



Back Row; (left to right), Andy Compton (Midleton, Co. Cork), John Ellis, (Kilkenny) Cormac Mac Fhionnlaioich (Dublin) and Keith McNair (Sligo) . Front row; (left to right), Liam Burns (Greencastle, Co. Donegal), David Moore (Kilkenny), Richard Thompson (Killeslin, Co. Laois), Edwina Dewart (Dublin), Liz Cleves (Celbridge Co. Kildare) and Danielle O'Rourke (Dublin). Also enrolled, but not in this photo: Katherine Stafford (Wicklow).

## Summer Institute 2008

WORSHIP and/or WITNESS?:

Truly living our calling in and to the World

We are delighted to welcome Marva Dawn, adjunct professor of Spiritual Theology at Regent College, Vancouver, to lead the 2008 IBI Summer Institute. The theme will be the dynamic between worship, church and mission. How can we truly worship God and live up to our calling to be church in and to our world? Marva is a prolific author, conference speaker, musician and theologian. If you have read any of her numerous books you will know that she has a passion for the church, a love for God, a sharp mind and a mischievous wit. You will also know that she has battled for years with poor health and yet God has graciously used her in her weakness. This year's Institute is for church leaders, worship team members, and Christians wanting to be provoked to think more deeply about the God we worship. We are trying a new 2 day format on Friday and Saturday this year to make it more accessible to people who are working. Space may be limited. Don't miss it!

*"Marva Dawn is one of the most outstanding evangelical theologians of our time. She is an academic who thinks with her heart and feels with her head. Marva is the Priscilla of this generation because she knows how to inform and inspire preachers like Apollos."*

Rev. Dr Trevor Morrow, Lucan Presbyterian Church.

"Worship AND/OR Witness?:  
Truly Living Our Calling"

Marva Dawn

June 20th and 21st

For more information and a brochure please visit [www.IBOnline.ie](http://www.IBOnline.ie)

## Prayer and Praise

It is humbling what God is doing here at IBI. While you've been praying, our heavenly Father has been working. He has drawn an amazing bunch of students here to study this year. Praise Him!

Please continue to pray for:

- Students: For wisdom to balance study with other commitments, particularly as we approach the end of the academic year with the pressures it brings.
- For those who will graduate this year with Certificate, Diploma and Degree qualifications - that the Lord will bless them as they move on from here, equipped to serve Him better in whatever field He has called them to.
- Teachers: Pat Mullen, Hazel Morrell, John Woodside and John Samuel who return to the IBI teaching panel this semester, as well as Jacob Reynolds, Steven Singleton, Joan Singleton, Ciaran Loughran and Patrick Mitchel.
- MA: For the new students (pictured above) who begin 3 years of study. For current MA students, many of whom are now writing dissertations, pray that the Lord would enable them to persevere and finish well
- Annual Appeal: Give thanks that the Lord provides for the work of IBI through the faithful giving of our supporters and pray for this year's appeal which has been sent out over the last two months.



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# IBI Digest

Spring 2008

## The story continues...

The American author Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803-1882) once wrote, "I pay the schoolmaster, but 'tis the schoolboys that educate my son." In that one sentence Emerson captured a central truth in education; namely, that the teacher is mostly a catalyst. This is true in Biblical education as well. The core of training occurs outside the classroom and even outside the school.

If you have read previous newsletters from IBI you may have noticed a theme among student testimonies - students value their experience at IBI because it is much more than just a classroom. This is so true. Our students probably learn more from each other than they do from their lecturers. Furthermore, they have an invaluable advantage in their education at IBI through their involvement in the MAP (the Mentoring and Apprenticeship Programme). The MAP is IBI's resource for ensuring that we don't just impart knowledge to peoples' heads but that we also have a setting for the heart and hands to grow in proportion.

To quote another author, the Irish poet Oscar Wilde (1854-1900), "nothing that is worth knowing can be taught." I am certain that Wilde would have agreed with the following contextualisation of his statement: 'Christian maturity is better caught than taught'. Perhaps this is why Jesus' classroom wasn't in a synagogue. Our Lord took 12 men and He trained them to be disciples by living with them and leading by example. He wasn't as concerned that they learn from Him as He was that they became like Him. It was a truly incarnational pedagogy.

Through the MAP our students have the opportunity to pray with others, participate in a mentoring relationship, and put into practice what they have been learning through their studies. This holistic approach to Christian education is central to our philosophy of leadership development. Students aren't just depositaries of the mentoring methodology but stewards as

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- » New MA students
- » Course options for 2008/09
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well. One student, Tom Dowling, is a case in point. Tom Dowling came to IBI in 2005 from Kilkenny Presbyterian Church. He was serving as an elder and was preparing for evangelistic ministry with the Irish Mission. Tom successfully completed the Certificate in Applied



Tom Dowling and Gerry O'Keefe

Theology, which included participating in the MAP. Being involved in ministry as well as being a husband, father, and full-time student had its challenges - but for Tom, "the benefits of making time for MAP far outweigh the cost."

Thankfully, Tom's story doesn't end with his graduation. Tom followed

the Lord's call upon his life and became a full-time worker with the Irish Mission in 2006. The following September he was given the opportunity to be on the other side of the "mentoring" table when he became a mentor to Gerry O'Keefe, a fellow Kilkenny man and an evening student at IBI. Tom says "As a Mentor, I derived much blessing from being involved with the programme. Gerry and I found the mentoring meetings provided time to talk, reflect, challenge, encourage, read God's word together and pray, resulting in mutual edification. I highly recommend MAP as a positive experience of benefit to both Mentor and Apprentice."

It is inspiring to observe that Tom is not the only one doing this. For years, IBI students have been stepping into discipleship and mentoring roles around Ireland; in fact, not just around Ireland, but even around the globe. Whether in a Bible College in Jamaica, a church in Donegal, or an accountant's desk in Kilkenny, IBI students are following God's call on their lives to become a part of the bigger story of His Kingdom work worldwide.

[Jonathan Schuster]

Recently we invited you to become a part of God's story at the Irish Bible Institute. That story continues to grow with each intake of new students. As you peruse the pages of this spring's Digest, give thanks and pray with us for the continuing work of God in the lives of students both past and present. These students have stepped out of the classroom and into ministry, mission and the marketplace. Their stories cannot be defined, or even confined, to a certificate, diploma, or otherwise. Their stories continue...

## The Story continues ...



Left to right: Paddy Grant - Church leader, Lorraine Donnelly- Youth leader and Richard Thompson - Elder

## ...in the Midlands

**Carlow Bible Church** in its present form has been in existence for a little under fifteen years. At the beginning our focus was the local Irish community, though with population changes in recent years our mission has become inclusive to all cultures. There are about seventy people in attendance including children. Main ministries include house groups, Sunday morning ministry including children's ministry (which we see as important as children are the future). At present we are re-drawing our vision for the future as we feel in recent times we have 'lost our way' and need fresh direction. Please pray for us as we look to the Lord for direction.

**Paddy Grant**



**Aoife Lewis**

(Aoife was also actively involved in Carlow Bible Church before moving to Wiclow).

*How do you find the classroom experience?*

**Aoife:** The lectures are very good. They are not just where we sit and listen, there is always interaction and discussion. Being at college with students

from all denominations you get to hear other views first hand which is very helpful. IBI has made me work on and form my own ideas and not just believe something without looking deeper into the things of God myself. The lecturers all look to God and rely on his guidance for their classes which really shows their passion for God and their reliance on Him.

*Why did you choose IBI?*

**Paddy:** Having decided to pursue theological study, my first thought was to do a distance or online course but I had difficulty in finding the right one. I chose IBI because I felt I needed accountability and personal encouragement from fellow students which comes in abundance on class days. In class, discussions and lectures create an interaction which I don't believe can be attained doing an online module.

*How will what you have learned affect what you do in ministry?*

**Richard:** This could be answered in a few words - personal growth, confidence, and determination. Personal growth will always show itself in all areas of life, from family to ministry. Confidence in particular was the greatest area of benefit to me. Confidence had been a great lack on my part, whether in preaching or trying to lead. However, a change is taking place that some have already noticed. I am not talking about self confidence, more a confidence in God's Word and how to handle it. In addition, my studies at IBI have given me a fresh determination to get on with those things in which I believe strongly.

*How is the training you received while at IBI still relevant in your ministry today?*

**Lorraine:** Everything I learned affects how I run the youth ministry, how I live my Christian life and how you need to keep learning and growing everyday to become more like Christ and fulfil his mission on earth. The biggest way IBI is still relevant is in discipleship - building up leaders in the youth ministry, encouraging, equipping, teaching and sending out young people to reach others with the gospel. That's the whole point of discipleship - feeding them so that they can feed others. Everything I learned was valuable and relevant and still effective.

## ...and in the Marketplace



**Lorna Carson**

I'm a lecturer in Applied Linguistics at Trinity College, and I have been studying individual courses at IBI for the past two years, with no particular agenda - just for 'fun'! I've always wanted to study the Bible in an academic, Irish context, and IBI provided the ideal, flexible solution. Having heard recommendations from past

students at my church (Adelaide Road Presbyterian in Dublin), I was delighted to discover that it was possible to sign up for individual courses, and not necessarily a full Certificate or Diploma. I've taken introductory courses

to the Old and New Testaments, Discipleship and Biblical Interpretation, and have thoroughly enjoyed each term's work. The calibre of the academic life at IBI is second to none, with a wide variety of imaginative and challenging course projects and assessment methods. Beyond the academic aspects, IBI also manages to foster a warm and personalised learning environment, which has helped me to strike up new friendships with folk from a variety of backgrounds and to find out what is happening in other church contexts. It's been a pleasure to leave work on Tuesdays, arrive in IBI's cosy atmosphere, catch up with new stories of God's grace and Christian witness across Ireland, and settle down to an evening of interesting and informed discussion and teaching. I really couldn't recommend it more highly.

## ...and the West

All three of our students below attend **Ennis Evangelical Church, Co. Clare** and here is what they say about IBI.



*Why did you decide to go to Bible College?*

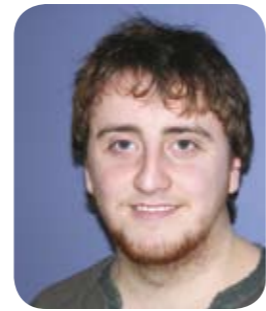
**Susan Hill:** I wanted to deepen my love for my Saviour and get to know him better through his word. I felt my faith had been stifled by the pressure of work and was not content to let that continue.

*How did you find community life at IBI?*

**Enlightening and entertaining! Through studying the bible and sharing my faith with fellow students, God has strengthened my own faith, given me fantastic friends and lots of fun in the process.**

*What would you say was the biggest challenge for you personally?*

**Letting go of my deeply ingrained self-sufficient attitudes and trusting God for all my needs - spiritual, physical and financial.**



*Did the distance you have to travel effect your decision to come to IBI?*

**George O'Callaghan:** IBI is the closest bible college to my house, even though it is approximately four hours away. Distance didn't prevent me from seriously considering IBI. In addition, I know three or four people who went there before me - and they highly recommended it! After listening to their personal experiences and having been a witness to how God had used what they learnt at IBI and visiting the college for myself - I knew that it was the bible college for me.

*How do you find the classroom experience?*

One of the mottos in IBI is "Head, Heart and Hands". We are trained to use our head and heart very effectively in our lectures, but as well as that we are taught how to use our hands, not only in our homes, but around the world too. The healthy environment that is provided in the classroom allows each of the students here to see past denominational differences and discuss opinions with each other in an honest and respectful manner. I really enjoy the variety of backgrounds in IBI!



**John McCarthy** a surf instructor from the west of Ireland, when asked about his thoughts on student life at IBI, replied; "The class is very interactive. The lecturers are all pro's and there is a very fun aspect to most of the subjects. Community life at IBI is one of the best parts of being there. The fellowship in and outside of the college is really great. Living on the West Coast of Ireland, it is a real privilege to come to Dublin and to come into a great family of God."

## Courses at IBI

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 2009.

The **BA Degree in Applied Theology** can be taken as a full-time or part-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 2008.

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 a formally validated qualification or are not in a position to study at degree level. Course begins September 2008.

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 2008.

### 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 term in which the course begins. Term begin September and late January. Applications open all year.

For an application form contact

Linda at 01- 806 9060 or email [linda@IBIonline.ie](mailto:linda@IBIonline.ie) or visit our website at [www.IBIonline.ie](http://www.IBIonline.ie)

## Student Open Day

If you are considering a course at IBI You are invited to come and sit in on class and meet with students and staff

On

April 9th 2008

From 10.00 am til 2.00 pm

To book in please contact

Linda on 01-8069060 or email [linda@IBIonline.ie](mailto:linda@IBIonline.ie)