



Cast your nets..

IBI digest

At our graduation service in June, Dr. Bruce Milne encouraged and challenged students as he spoke on Jesus' instruction to his disciples to 'cast their nets'. In Luke 5, the disciples, following Jesus' directions, caught so many



Graduation
Cormac Shaw receives the IBI Cairde award for 2006

fish that their nets began to break and their boats began to sink. It is a story of great blessing in preparation for ministry.

Over the past few years, IBI has also benefited from abundant blessing from

God. This has been both an exhilarating and, at times, terrifying experience. Terrifying because of the increased potential for failure and exhilarating because of the increased potential of fulfilling our mission to deliver excellence in biblical education and leadership development for the Irish church. Now is a good time to review that story.

It was in 2002 that we were refused planning permission to extend premises in Pearse St. As a result we decided to focus our attention on developing programmes while trusting that

God would show some way forward on the building issue.

In January 2004, with the help of Tim Wray from the Irish Management Institute, work began on a strategic plan to shape our vision and priorities for the next 5 years. Two areas (among others) the plan focused our attention on were programme validation and premises development. I remember us being told to engage in 'blue sky thinking' forgetting about practical realities what sort of place and what sort of courses would we dream of for the future? We did not imagine then how quickly and abundantly these dreams would be met. Here is how.

Premises

In early 2004, we hosted an event for 'Christians in Business'. Due to a mix-up we ended up in a most unsatisfactory room for the seminar. About two

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Graduation



Diploma Students: (back row l-r) Ed Smyth, Dean Langley and Mark Montgomery. (Front row l-r) Roy Elmes, Julia Langley and Lucy Kelly.

Summer Institute 2006

What a refreshing week!

Bruce Milne (author, recently retired Pastor of 1st Baptist Vancouver and formerly of Spurgeon's College, London) brought together a lifetime of learning combined with undimmed enthusiasm and rich pastoral



experience to the topic of Christ: Prophet, Priest and King. A good mix of lectures, discussion and application helped apply Scripture's beautiful portrait of Jesus to our own lives and to contemporary Ireland.

One person commented that 'I have found this week immensely helpful; in all that I learnt, in the practical focus, and how it stirred my heart'.

Participants came from a wide range of backgrounds including church leaders, interested individuals and others active in a variety of ministry settings.

The week also included a well attended and important lecture on the missional

Graduating students



Certificate students

Back row l-r: Claudiu Lucaci, Robert Mangan, Tom Dowling, John Thompson and Sean McDonnell. Front row l-r: Susie Spurgeon, Anne McDonald, Pat Kelleher, Valerie Hilliard, Breda Johnston, Karon Bartley and Brian Kelly. Also included but not pictured was Cormac MacFhionnlaich.



Evening students

Back row l-r: Karen Welsh, Alan Spain, Billy Barnett, Paul Gibson and Kenny Morrison. Front row l-r: Brenda Scarff, Grace Percy, Murna Lappin, Aoife McGrath and Annette Nolan. Also included but not pictured was Sharon Burke, Cliff Kirker, Gerry O'Keefe and Phil Pidgeon.

Summer Institute continued from front page.

opportunities presented by our increasingly mixed-up Western culture since it is God's purpose for his Church to be a dynamically diverse community. For more you'll have to read Bruce's upcoming book *Dynamic Diversity* (to be published by IVP later this year).

Patrick Mitchel



Congratulations to Eamon Doyle, an IBI Diploma graduate who has successfully completed his BA Degree in Applied Theology from Moorlands College in southern England. Moorlands have generously partnered with us to allow Eamon (and earlier Scott Evans) gain advanced standing into the final year of their degree. With our own validation, the good news is that such students no longer need to go to England. In

September Eamon begins a post as an evangelist with the Irish Mission of the Presbyterian Church.

As we witness a growing diversity in the emerging Irish Church we find it is mirrored somewhat in the IBI student body.

Claudiu Lucaci from Romania (IBI Certificate class of '06) speaks to Louise Halpin:



L.H. What were some of the reasons that brought you to Ireland?

One of the reasons was to find work. Another was that I wanted to get involved in Irish churches, not only in the Romanian churches. I knew that this would be a new challenge; there would be different ways of doing things and different methods in communicating the Gospel in a democratic and open society.

L.H. You have been involved with Grace Bible Fellowship and a Romanian church that meets there. What has been your ministry involvement?

My ministry involvement in Grace is mainly in the worship team. In the Romanian church it includes prayer, praise and worship team and preaching.

L.H. How has your training at IBI helped you in this ministry?

Everything I have learned in IBI has been of real use, I came to know God's will more clearly concerning myself and I also understood more of the gifts which God has given me. Besides growing in knowledge I became more consistent in my daily life as a Christian. I thank God for IBI.

L.H. As someone familiar with both Romanian and Irish churches, what has been the biggest difference you have noticed in how each 'do church'?

I haven't seen any great differences between what we believe. I have seen some cultural differences in how church services work. I think in time these differences will lessen the longer Romanian Christians live in Ireland. I think variety in the church is given by God (Rom 12:4-5; 1 Cor 12). In this we see the sovereignty of God who fulfils his plans by using everyone.

L.H. Have you any opinions on how Irish and non-Irish Christians can come closer together as one body in Christ?

I believe that the best method is that of working together. I believe joint projects like concerts in different languages and evangelism will have far-reaching effects. I believe that the Romanian church must overcome the language barrier. Joint activities will help build relationships that can be maintained in the perfect bond which is love.

L.H. What is next for you now you have finished the IBI Certificate and how can we pray for you?

I believe that the most important thing for me is to be able to apply all that I have learned (2 Tim 2:15). My prayer is for God to strengthen and give me power to do everything for his glory.

Course options at IBI

NEWSFLASH.....NEWSFLASH.....NEWSFLASH...

Following the successful outcome of the recent validation event by the University of Wales, IBI is pleased to announce the introduction of a BA Degree in Applied Theology

***The BA Degree in Applied Theology** is a three year full-time course. If you are a Christian living in Ireland and want to be better equipped to serve God, whether in ministry, in mission or in the world of work, then this programme has been designed with you in mind. Taught classes take place on a Tuesday and Wednesday from 10.00 am-5.00 pm. Course begins September 2006. (Validated by the University of Wales)*

***The Masters Degree in Applied Theology** is a part-time 3 year course with a dissertation in the final year. If you are involved in Christian ministry in Ireland this programme has been designed for you. Next course Begins January 2007. Closing date for applications September 2006. (Validated by the University of Wales)*

***The IBI Certificate in Applied Theology** is a Level 1 introductory course designed for people who want to grow in their faith and be better equipped to serve God but who either do not feel they need formally validated qualification or are not in a position to study at degree level. Course begins September 2006.*

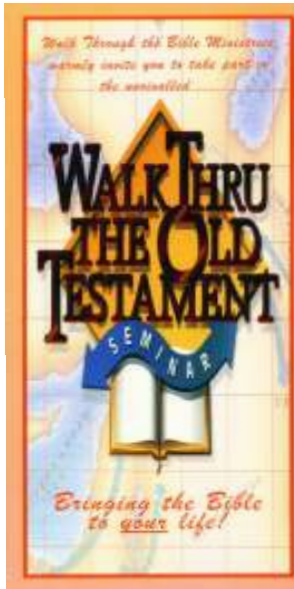
***The Evening** courses are offered over one year and three years and are designed for those who are busy during the day yet still want to train for more effective ministry. Taught classes take place on Tuesdays from 7.15 pm to 10.00 pm. Courses begin September 2006.*

Module choices

It is now possible to take an individual subject without signing up for the Certificate or Degree courses. You can join a module at the beginning of the semester in which the course begins. Semester begins September and late-January. Applications open all year.

Apply now for an application form to

Linda at 01- 806 9060 or email linda@irishbibleinstitute.org
or visit our website at www.irishbibleinstitute.org



Walk Thru
The Old
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Seminar
Saturday Sept. 2nd
At
I. B. I.
Ulysses House
10.00 am - 5.15 pm

Bookings
Linda@irishbibleinstitute.org
Or phone 01-8069060

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months later, I bumped into a businessman who attended this meeting and we talked about how IBI was outgrowing Pearse St. Soon afterwards, he returned with a remarkable and generous proposal that could provide a new home for IBI. Only a few months later, in September 2004, the IBI Board were in a position to agree to the purchase of 10,000 sq.ft. in an office block in Foley St. and by July 2005 we had moved in to brand-new purpose-designed facility.

Another remarkable part of this story unfolded when Derek Langran, our chairman, told us that his late father had worked in Foley Street during the 1950s and 60s. For years he had prayed that God would 'do something' there. IBI now stands on the very same site where he worked. God answers prayer!

Programmes

We were only able to begin the work towards an MA Degree due to an unexpected legacy from a lady we had never met. It enabled us to employ Steven Singleton to develop the programme and by November 2004 it was successfully validated by the University of Wales. In May 2005 the MA was launched with 17 students. By January 2006 another 12 joined. It continues to exceed our expectations and I look forward to students' dissertations on applied ministry in Ireland.

The next step was to begin a BA Degree. After a year's work by Patrick and Linda, this programme was also successfully validated by the University in July 2006. As I write, work is going on preparing for the launch of this programme in September 2006.

In Luke 5, Jesus' focus is not on the number of fish in the nets but on the impact in their lives of just glimpsing something of his power and glory. And if God has abundantly provided premises and programmes for IBI, his purpose is surely not just that they have been 'landed', but in the impact these premises and programmes will have in the lives of the students who pass through them. Please continue to pray that they will leave here loving him more and ready to follow wherever he calls.

Jacob Reynolds
Principal.

Welcome new neighbours



We are delighted to welcome to the 2nd floor at Ulysses House, our new neighbours Evangelical Alliance Ireland and The Mission Centre. This move from Blanchardstown gives EAI room to grow, easier

accessibility and the opportunity to be co-tenants with a group of Irish based missions. The Mission Centre is a newly formed co-op where a group of Irish based missions including AIM, ECM Int., Interserve Int., Latin Link, OM, OMS, Mission Africa, SIM and Wycliffe can have a central operating base in Dublin city centre. For information on both these organisations contact the following: EAI at www.evangelical.ie and 01-888 1111. The Mission Centre - Ian Grant on 087 2949518.

Prayer and Praise

We have much to thank our Father for, this last year has been a busy and eventful one in the life of IBI and all who come through here.

✍ Graduation was a great day of celebration and thanksgiving, as students came together with family and friends to receive their awards. An emotional time for those who move on at this point - please pray for them, that the Lord will continue to use what they have learned here to bless those whose lives they touch. Pray also for students who will return in September for a time of rest and recuperation over the summer months. And for the new students whom the Lord is drawing at this time.

✍ Dr. Bruce Milne blessed us with his presence, he was the speaker at Graduation and then taught for the week at Summer Institute we give thanks for such a gifted teacher and pray the Lord will bless and protect him as he fulfills other teaching commitments over the next few months.

✍ We give thanks to our Father for a successful outcome in the University of Wales validation event. Everything went really well and the panel validated our BA programme.

✍ We give thanks (and ask you to join us) for the people like you who pray for us regularly. We are humbled by your on-going commitment to us and forever grateful to a loving Father who continues to surprise us in the ways He brings all things together whilst keeping us dependent on Him.

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