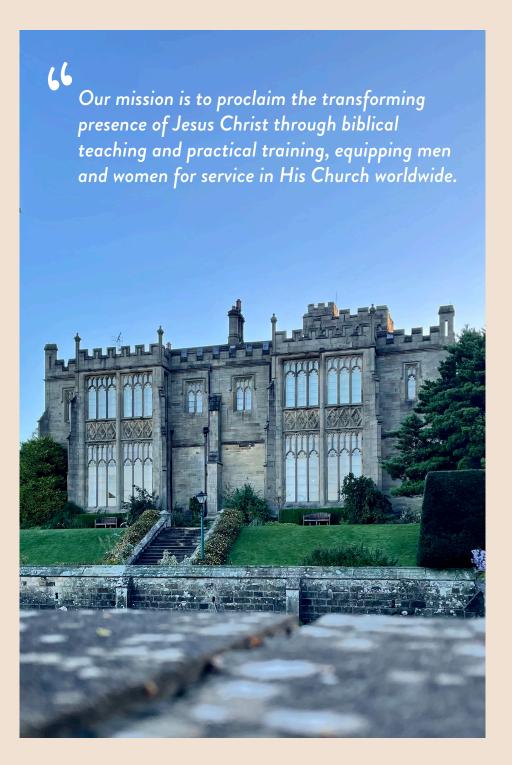
Spring / Summer 2023

CAPERNWRAY NEWS





WELCOME MESSAGE

SPRINGING FORWARD

As we are printing this edition, we find ourselves in the middle of Spring here at Capernwray. Vibrant daffodils, playful lambs and blooming cherry blossom trees (page 16) serve as daily reminders of the beauty of life and new beginnings.

We are delighted to share that the past few months have been a time of fruitful growth and progress: 3000 newly planted trees adorn the grounds of Capernwray (page 22). We've completed our new Beehive rooms for students and guests to stay in (page 9). We also welcomed four new team members to our board of trustees (page 12). Our first SaLT programme year has been a journey of growth and equipping our Ministry Assistants (page 28) for the future.

We have also introduced new enriching additions to our Bible School and

Holiday programmes (page 15). Looking back on the Timothy Campaign, we are encouraged by the support of our friends worldwide, enabling us to continue our mission for years to come (page 32).

Finally, our Bible School students reflected on their time here and left us beautiful glimpses of the transforming work the Lord Jesus has begun and continues to do in their lives (page 26).

Whatever season of life you find yourself in, we pray: "May the God of all hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." (Romans 15:13)

Stephanie Schönmann Editor

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 Bringing fresh perspectives and
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- PRAY WITH US
 Thank you for joining us in prayer



DEVOTIONAL MESSAGE

"I REALLY DON'T LIKE IT WHEN PEOPLE ENCOURAGE ME"

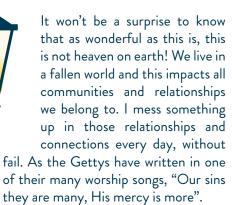
I am not sure I have ever heard anyone say that to me and I have tried really hard to dig deep in the memory bank to see if I can recall such a statement, but to no avail.

I believe the reason for this is that God created each of us with the purpose of living in right relationship with Him, and to live in right relationship with each other. In other words, He created us to connect and relate well with each other. We are wired to live in community. Introvert or extrovert, we are made to create connections and relationships.

During 2022, Liz and I have been truly blessed as we have started a new chapter of life, service and adventure here at Capernwray. Our early days here at Capernwray have been richly blessed, as we learn how to maintain existing connections and relationships, in parallel with discovering and building

new ones. We are learning to live in a new community where work, leisure and worship are wonderfully merged in a single place. We are blessed with international culture, vibrancy and energy and are enjoying the fellowship

of Christian community each and every day.



So perhaps this is why God has peppered the Scriptures with teaching on encouragement! Perhaps it is helpful to be reminded that our daily battle with sin is better fought together in relationship with each other, than to



wage war alone. As we learn and practise living in the strength of the Lord, and do not rely on our own resources, we become stronger together and closer to living in right relationship with God and each other.



"And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another - and all the more as you see the day approaching."

Hebrews 10:24-25

Thank you for all your encouragement in this past year. I am praying that each and every one of us will become stronger in encouragement, as we look to become more like Christ each day.



Brian Wickens
is our Managing Director.
His personal connection
with Capernwray began
as a teenager in Northern
Ireland, attending
International Youth
Weeks.

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NEWS UPDATE

STAFF NEWS



GRAIH LEWIN

We recently said thank you and farewell to our Housekeeping Manager Graih Lewin. For 39 years on staff she has faithfully served students, guests and staff in our housekeeping department, heading it up for many of those years. Graih has been such a key part of the ministry and she will be greatly missed! We thank God for her selfless service, wisdom and sacrificial giving in so many ways and pray for an encouraging and delightful next chapter in her life.



Graih's leaving do, end of March 2023



JEN RUNDLE

Jen has taken on the role of our Bible School Admissions Officer, serving as the first point of contact for prospective students. She has previously worked with us as our Holidays Administrator and assistant to our housekeeper.



MARIE GILDEA

We are delighted to have Marie joining the Capernwray team in the role of Holiday Bookings Administrator. Please pray that she would settle into her new role as she begins to serve in the Torchbearers ministry and use her gifts.



DIMONA BUCHER + PASCAL OTTO

Dimona and Pascal are getting married in June! We look forward to celebrating with them and wish them God's richest blessings on their journey ahead. Pascal currently assists Dougie in the Holiday programme. Dimona is a Dining Hall Supervisor. She will be leaving Capernwray at the end of May. We are very grateful for her faithful service in many capacities over the last 4 years and all the ways she has contributed to our community.



CHARLOTTE COE

Charlotte first came to Capernwray as a Bible School student before volunteering as an intern and later joining us as our Bible School Admissions Officer. Charlotte has recently given birth to twin boys and is currently on maternity leave.



BIBLE SCHOOL



- WINTER BIBLE SCHOOL: 22 weeks (September March)
- SPRING BIBLE SCHOOL: 10 weeks (April June)
- TASTER WEEKS: Throughout the year
- NIGHT SCHOOL: Monday evenings

NEWS UPDATE

GROUNDS & PROJECTS

NEW BEEHIVE ROOMS

We are so thrilled to announce the completion of our new Beehive bedrooms and bathrooms! Thanks to our generous donors, these upgraded facilities are now ready for some of our male students to call home during Spring Bible School.





NEWS UPDATE

BIBLE SCHOOL

STUDY STREAMS

This Spring Bible School, we introduced five new 'streams' for our students to choose from, which take place on Fridays every other week. We are currently reviewing this addition to our Bible School programme and exploring the possibility of adding more streams for future Bible Schools:

- Outward Bound faith lessons learned in the outdoors
- Faith and the Arts expressing Christian faith through the creative arts
- Teaching and Church Leadership principles and practices in Bible teaching and Christian leadership
- Schools, Youth and Children's Work outreach to young children and youth
- Personal Study Project exploring a topic of your choice from a biblical perspective

NIGHT SCHOOL

Our Monday Night School is now free for anyone 21 and under or in full-time education. Don't miss the chance to come along or bring your youth group from church and take advantage of this incredible opportunity!

Find out more here: capernwray.org/bible-school/night-school



NEWS UPDATE

OTHER NEWS

CLIMBING WALL

Get ready to climb to new heights! After a number of years, our climbing wall in the Sports Hall is now officially re-opened for our students and guests.





CAPERNWRAY.LIFE ON INSTAGRAM & TIKTOK

What is being a student at Capernwray Bible School like? Our student-led Instagram and TikTok accounts (*acapernwray.life* will give you a glimpse behind the scenes as our students share many of their iconic moments at Capernwray with you.







NEWS UPDATE

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

We are delighted to have four new trustees on our Board - Diane Moss, Helen Armbruster, Jane Showell-Rogers and Noel Lavery.

Following a comprehensive selection process, these appointments in December 2022 came at a strategic time for Capernwray's ministry. Each new trustee has a significant connection to us, together with a wealth of experience.

What do our trustees do?

The collective responsibility of our trustees is to:

- · Uphold the highest standards of charity governance
- · Contribute to the strategic direction of the ministry
- Hold the Managing Director accountable for leading the ministry well and providing support and encouragement to him
- · Act as custodians of the spiritual health of the ministry and ensuring that we continue to "proclaim the transforming presence of Jesus Christ through biblical teaching and practical training, equipping men and women for service in His Church worldwide."

Our team of trustees meet as a Board four times throughout the year. In addition, the Chair has regular phone calls with our Managing Director.

"PLANS FAIL FOR LACK OF COUNSEL, BUT WITH MANY ADVISERS THEY SUCCEED."

PROVERBS 15:22

Often the trustees take time to volunteer or come as a guest for a holiday week or during Bible School to be alongside staff and understand the experience of students, guests and staff at Capernwray.

Bringing a wide range of skills and professional backgrounds to the team, our trustees play a significant part in Capernwray's strategic and spiritual oversight and we praise God for the commitment, gifts and wisdom they bring to our ministry. Please would you pray for them.

TEAM OF TRUSTEES



MICHAEL THOMPSON (Chair) Michael spent his career as a solicitor in the city of London, advising clients on corporate tax matters. He took time out in 1996 to attend Bible School and fell in love with Capernwray from then on.



NEIL WRIGLEY Neil joined the Board during the late 1990's, whilst running his own business as an Independent Financial Adviser. He will retire from the Board in September 2023. Until very recently he was also an active member of Good News For Everyone (formerly known as Gideons).



ALAN WADSWORTH Alan is the Pastor of a Baptist Church where he regularly receives our students on outreach placements. He has worked in a number of roles within churches, Christian organisations including Scripture Union, and has a Masters Degree in Theology.



NICOLA FIRTH Nicola has a long and successful history in the Hospitality sector. She has a passion in managing people to see them grow in skills and confidence, equipping them to succeed in their work and excel in customer service.



HELEN ARMBRUSTER Born and raised in Germany, Helen now lives in London where she is working in the public sector, after a number of years within UK charities. She has spent time as a holiday guest at Capernwray and also had the joy of attending Winter Bible School in 2021-22.



NOEL LAVERY Noel has had a long association with Capernwray and has enjoyed many holiday weeks here. Noel is a chartered accountant. He held a number of senior roles in the Northern Ireland Civil Service prior to his retirement in 2019.



DIANE MOSS Diane had a first career in central government but now works as an independent consultant in educational governance. With her husband she has been bringing and sending groups of young people to Capernwray from her church in Kent for many years.



JANE SHOWELL-ROGERS Jane has many years of trustees experience and working with young people and young adults. More recently she's been involved with a network focusing on the impact of persecution on women and girls in many parts of the world.

HOLIDAYS FOR ALL AGES

















UPCOMING HOLIDAYS

- **IMPACT** (18-25)
- All Together Weeks (All ages)
- International Youth Weeks (14-17)
- One Parent Family Week (All ages)
- Equipped (Adults)
- Men's Weekend (Adults)
- New Year Starter (Adults)





SPRING HOLIDAYS

SPRING HOLIDAYS AND BIBLE SCHOOL: WHAT A COMBO!

We look back on a wonderful Spring Holiday term, with some of the holidays running alongside Bible School for the first time.

We started off the holiday season with two almost fully booked Ladies' Weekends in March. Our guest speaker Sharon Garlough Brown brilliantly helped us to delve deeper into God's heart and we are grateful for how the Lord has been teaching us in so many ways. (Save the dates for next year:

22 - 26 March 2024 or 5 - 7 April 2024)

We also welcomed over 150 children and youth leaders to CONNECT, a holiday leading up to Easter for 11 to 13 year olds and praise God for the opportunity to share the Gospel with so many children. (Save the date for CONNECT 2024: 30 March - 3 April)



Ladies' Weekends Motorbike week

After Spring Bible School started, we welcomed holiday guests over two weeks for these holiday streams:

- Motorbike Week
- Art Week
- Retreat Week (with Art)
- Hillwalking Week

It was one of our prayers that running Bible School and Holidays alongside each other would be enriching for both our students and holiday guests and we have seen this prayer answered in many ways.

Please continue to pray for wisdom in how to shape our programmes, so that it would be encouraging to our guests, students and staff as well as bringing glory to God, as the transforming life of Jesus Christ is being proclaimed and shared.





Hillwalking group

BOOK YOUR NEXT HOLIDAY TODAY: capernwray.org/holidays



SPRING AT CAPERNWRAY











A PLACE LIKE NO OTHER

Nestled in the picturesque North English countryside, Capernwray is the perfect place to relax and grow spiritually.



See capernwray.org/in-residence





BIBLE SCHOOL

ROMANIA OUTREACH **PLACEMENT WEEK 2023**









In March 2023 I had the privilege of leading one of our student outreach placement teams to the city of lasi, in eastern Romania.

Our team went to serve alongside the ministry of Adora Christi and Tienri cu Viziune (Youth with Vision), a church and youth organisation led by former Romanian Capernwray students.

It was a particularly special and exciting time to see former students warmly sharing their lives, ministry and passion for the young people of lasi with our student team.

lasi is a beautiful city with an interesting and rich history. It is home to the oldest Romanian university and is one of the most important academic and research centres of the country, accommodating over 60,000 students. Iași is also one of the very few cities in the Orthodox world which is home to more than 100 churches. We had a full and varied week of both ministry and fun with young people and university students across Iași. This included opportunities such as: sharing testimonies, playing

sports, teaching English in schools and delivering aid clothing to families with a local school teacher.

I was reminded and encouraged about the hope we have in the Lord Jesus through the ministry, people and place

SPRING IS A BEAUTIFUL REMINDER THAT THE LORD JESUS CAN AND WILL DO NEW THINGS IN OUR LIVES, TEACH US **NEW LESSONS AND PREPARE US** FOR NEW SEASONS.

1) Jesus is our hope in this world

Adora Cristi and Tineri cu Viziune rent a function room for their meetings on the top floor of the Palas Shopping Mall in Iasi. A church meeting in a shopping mall creates a wonderful opportunity for a 'ministry of presence' right in the heart of the city. Hundreds of people enter this mall seeking to fill their lives with things which are temporary.

Please do pray for this ministry and for the hundreds of people who enter the Palas Shopping Mall each week - that they may find the hope of the world in the mall, Jesus, the One who provides an eternal hope!

2) Jesus is our hope of new life

We were in Iasi on the 1st March. This is a significant date in the traditional Romanian calendar because it is the celebration of 'Mărțișor'. Mărțișor is a holiday that symbolises the arrival of spring and it represents a time of joy and the revival of nature. Spring is a beautiful reminder that the Lord Jesus can and will do new things in our lives, teach us new lessons and prepare us for new seasons. However, for the arrival of spring there has to have been a winter. Sometimes our lives can face challenging 'winters' in which we can't always see or know how the Lord is working. If this is what you face today, I encourage you to remember that spring will come.

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come." 2 Corinthians 5:17

3) Jesus is our hope for the future

The work of TCV (Youth with Vision) is focused around helping young people discover God's vision for their lives. In the complex societies we live in, this is one of the best things a young person can do. Please do pray for the young people of lasi, that they may discover God's vision for their lives, choose to love Him with all of their heart, soul and mind to bring the light and hope of the Lord Jesus to the city of lasi.

"We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure." Hebrews 6:19



Hester Martin is our Dean of Female Students. Hester's role includes women's pastoral care, netball coaching and Capernwray missions.

CAPERNWRAY GROUNDS

PRESERVING THE PAST, PLANTING FOR THE FUTURE

At the very end of last year something amazing happened at Capernwray Hall. God's hand was on the planting of almost 3000 trees and shrubs.

What a privilege it was to have seen the project through from start to finish and to have put something in place, whereby some of the trees planted should be around for hundreds of years. Back in 2019 we had a conservation plan drawn up, with the goal of re-establishing some original historic woodland which has been in gradual decline over the past 100 years, some large parts had even totally disappeared.



Due to the historic reduction in woodland, we were identified as a "parkland at risk" by English Heritage and work was needed to make sure that we could maintain and enhance the parkland for students and guests to enjoy for generations to come. The main part of the plan was to plant and maintain around 4.5 acres of woodland in 3 different locations around the parkland, re-establishing some of the lost woodland from years ago. The largest plantation is along Keer Holme Lane which borders the north of the estate, another behind the lake and a smaller one down by the river stepping stones.

The cost of 3000 native mixed saplings isn't cheap but we were able to apply for a grant from the Woodland Trust who were running a program to help tree planting across the north. They covered the majority of the project costs, even helping to provide some labour to put the saplings in the ground.

For me a high point was working alongside so many different people and departments to make the project work.



Following the initial planning, we had the maintenance, project and estates teams, along with some students and volunteers, help to put in almost 1km of fencing, with each post knocked in by hand! We then also had a staff planting day, where every staff member had the opportunity to select and plant a tree, along with some of the Capernwray staff kids!

If you have the opportunity to visit the Hall over the coming years you will be able to see God's creation in fantastic stages of development, from Willow and Alder down by the river growing in the wetland; Cherry and Scots pine by the lake blossoming and standing tall; Oak and Poplar by the road standing strong and wide and for centuries to come, and many many species besides.



It's been great to be part of such a lasting installation here at Capernwray, but it's even greater to be part of the everlasting kingdom.





INTERNATIONAL YOUTH WEEKS AGE 14-17

Join others who come from all over the world for our amazing International Youth Weeks!

These weeks are great for making friends, creating memories of good times in the summer and creating space to understand more of who Jesus is and how knowing Him makes sense of our lives in this crazy world we live in.

• Week 1: 22-28 July 2023

• Week 2: 29 July - 4 August 2023

• Week 3: 5 - 11 August 2023

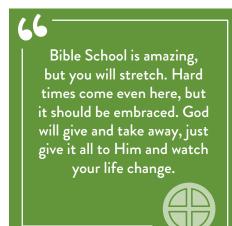
The weeks are filled with a huge variety of free time, big games, small groups, great worship and relevant Bible teaching. Come and discover how relevant and life-changing the Bible and Jesus Christ can be for you!

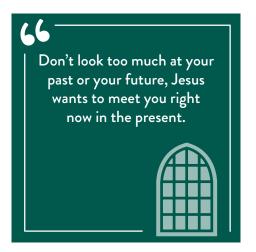
BOOK NOW: capernwray.org

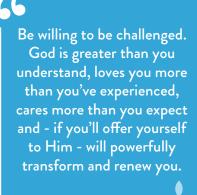
BIBLE SCHOOL

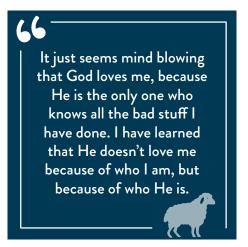
IN THE WORDS OF OUR STUDENTS

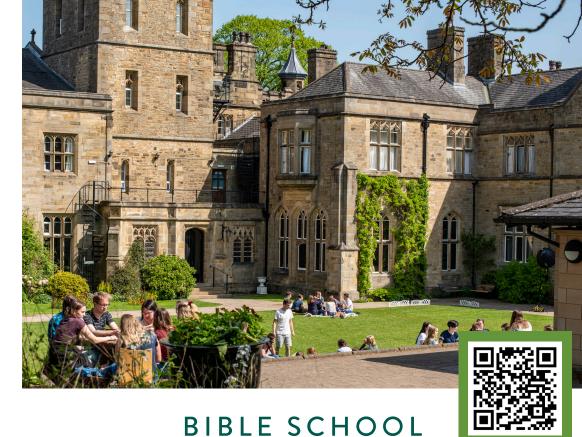
Before leaving, our Winter Bible School students reflected back on their time at Capernwray and wrote down learnings and helpful advice to future students. Read more quotes on capernwray.org/bible-school.











- Winter School: 25 September 2023 15 March 2024 (22 weeks)
- Spring School: 17 April 2024 26 June 2024 (10 weeks)
- Taster Weeks: Throughout the year during term

Our Bible School courses are a great chance to study the Bible at a deep level for a relatively short space of time. Whether as part of a sabbatical, a study break, preparation for missions or getting a solid foundation before going to university: come and join our wonderful community as we apply the Bible together and come to know the risen, indwelling Lord Jesus more deeply and personally.

APPLY NOW: capernwray.org



Check out our student-led Instagram and TikTok accounts @capernwray.life to get a flavour of student life at Capernwray.



VOLUNTEERING

EQUIPPED FOR THE FUTURE

Capernwray used to be a place that I came to as a child with my family during summer holidays - these are such fun memories and I've always wanted to return. When I heard about the SaLT programme as an opportunity to come here for a whole year I was really drawn to it.

I prayed about it quite a lot on my own, with parents and friends and it felt like that's where I should be right now. So I decided to come back and it's such an amazing feeling being here!

Before starting my gap year at Capernwray I was at High School, finishing my A-levels. I was also working in an ice cream van, which was a fun summer job!

I knew that I wanted to go to university at some point in the future, but felt that my faith was not quite strong enough to move away from home and be on my own in a new setting. Spending a year investing in my faith, doing some

APPLY NOW: capernwray.org practical work and committing time to Jesus felt like the right thing to do. It has turned out to be really fruitful for

Being able to communicate your faith well is vital for going to a new setting, such as university, and the SaLT programme has been really helpful in learning new skills for equipping me to start in whatever next environment and community I end up in. I also want to be active in a church and my placement church during the SaLT programme has been helpful in that regard.

"SPENDING A YEAR INVESTING IN MY FAITH **BEFORE GOING TO** UNIVERSITY HAS TURNED **OUT TO BE REALLY** FRUITFUL."

One of my favourite parts of the SaLT programme is being involved in Family Groups. It's a weekly meeting during Bible School where each student is part of a group with some staff members to



Our Serving and Leadership Training (SaLT) programme is a one-year residential volunteering opportunity starting in June or September that provides experience and training for developing Christians to live, serve and lead well in all walks of life.

share, pray and play games together. It's an opportunity to get to know the students really well and build great relationships with all of them and also have some fun! It's a very relaxing atmosphere and I think it's really valuable for the whole community here.

My biggest challenge has probably been time management, which is a classic one you will find amongst the Ministry Assistants. It's a busy week, full days and there are plenty of different things to get back to and people to communicate with. I feel that it has improved over the last few months and I am getting better and better at it.



To be honest, the SaLT programme has stretched my faith more than I could have imagined! I think I went into it slightly close minded, but it has challenged me in so many areas and helped me improve my walk with Jesus in day to day life. It has also helped me to walk out my Christian faith, both

with new people but also friends and family whom I have known my whole

It has been a challenging year, but such a fantastic opportunity for me - I would absolutely recommend the SaLT programme. If you don't know Capernwray yet, it's a great opportunity to come to a new place - so whether you've been here before or whether you've never heard of it, before or after uni - I recommend giving it a go. I think it will be a helpful time and experience for all sorts of periods of life.



JOIN US IN OUR MISSION TO TELL PEOPLE ABOUT JESUS!

3 WAYS TO VOLUNTEER:



SERVING AND LEADERSHIP TRAINING (SALT) PROGRAMME

One year; start in June or September



SHORT TERM VOLUNTEERING

2-10 weeks; June - September



DAY VOLUNTEER (NON-RESIDENTIAL) flexible









SHORT TERM VOLUNTEERING

at Capernwray

Help our ministry and serve our guests for 2-10 weeks during any of our summer holiday programmes (June - September).

VACANCIES:

- Guest Team
- Dining Hall
- Housekeeping
- Swimming Pool & Sports
- Audio Visual
- Gardens & Grounds
- Maintenance







APPLY NOW: CAPERNWRAY.ORG

FINANCES

TIMOTHY CAMPAIGN

It is hard to believe that 3 months have passed since we closed the Timothy Campaign!

Yet at the same time it feels like a long time ago that as a team we started discussing the logistics of creating videos, flyers and the website page to share the vision of the campaign.

If I'm honest, during the planning of the campaign, in my naive human thinking I had wondered whether we might receive a small number of very significant gifts from some who had done well in business, law or medicine that would cover a large proportion of the £2.5M that we were seeking, yet in hindsight I can see that God's plans are always greater.

Although we are currently just shy of the £500,000 mark, I could never have imagined that we would have received over 850 gifts, many of which were accompanied with beautiful notes and letters, reminiscing over how their family first became involved with Torchbearers and some of the profound ways in which spending time with God whilst at Bible School or on holidays

over the year had changed their family's trajectory.

It was a joy to read of family connections starting 60+ years ago, with now a third or fourth generation attending a Torchbearer centre! Knowing there are so many people around the world who care for the ministry and are keen to help support future students fills us with hope and encouragement, and is a real gift from the One who is the ultimate source of hope and peace.

"IN HINDSIGHT I CAN SEE THAT GOD'S PLANS ARE ALWAYS GREATER."

As a ministry we are so very thankful for all of the generous gifts that were received over those 75 days. Your giving has meant that we have been able to repay the Covid loan in full, continue to sponsor students for the current Spring Bible School and upcoming Winter Bible School and progress with plans to remodel the Beehive and Stable lounge to become a more usable space, along





Nine current and past students from different parts of the world and walks of life share their favourite memories and how their time here has shaped their faith and understanding of Jesus. You can watch their interviews on our YouTube channel: youtube.com/capernwrayhall



with a new Music Practice space in the old Gym.

As gifts continue to come in we have also had enquiries about setting up monthly giving towards the sponsorship fund and leaving legacies. Sponsoring students can easily be done by setting up a standing order and adding the reference 'Student sponsorship'. If you wish to leave a gift in your will, suggested wording for a legacy is available at capernwray.org.

Every blessing



Mike Gregory is our Finance and Operations Director.

FIND OUT MORE: capernwray.org/timothy-campaign



PRAYER POINTS

We are so grateful for all the people who regularly remember the work, staff, guests and students in prayer. Thank you!

At the moment we have a number of specific needs for you to bring before God:

Bible School

- · Continue to pray for Bible School, that the students would deepen in their relationship and service of the Lord Jesus and the staff would be blessed as they minister to them.
- Pray that God would keep sending students, particularly male and especially from the UK.

Holidays

- Pray that we will continue to have an opportunity to impact people's lives and that Jesus is known through what we do.
- Pray for wisdom as we make decisions about future Holiday programmes.

Staff

- Pray for short and long term voluntary workers to join us for our Bible School and Holiday programmes.
- Pray that the Lord would continue to strengthen and protect our staff and voluntary workers.
- Pray for our new and retiring staff and the Board of Trustees.







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බcapernwray.life **ම ්**