

Paul Perry tells us what it has been like being a student on the MA programme:

"IBI has been a fantastic experience for me. Unquestionably the courses were challenging and involved hard work, which stretched me in many ways. However, the work was thoroughly rewarding, equipping me with a deeper knowledge for my ministry as a church pastor and encouraging me with a new sense of godly confidence in my work. Importantly, I have also found myself refreshed as I have had time to reflect on the courses we covered. To me, this 'reflective practice' element of the MA programme was highly significant. Everything had an excellent teaching foundation, but assigning time to reflect on the impact of each section whether personally or concerning one's wider work/ministry ensured that the courses could not remain merely theoretical but became truly transformative. Having this element as part of the 'requirement' of each course meant that I was forced to make the time to do such helpful application and reflection, and not sacrifice it to the end of my to-do list. For this I am thankful!



Paul Perry graduated in September

Financial Review 2009

Philippians 4:6-7: *'Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. If you do this, you will experience God's peace, which is far more wonderful than the human mind can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.'*

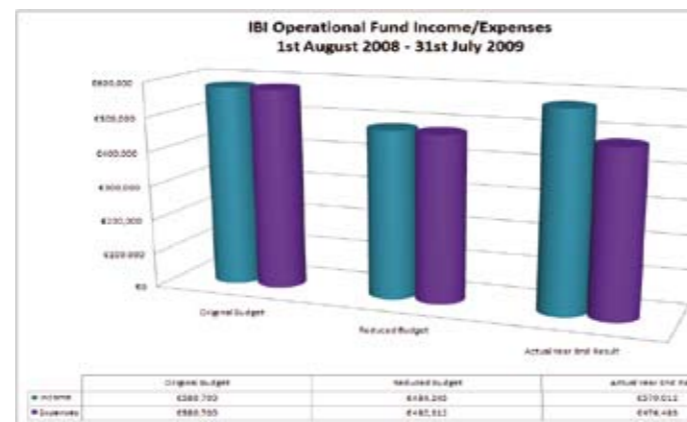
This Scripture has been precious to us in IBI over the past twelve months. As you know, this time last year we were facing into a difficult period financially. We had serious concerns about meeting the needs of the College through to the financial year end year in July.

We prayed, giving thanks to God for His faithfulness and for all He had done in the past, and laid our needs before Him. We communicated those needs to those who partner with us in the work of IBI, through our annual appeal. Staff took a paycut of 15% from January, we cut a further €65,000 from the budget - and we waited.

God surprised us - again! The response to the annual appeal amazed and humbled us - by July this year IBI had received c. €190,000 in response! Over 70 people gave to IBI for the first time, despite the difficult economic climate. Isn't God amazing?

That response to the annual appeal, and the fact that we reduced our expenditure considerably, resulted in IBI ending the financial

year on 31 July 2009 in a healthy position, and with enough funds in hand to cover the summer months, which are often the leanest financially as there is no income from fees during that time. It was an amazing end to a turbulent year and we continue to give thanks to God for His truly 'awesome' provision through His people.



Total Operational Fund Income 2008-09: **€570,012.**
Total Operational Fund Expenditure 2008-09: **€476,483.**

Property Fund: Our tenants in Ulysses House gave us notice last December that they intended to move out of the premises in October 2009, earlier than planned, which would have had serious implications for IBI. I'm delighted to report that, after long negotiations, they have decided to remain in place for at least another 15 months, at an agreed lower rent. That is a real answer to prayer. We also plan to build up a Reserve Fund for the property.

As we look ahead to this year, we continue to be dependent on Him for all of IBI's needs, and to thank Him for all that He has done.

A sincere 'Thank you' to all those who have shared this journey with IBI in the past year.

Dawn Langrell, Bursar



For Charitable giving
Cheques payable
to IBI
and post to:
Dawn Langrell
IBI, Ulysses House
22-24 Foley St,
Dublin 1
CHY 6478



For Tax Efficient giving
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22-24 Foley St,
Dublin 1

Excitement, Enthusiasm, Excellence

It was a genuine privilege to be the speaker at IBI'S Graduation Day in September. I was nervous travelling to the event. I was excited and thrilled travelling home from the event. Why had I changed? Well, of course my speaking was over and with that there is always relief but it was far more than that. I thought back to the time when IBI was just a dream. I was thrilled to see that now the dream has become a reality. The small seeds of vision and commitment are growing into a tree of lifelong learning. I was impacted by three things.

Excitement

The excitement was tangible that September Sunday afternoon in Wesley College. And why not? This event represented a significant milestone in the life of the graduates and their families. Minds had been stretched. Obstacles had been overcome. Books had been read. Assignments had been handed in. Initial fears had been allayed, Courses had been completed. The excitement of achievement is an appropriate excitement when we recognize

that it is all because of the grace of God, the support of loved ones and a massive injection of personal commitment and dedication.

Enthusiasm



Those who have studied Greek will know that the word enthusiasm includes two Greek words which mean "in God." I was impacted by the waves of enthusiasm for the Lord and for His Kingdom purposes in Ireland. There was a clear understanding that God had guided each graduate into IBI, sometimes surprisingly! There was profound and heartfelt gratitude to God expressed corporately in the worship and individually in conversations. There was a real sense of dependency on the Lord

Continued page 3

2009 Graduates with Tutors



Back row, l-r: Bertilla Keane (Cert.), Chantelle Fletcher (Cert.), Hugh Carleton (Cert.) and Craig Maiden (MA). Next row down, l-r: Ingrid Harley (MA), Billy Cooper (MA), Ruth Doran (Cert.), Hugh Morrison (MA), Richard Cronin (BA), Charlie Mills (BA) and Paul Dempsey (MA). 2nd row, l-r: Jonathan Schuster (Tutor), Jonathan McCracken (MA), Paul Perry (MA), Joan Singleton (MA), John Woodside (Tutor) Phil Kingsley (Tutor) and Hazel Morrell (Tutor). Front row, l-r: Sandie Tutty (Tutor), Mimi Kelly (Tutor), Patrick Mitchel (Director of Studies), Jacob Reynolds (Principal), Bishop Ken Clarke and Steven Singleton (MA Director).



Charlie Mills, BA Graduate, speaks about his time at IBI.

"In my first term at IBI there were students from different places and backgrounds including some who had been in secular employment like myself, and I soon felt very much at ease. One of the things that worried

me about going to college was that I would not be able to keep up with the lectures. There were courses on theology, church history, spirituality and discipleship to name a few and these all sounded very difficult. But my worries were unfounded because I quickly discovered that the lecturers in IBI are passionate about their subjects – they really want their students to learn, and not just to swell their heads with more information but to have their hearts changed by what they are learning. Not just intellectual knowledge, but a transformed heart resulting in service to the world outside.

At IBI I was often challenged to think about what I believed, why I believed it and how I put that belief into practice – the catchphrase was 'thinking outside of the box', or perhaps 'thinking outside the church.' How can we do things differently in order to be more effective? How would Jesus reach out to the people in my community?

Interacting with other students from a variety of backgrounds and different views broadened my thinking and understanding of the Bible and what it means as applied to our rapidly changing world and culture today.

My time at IBI has brought great encouragement and stimulation and I will always remember it with gratitude".



Ingrid Harley, MA Graduate, says, "the Bible verses that resonate with me when I reflect on my time at IBI are found in Proverbs 3:5-6.

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him and He will make your paths straight." In my understanding, I couldn't manage to do a Masters

while being a stay-at-home mum with tiny tots to look after. In my understanding, a Masters in Applied Theology was for pastors, missionaries and church youth workers. Yet God has taught me that if He wants you to do something, He will make your paths straight. He made my path straight as I studied. Since beginning the Masters, I have had 2 more babies and yet God has consistently provided the means to help me to keep going. He gave me a wonderful husband and children who let Mummy go to school. He provided a selection of childminders who seemed to appear out of nowhere to offer help when assignments were due. My paths were straightened by the love and encouragement of my extended family and friends and by the IBI staff (and in particular Steven Singleton, who diligently supervised my thesis as my bump grew bigger!). On every level, God provided the means to aid my study and I am enormously grateful.

I am passionate about what IBI has to offer. It has changed the way I see myself and the society in which I live. It has helped me to contextualise my faith. IBI has encouraged me to see Ireland's story through the eyes of faith: our collective history, our turbulent present and our uncertain future. At this critical juncture in our nation's history, the Bible-believing Church must carefully consider how it may best demonstrate and communicate Christ's love and relevance to the communities in which we live".

Diploma and Degree students



Back row, l-r: John Lowry, Ben Stafford, Norman McCorkell, Keke Nedreberg, Simon Kilpatrick, Tim Coles, Jamie Corcoran, Eamon Parkes and Gordon Irons. *Next row, l-r:* David Blevins, Marius Britz, Claire Hayes, Kirsty Harnden, Amy Gilbert, Sarah Cunningham, Jackie Guinan, Richard Miles, Angela Guilfoyle, Eoin O'Neill and Emily McCorkell. *Front row, l-r:* Jill Harper, Sarah Laughlin, Sarah Fitzpatrick, Cian Murphy, Jamie Gilbert, Michael Briggs, Heather Brown and Sandra McDonagh.

Also in Diploma and Degree class but not pictured are: Lisa Monique Avenstrup, Judith Keating, Olwyn Lynch, Marie Quinlan, Stephen Wilson, Jude Barry, Valerie Hilliard, Anne McDonald and Jonny Somerville.

Excitement, Enthusiasm, Excellence - continued from front page

for mental, emotional, physical and financial provision and deep thankfulness to the Lord for completion of the various courses. I was also struck by the enthusiasm of the staff and volunteers. There is a unity of purpose in the equipping of God's people for the work of ministry and mission.

Excellence

"Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved..." said Paul to Timothy. He encouraged the pursuit of excellence in the service of the Lord. IBI clearly has a similar apostolic motivation and aspiration. A God who has given His best is worthy of our best. Graduation Day 2009 was a vital visual aid of that vision and ethos. I somehow suspect that I was not the only one who returned home encouraged, inspired and thankful!

Bishop Ken Clarke



Inset: Chris Wright

The Mission Of God;
Engaging 21st Century Ireland
One Day Conference featuring
Chris Wright
www.ibi.ie/upcoming_events



Certificate students

Back row, l-r: Laura Nolan, David Doran, Ally Simms, Paul Grainger, Olanike Oluokun, Cillian Meyler and Darren Curran. *Next row, l-r:* Ruth Hill, Elizabeth Carlson, Samantha Tsang, Danielle Keane, Katie McCullar, Sarah Marshall, Irene Byrne, Sandra Zaragoza, Marion Smith, Karen Douglas and Jon Kirby. *Front row, l-r:* Prince Kemoh, Sean Redmond, Lorraine Duffy, Chris Scott, Linda Barrington and Kazeem Ogunsakin.

Also in Certificate class but not pictured are: Geraldine Walsdorf, Anne Marie Gibson, Paul Keegan, Sandra Cantwell, and Mary Moylan

Evening students



Back row, l-r: Kieran Kelly, Ross Campbell, David McCabe, Mathew Kuruvilla, Darren Mooney, Claire Mulholland, Michelle Foster and Norah Lynch. *Next row:* Rachel Bow and Aoife Graham. *Front row:* Eung Mook Choy, David O'Neill, Ruth Gyves, Paul Williams, Derek Singleton and Karen Harvey. *Inset:* Lisa Prunty, Dara Ambury and James McGreer. Not pictured are Jonathan Lindsay and David Rushton.

