

Summer Institute 2009

sayings often reinforced lectures that were both informative and illuminating but unquestionably sound in their scholarship. It was evident to all who had attended that Barry was and is a Biblical Archaeologist and Geographer *par excellence*.

Some of the inspiring topics that filled the schedule included: THE ROLE OF GEOGRAPHY AS A HERMENEUTICAL TOOL; WHAT ARCHAEOLOGY CAN AND CANNOT DO; REASONS WHY THE BIBLE IS COMMONLY REJECTED AS A RELIABLE HISTORICAL SOURCE (and Barry's fascinating and well-delivered rebuttal); SOME OF THE MORE IMPORTANT ARCHAEOLOGICAL DISCOVERIES IN HISTORY (and how they have contributed to a better understanding of the Bible and biblical times); and more specific topics such as THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF ISRAEL; THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF THE NEW TESTAMENT; and even THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF THE EARLY CHURCH.

All of us who walked away from the summer institute this year did so with a renewed confidence in the Scriptures and the God who gave them to us.

Jonathan Schuster, Old Testament lecturer

"All topics covered were presented unapologetically within the context of archaeology as a scientific discipline. Beitzel gives us insight into how powerful and relevant an interpretational and apologetic a tool the study of Biblical archaeology can be for us today."

Naomi Ambury, Archaeology student.

Open Evening

If you are considering a course at IBI
You are invited to come to an
information evening
and meet with staff
on
September 8th
from 17.30pm til 19.30pm
To let us know you will be coming
please contact
Linda on 01-8069060 or
email linda@ibionline.ie



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that!

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and Engage
head, heart and hands.

*MA student and Pastor of Windsor Baptist Church,
David Dunlop says,*

"Having identified a need/desire to do so some further study, someone recommended the MA in Applied Theology at IBI. And I am so glad they did. In my role in the local church, the course content, emphasis and relevance have been so helpful. The classes and lecturers have stretched and challenged my thinking, and the breadth and depth of suggested reading material provides endless resources and reference points. I have really enjoyed being part of a small learning community who share the journey, and via class discussion, debate and interaction the whole learning experience has been enriching. Juggling a full-time job, family life and studies at this level is demanding but the privilege of having my mind engaged, my heart impacted and my skills developed via the course and the college makes it all worthwhile - honestly!"

Visit www.IBI.ie for a prospectus or
contact
Steven Singleton at steven@ibionline.ie

Closing date for applications is
October 31st 2009
Course begins January 2010

New IBI Web address

www.IBI.ie

IBI Digest



Encouragement means...

Courses have finished, Summer Institute is over, marking is done, the university External Examiner has visited, students have gone their separate ways, summer has come, the new academic year already beckons ... but before we get there, how was this year at IBI?

A one word answer: 'Encouraging'! Encouragement means something like 'being urged on and supported', 'aiding the development of something' or 'words and actions that give hope'. Let me try to explain why this year has been especially full of these things via a quick visit to the New Testament where encouragement pops up all over the place.

The biggest focus there is on encouragement of each other. In Acts the early church is encouraged by Barnabas (the 'son of encouragement', Acts 11:23); by Judas and Silas (Acts 15:32); by Paul and Silas (Acts 16:40); and by Paul alone (Acts 20:1-2). Leaders are also encouraged, for example Paul (Acts 28:15) and Apollos (Acts 18:27). Paul longs to see the Roman Christians so that 'you and I may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith' (Rom 11:12). Some have a special gift of encouragement (Rom 12:8). Warm relationships are a source of great encouragement (1 Cor 7:4, 13-14; Philemon 1:7). See how Tychicus is sent twice to encourage believers, once to Ephesus and once to Colosse, with news and friendship (Eph 6:22; Col 4:8) - as is Timothy to the Thessalonian church (1 Thes 3:2). Believers are constantly to encourage one another (1 Thes 4:18; 5:11; 5:14; Heb 3:13, 10:25) as well as being encouraged by their teachers (2 Tim 4:2; Titus 1:9; 2:6, 15).

Another source of encouragement is the Scriptures (Rom 15:4). Prophecy in the church is valuable because everyone can be instructed and encouraged by it (1 Cor 14:31). Believers are encouraged as they understand better the riches of the gospel (Col 2:2; Heb 6:18).

Faithful Christian discipleship is a source of great encouragement to Paul (1 Thes 3:7) and his faith in the face of persecution encourages others to stand up for their faith (Phil 1:14).

Ultimately the greatest source of encouragement is God himself (Rom 15:5; 2 Thes 2:16-17). Being united to Christ is a source of encouragement (Phil 2:1). Even the Lord's discipline is a source of encouragement (Heb 12:5). In Acts, the first Christians are encouraged by the Holy Spirit (Acts 9:31).

That is a lot of encouraging going on! This year has been deeply encouraging at IBI because all of these sorts of encouragements have been experienced here this year.

There has been much encouragement of each other:

- ✦ in the support, friendship, and partnership of our volunteer teachers and staff who make IBI possible
- ✦ in the encouraging comments and feedback from students about their experience at IBI
- ✦ in the depth and warmth of many friendships formed and deepened this year
- ✦ by the letters, prayers and giving of so many from around Ireland and beyond who partner with us
- ✦ in seeing how students care for and 'spur one another on'
- ✦ within the IBI staff team and Board there is a great sense of teamwork, unity and a commitment to work well together.

There has been encouragement in the Scriptures:

- ✦ Speaking personally I found myself greatly encouraged by teaching (for me) a new course to an evening class of over 30 people on the life and teaching of Jesus. It was a joy to work our way through Mark's gospel together in class as well as trying to understand and apply Jesus' radical message of the kingdom of God. I'm sure every teacher (and I hope student) can say the same thing about spending quality time in God's word.

There has been encouragement in seeing Christian discipleship in action:

- ✦ I won't name names here, but it has been encouraging to see and hear how students are putting what is being studied, discussed and written about into practice in everyday life in a whole variety of situations at home and abroad. Just some of these stories are in previous and this current newsletter.

There has been great encouragement from God himself:

✚ We did not imagine or plan this year to see a strengthened and more diversified IBI as a result of the transfer of students and two staff from Carrig Eden Theological College run by the Assemblies of God Ireland (AGI).

✚ Next year will see a record number of students at Diploma and Degree level as a result of a very high proportion of our students continuing on and a group of CETC students transferring in to the IBI programme.

✚ We did not imagine half way through the year that we would come out at the end of the financial year with the books balanced in the midst of a huge financial meltdown.

I could go on but space is limited! Of course there have been discouragements along the way, it would be unreal and foolish to pretend otherwise. But as I reflect on the year just ended, the encouragements far outweigh the discouragements, and for that may God be glorified.

Patrick Mitchel, Director of Studies.

IBI and CETC

In April, after much prayer, consultation and discussion between IBI and Assemblies of God Ireland (AGI) [who run Carrig Eden Theological College (CETC)] regarding how best we can work together, it was agreed that CETC students would transfer to IBI from September 2009. CETC had also been offering a similar University of Wales degree in theology and, rather than duplicate resources, CETC will close and IBI will be 'the Bible college of choice' for AGI members and potential pastors. IBI will maintain its core identity as a non-denominational Bible Institute, committed to serving the whole evangelical community. IBI and AGI are committed to this development as the right one for fostering unity across the Pentecostal / evangelical spectrum within Ireland. Two staff, Dr Mimi Kelly and Sandie Tutty, are joining the IBI teaching team from 1 August 2009. You can read more about Mimi and Sandie in this newsletter. We believe that this is a God-given development which we trust will be a blessing to all our students and to the wider church.

Introducing our new staff



Dr Miriam A Kelly graduated from St Patrick's College Maynooth, in 2007 with a PhD, and has been working as Postgraduate Director in CETC for the last 5 years. She is really excited about working in IBI as the concept of unity in diversity is close to her heart. Contemporary Irish society and its interaction with Christianity is just one area of interest, along with working towards mutual understanding between the various expressions of Christianity. Mimi will be teaching on both our MA and BA programmes. She also loves good coffee and finding high quality coffee shops to partake of this fine drink.



Sandie Tutty attended Mattersey Hall Bible College in England from 1991-94 and later completed an MA in Pentecostal and Charismatic Studies with Regents Theological College, England, graduating in 2005. She began working part-time with Carrig Eden Theological College in 2001, and in 2006 took up a full-time role there as Director of Distance Learning and Lecturer in New Testament Studies. Prior to that, she worked for many years in various administrative and accounting positions, and was involved in various ministries in St Mark's Church, where she is a member. Sandie will teach on our BA programme.

Please pray for our two new staff as they face the new challenges of travel, integrating into the IBI team, and taking up their new responsibilities.



IBI Graduation 2009

Wesley College
Sunday September 27th,
4.00 p.m.
Keynote Speaker
Bishop Ken Clarke

*"Open my eyes that
I may see
wonderful things
in your law"*
Psalm 119:18

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More encouraging words

Charlie Mills will graduate on September 27th with a BA in Applied Theology. Before he left IBI he reflected on his time spent here.



I have really enjoyed my time at IBI. From the first day that I walked in the door to see what the college was like until the day I finished I have thoroughly enjoyed, been encouraged and enriched by the whole experience. You are a great example of a Christian community, putting into practice Jesus' words in John 15:12 - "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you". You really do make students and visitors feel welcome, loved and accepted.

I am very thankful that God gave me the opportunity to study at IBI. I have learned so much about God, and His holiness, majesty, power and above all His amazing love and compassion for mankind and all that He has created. Truly we have an amazing God, and my heart's desire now is to serve Him wherever and however He wants. Having learned much about myself also I feel much better equipped for service than before. IBI provides a marvellous learning environment. Your training approach of preparing head, heart and hands has been very effective for me. I have learned new methods of preparing Bible studies and talks, and also more structured methods of presentation. I have also learned much about leadership, and especially the value in serving and leading well. And, although I have learned so much about God and His Word, I realise that I really know very little.

For myself, the future is still not clear, but I know who holds the future and He'll guide me with His hand. I just need patience to wait on Him.

Please pray for Charlie as he waits on the Lord.

School's out for summer!!

Well, classes are finished, final papers are in and the student lounge is quiet. However that doesn't mean work is finished for the summer. For some of our students this is the time when the 'hands' part of our motto 'head, heart and hands' moves up a gear.

As you read what some of our students are involved in over the summer break please remember to keep them in prayer.

David Blevins is returning to Kenya for the ninth time in seven years! From Monday 24th August until Tuesday 8th September he will be preaching and teaching among the Samburu and Turkana tribes in the remote north of the country. While in Kenya David serves alongside Stephen and Angelina Cowan who have been co-ordinating a project for the Presbyterian Church there for 23 years. Travel is the biggest challenge. The Cowans are based a two-day Land Rover trek from Nairobi!

Andrew Gill is in Lima, Peru leading a team who are helping street children. They are also running social activities, clubs and workshops for local youth, teachers, leaders and mother/parent groups in Balconcillo and Huaycán. They will also be involved in teaching English and leading workshops in local schools. The team will also play an active role in church life, giving testimonies and caring for the young people. When he returns he is also involved in TeenStreet in Germany and an SU camp in Ovoca for 10-12's at the end of August. Please pray for wisdom, patience and perseverance.

Marie Quinlan, will be helping to run Family Week in Ovoca in July. Pray for wisdom, perseverance and sleep.

Jamie and Amy Gilbert are helping with a church plant in Skerries for the summer doing whatever they can to be of assistance. Please pray for opportunities to bring the gospel to others and Jamie needs prayer as he works on his dissertation for next term.

Simon Kilpatrick and Michael Briggs are taking 7 teenagers to Uganda to work with Tearfund for 3 weeks. Please pray that the teenagers will cope with new culture, understand more of what it is to serve and also to experience God like never before.

Summer Institute 2009

I was really excited to have Dr. Barry Beitzel as our summer institute speaker this year not only because I knew that he was an outstanding speaker but also because he was my mentor in graduate school and I knew his heart. I wasn't disappointed at all - every expectation was met. He delivered a powerful series of lectures on many issues relating to the geography and archaeology of biblical lands and his pastoral heart permeated his material with a precision that comes from years of practice. It was a delight.

Those of us who had the privilege to attend this year's institute walked away not just informed but also encouraged about the reliability and trustworthiness of the Bible. An example of the kind of phrases that lingered in the air around IBI was, "The absence of evidence is not evidence of absence." Such pithy