

Teaching Resources International

Ministry  
Update



Providing Resources  
for Ministry and Life

“Afterwards”

Charles Haddon Spurgeon

“Afterwards” — Hebrews 12:11

How happy are tried Christians, *afterwards*.

No calm is more deep than that which succeeds a storm.  
Who has not rejoiced in clear shinings after rain?  
Victorious banquets are for well-exercised soldiers. After  
killing the lion, we eat the honey; after climbing the Hill  
Difficulty, we sit down in the arbor to rest; after traversing  
the Valley of Humiliation, after fighting with Apollyon,  
the shining one appears, with the healing branch from the  
tree of life.

Our sorrows, like the passing keels of the vessels upon the  
sea, leave a silver line of holy light behind them  
“afterwards.” It is peace, sweet, deep peace, which  
follows the horrible turmoil which once reigned in our  
tormented, guilty souls. See, then, the happy estate of a  
Christian! He has his best things last, and he therefore in  
this world receives his worst things first. But even his  
worst things are “afterward” good things, harsh  
ploughings yielding joyful harvests. Even now, he grows  
rich by his losses, he rises by his falls, he lives by dying,  
and becomes full by being emptied.

If, then, his grievous afflictions yield him so much  
peaceable fruit in this life, what shall be the full vintage of  
joy “afterwards” in heaven? If his dark nights are as  
bright as the world’s days, what shall his days be? If even  
his starlight is more splendid than the sun, what must his  
sunlight be? If he can sing in a dungeon, how sweetly will  
he sing in heaven! If he can praise the Lord in the fires,  
how will he extol Him before the eternal throne! If evil be  
good to him *now*, what will the overflowing goodness of  
God be to him *then*? Oh, blessed “afterward!” Who would  
not be a Christian? Who would not bear the present cross  
for the crown which cometh afterwards? But herein is  
work for patience, for the rest is not for today, nor the  
triumph for the present, but “afterward.” Wait, O soul,  
and let patience have her perfect work.

# Ministry Report

## *Teaching in Belgium and in Bulgaria*



### Leuven, Belgium, April 15-26

In April of this year, I headed back to Leuven, Belgium to teach in the European School of Theology. This school has become a very important school for the education of evangelicals all over Western and Eastern Europe. ***It is uniquely positioned to be the leading evangelical seminary in Europe.*** The location is great. Leuven (or Louvain in French) is the “university town” and it has been one of the largest Catholic learning centers since the Middle Ages (many Protestants were tried, condemned, and executed here during the Counter Reformation – including William Tyndale!). The school has been functioning since 1919 as the Belgium Bible Institute, but it became ETF (Evangelical Theological Facility) in 1983 when it received state approval as a degree granting university. In 1996, the school began the ESET (European School of Evangelical Theology) providing accredited masters and doctorates for all of Europe. Thus, this school is the primary school through which most countries will receive their trained professors, since they offer the only accredited doctorate in an evangelical school in Europe.

***The students for this program come from many countries.*** This year, I had students from Belgium, the Netherlands, Ivory Coast, Germany, France and Ukraine. In the past, I have had students from Romania, the Czech Republic, Russia and Poland. All the students here must speak and write English as an entrance requirement. This means that I can teach in English without an interpreter (everywhere else, I must use interpreters). I have been teaching there almost since 1997 and I have seen many positive changes in the school over the years. They are currently in the process of major renovations, including remodeling their library for modern use.

During my teaching time this year, I’ve also had many questions about Teaching Resources and a number of students have requested materials. ***A few of the students were particularly interested in reading the Works of Jonathan Edwards!*** I gave them some suggestions for where they could find materials by Edwards. Before we finished the two weeks, many of them had checked our website and were asking questions about the materials there.

Also, one student has asked to do the French translations for us. He plans to begin working on those in the summer (after he finishes classes). Please keep praying for our translation work. We now have commitments to translate issues of *Teaching Resources* into French, Russian, and Spanish. So far we have only been able to complete a few issues in Russian. We hope to provide these resources in these other languages as well. Translations cost about \$250/issue, so please pray also that we will have the funds available to pay for translating these materials into these languages.

### Web Site Updates

Our website continues reach many people. Last month (May), we had 4789 visitors to our site! These included people from Australia, Canada, New Zealand, Japan, Singapore, the Slovak Republic, Turkey, Britain, Italy, Belgium, the Netherlands, the Dominican Republic, Sweden, Brazil, and South Africa. We continue to be amazed at how the Lord is using this resource internationally.

## Sofia, Bulgaria, May 13-24

In May, I traveled for the first time to Sofia, Bulgaria. I taught Contemporary Theology to a group of 24 students in a Pentecostal Seminary (*Sofia Bible Institute*) in Sofia. It was really a great time and the students were very responsive to the teachings.

***Contemporary Theology is one of the most difficult classes to teach at an evangelical school*** because the course involves learning the theologies of non-evangelicals such as Frederick Schleiermacher, Immanuel Kant, Karl Barth, Emil Brunner, Rudolf Bultmann, and a host of other liberal and neo-orthodox thinkers.



The greatest challenge is to help the students to see *how* theology is fashioned, primarily as reactions to other theologies and to culture. As such, the class provides models to help students evaluate, not only theologies from the past, but also to evaluate theologies developing in their own culture. ***The goal of the study was always to examine the theologies in light of***

***Biblical truth.*** The class was very interesting and provided many opportunities to discuss various theological issues. I've been invited to return again but I'll need to see if I can find some time in an already busy schedule.



While there, I also had the opportunity to see a few of the sites in Bulgaria. I was especially impressed with the many Roman ruins (roads, walls, inscriptions, etc.) that are still standing in Bulgaria. (The Coliseum

pictured at the top of page 2 has been modified and is still in use today). I had forgotten about the richness of the history of Bulgaria. I was also impressed by the faith of these people, many of whom came to Christ under Communism.

## Prayer Update

Please continue to pray for this ministry and for ***Debbie's health***. This past year has been one of the best of her in many years. However, in June, we received some bad news as the cancer has now spread inside the dura and is putting pressure on her brain causing severe headaches again. She has begun radiation treatments. Please pray for these treatments and for us as we enter a new stage of dealing with her cancer. We continue to be grateful for the Lord's hand in this matter and rely on Him for grace to face whatever He in His wisdom sends our way.

*Ephesians 3:20-21*



## Financials for 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2002

We have provided our financial report for the benefit of our friends and supporters.

	First Quarter	Second Quarter	Year to Date
Donations	7,426.49	6,165.99	13,592.48
Expenses	11,733.42	6,940.68	18,674.10
	-4,306.93	-774.69	-5,081.62

*Since we began the year with a balance of \$6666.42, we still have a current balance of \$1584.80. This is common since we receive larger gifts at the end of each year and have larger expenses at the beginning of each year when tickets are being purchased for Spring teaching trips. Our most difficult time is at the end of the summer when tickets for the Fall teaching trips must be purchased.*

*We certainly do need additional support. Beginning in May, Jim returned to part-time status at the Bible Church when we hired a full-time pastor, Chris Pixley. We are excited about Chris begin with us and looking forward to being able to give more time to Teaching Resources and even being more free to teach in local churches. While we send out over 1000 copies of Teaching Resources, we are supported by only 20 individuals and 3 churches. We praise the Lord for the generous support of these individuals and churches and ask that you would pray with us about increasing the number of people supporting this ministry.*

### ***Teaching Resources International***

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