

senior leader magazine


august 2006


connecting senior leaders across our european family of churches

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key dates

 More details of all events at www.saltlight.org/events


 **UK Leaders' Prayer Day 5-6 October '06, Derby, UK.** The second of our new prayer days. The first one was great so don't miss this one!

 **di-day 06**

7 Oct '06,
Derby, UK



Info www.saltlight.org/wdt

 **Interlock National Youth Leaders' Conference 27-29 October 2006, Derby.** For all those involved in working with young people. Info Page 4

 **Leaders' Conference 2007 8-11 March '07**

Confirmed speakers include Dave Devenish, Sandy Millar and Ngwiza Mnkandla.

Info Brochure coming soon, or visit www.saltlight.org/events

 **28:18 No Limits**

28 July-4 August '07.

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salt & light



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Salt & Light is a UK charitable company limited by guarantee, registered in England 3603373, charity 1071600, reg. office 22b High Street, Witney, UK.

Smooth or crash landing?

Ten months of Kings Bible College and Training Centre (or any other year-out!) is a profoundly different life to that lived by the rest of us in our local church.

The close fellowship, regular challenge, higher expectations and daily communal life and worship all work together to provide a spiritual tan that highlights the different experience that is returning to work and local church.

Maybe you've spotted these spiritually-tanned individuals in your congregations. They're the ones who look strangely familiar and yet no-one is talking to them. Do I over exaggerate? Maybe, maybe not. I've experienced both returning from Bible College with my own spiritual tan and receiving students back as a church

leader and there are some obvious things that help. Returning students need as a minimum to reconnect relationally, find their place to contribute working through what God has begun in them in their year out.

The biggest challenge to this is surprisingly one of the greatest strengths of most churches – our relationships with each other. We know Paul describes the Church as a highly connected body in 1 Corinthians. For the returning student that can seem a pretty impenetrable barrier of relationships unless the body makes some effort to receive them. We can do a lot as leaders by giving some of our time to help students feel well received and valued.

Stuart Chesters, Lutterworth Community Church, UK

If you fancy making things a little more difficult, here's my top 10 list of ways to ensure they crash and burn! Don't try these at home!

1. Don't acknowledge their return publicly.
2. Don't give them any special attention – they're just one part of the body now.
3. Don't let them go on about their year or they'll never shut up.
4. Give them jobs that no-one else will do and tell them it's for their spiritual development.
5. Put them in the most dysfunctional small group you can find.
6. Challenge any changes in them with the words, "It'll soon wear off."
7. Explain away any experience with the expression "Well, in the real world ..."
8. Give them loads of time to find their feet again – the longer the better.
9. Give them loads of responsibility immediately – but only for stuff you're not bothered about.
10. Don't let them initiate anything new.

