



June 2010

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**“Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled round your waist,  
with the breastplate of righteousness in place”**

Ephesians 6:14

Having written in detail about the work of the Centre for Muslim-Christian Studies in our last prayer letter, this one will be a shorter update.

**Thank you for your prayers**

In particular we would like to thank you for your prayers for the Annual Joint Lecture, which was held on 2 March. The event ran smoothly and about 75 people attended. There was a wide range of people in the audience, from University professors to students, including members of the Oxford University Islamic Society. The lectures were held in the University Examination Halls, wonderful buildings in the heart of Oxford, and a good number of people came back to the Centre afterwards for a buffet meal accompanied by much animated conversation. The lectures were well-received. They were filmed and recorded and can be accessed through the Centre website: [www.cmcsoxford.org.uk](http://www.cmcsoxford.org.uk)

Thank you too for your prayers for John during his stay in Nigeria in April. He managed to fly before and after volcanic ash closed British airspace, so his travels went according to plan (If his return



*John with his students at the Theological College of Northern Nigeria*

to the UK had been delayed, he would have tried to get across to Kenya and visit St Paul's). He had an interesting time teaching at the Theological College of Northern Nigeria, near Jos. He was able to meet with the Archbishop of Jos, Ben Kwashi, and friends from the University of Jos and learnt much from them about the source of the tensions that have recently flared into violence in the Jos area.

John wrote about the situation in the most recent NIFCON Christian-Muslim News Digest:

<http://nifcon.anglicancommunion.org/digest/docs/digest12.cfm>

**John's travels**

John has just returned from the annual Journées d'Arras meeting, held this year

in Madrid. The group was set up to discuss Islam in Europe and the theme this year was *Citizenship and Faith*. 37 people attended representing seventeen countries. The conclusion of the report he wrote on his return was "The meeting was both informative and enjoyable, providing an excellent opportunity to understand what is happening elsewhere in Europe and to develop supportive networks."

He will be in Ghana during early July, giving a paper on 'The African Christian and Islamic Da'wa and Polemics', and then in Bayreuth at the end of July, facilitating at the Summer Academy there (Da'wa is the obligation for Muslims to call others to Islam).

### **The Centre for Muslim-Christian Studies**

Meanwhile the regular work of the Centre continues, with a termly newsletter and weekly term-time seminars.

On 15 June, instead of a seminar the Centre hosted a consultation on the use of Muslim and Christian polemical material. We pray that Christians and Muslims may be able to examine such material together and come to a realisation of how it exacerbates tension between the faiths and does not win converts for either faith. Jesus said "By this shall all men know that you are my disciples if you have love one for another." Join us in prayer that Christians may seek to win their Muslim neighbours to Christ by showing Christ's love in their words and deeds.

We also thank God for recent news of funding for the Centre from two generous donors, one in the UK and one in the USA, which will enable the Centre to run for the next year. Meanwhile, our UK fundraiser, Lisa Holmes, has been work-



*Participants at the Journées d'Arras meeting in Madrid*

ing hard to produce all the material required for presentation of the Centre's budgetary needs to Trusts and has started putting in funding applications. Please pray for encouragement for Lisa in the present difficult economic situation.

On 24 June the Solomon Academic Trust held its AGM – an opportunity to thank God for all that has been achieved by the Trust that runs the Centre since its formation just two years ago.

We continue to thank God for you who support us by prayer, and for those who are able to give towards our personal funding through Crosslinks.

With our love,

Phyll & John

**"We pray that Christians and Muslims may be able to examine such material together and come to a realisation of how it exacerbates tension between the faiths."**

**We now have available a 14-minute promotional DVD explaining about the work of the Centre. If you would like to receive a copy personally or for a group or partner church, please let us know.**

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