

# School's out for summer

Our students completed another year of studies, some will return next year and some we will see again at Graduation in September. But several were busy over the summer working on different projects at home and abroad.

We ask you to pray for all our students as they continue to serve the Lord in their local churches and beyond.



Over the summer Sarah Fitzpatrick was involved in youth summer camps and the youth group at her church. She went on a Missions Trip to Uganda, East Africa. She was also co-leading a team of teenage girls, who were running a kids camp and working in an orphanage in Uganda.



Norman and Emily McCorkill have had their first baby and they named her Elsie. They are considering a ministry position in a new church plant and have another year to finish in college. Please pray that as these major life adjustments take place that they will find all the strength and wisdom they need in the Lord.



Geraldine Waldorf was part of a team who took a group of 4th year students to Lesotho, Africa to work in an orphanage. Also, there were summer projects happening in Kilkenny, Gorey and Carlow. In each city there was a drop in center for young people for a week and they hope to start something which will continue from September on!



Jill Harper led a team back to Uganda. They ran holiday clubs in the 'Jesus Cares for All' home care centre near Kampala and they were also helping out in Sanyu, a baby orphanage.



Ruth Hill was speaking at a ladies conference in Thailand. She went to missionaries who run a home, school and church for young men and women whom they have rescued from the sex industry out there. Also she was speaking at a conference in Devon, England with Larry her husband.



Jamie and Amy Gilbert will be running a Saturday Nite Football league for the teens in Ballymun over the next 4 months trying to build up relationships in the community. They are also running a Christian youth club in Ballymun and a few football camps as well.



## Prayer update

Praying is one of the most important things you can do for IBI. So, as we look forward to beginning another academic year, we would like to thank you very much for your regular and faithful prayers for last year.

### For praise:

- IBI has successfully come through the Quinquennial Review process and we have validation for the next five years.
- We have a terrific group of students who have grown not only in their knowledge of God but in their spiritual walk and ability to serve.
- We had a fantastic 2010 IBI Summer Institute with brilliant teaching from Scot Mc Knight.
- The anticipated €20,000 end-of-year deficit has diminished. Please continue to pray that we break even.

### For prayer:

- For our September graduates, please pray that those going into full-time ministry would put all that they have learnt to good, fruitful use and that those who are unsure what the future holds as yet would know the Lord's guidance.
- Please pray for the men and women the Lord is drawing to us in September.
- Please pray that all will have an opportunity to recharge and please give thanks for the dedication and generosity of our adjunct faculty.

Thank you for your continued support  
IBI Staff team



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| <br>For Charitable giving<br>Cheques payable to<br>IBI<br>and post to:<br>Dawn Langrell<br>IBI, Ulysses House<br>22-24 Foley St,<br>Dublin 1<br>CHY 6478 | <br>For Tax Efficient giving<br>Checks payable to<br>Irish Bible Institute<br>and post to:<br>Nils Petersen<br>IBI, P.O. Box 681152<br>Schaumburg<br>Illinois 60168-1152,<br>USA<br>(501c No: 36-4380290) | <br>Charitable donations<br>For Gift Aid<br>Cheques payable to<br>Irish Christian Charity<br>Services<br>and post to:<br>Dawn Langrell<br>IBI, Ulysses House<br>22-24 Foley St,<br>Dublin 1 |
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## Scot McKnight at IBI?

Patrick Mitchel interviewed Scot McKnight, author, speaker, blogger and lecturer on his recent visit to IBI.

**PM** Scot you are here in Ireland talking about 'The Earliest Christian Gospel' (which will be a new book *In the Beginning was the Gospel*). In the last couple of days at IBI Summer Institute, you've unpacked the pretty provocative thesis that the 'traditional evangelical gospel' has distorted the biblical gospel. Can you summarise your argument in a nutshell?

**SMcK** Now I'm going to spill the beans. I think Tom Wright got this right; we equate the word 'gospel' with our understanding of the 'plan of salvation' which means 'how I personally can respond to the offer of salvation in Christ'. I think most evangelicals think that is the gospel.

Well, as a result of studying the New Testament, I became convinced that there are dimensions of what Paul thinks is the gospel and of what the early apostles in the book of Acts preach as the gospel that simply are not a part of how we preach the gospel. For instance, they were very much focused on resurrection. They didn't focus on us being sinners and our need to accept Jesus' death. Instead they proclaimed that Israel's story (the hope of the Bible story) is now fulfilled in Jesus as Messiah and Lord through his life, through his death, through his resurrection, through his exaltation, through the sending of the Spirit. This is the good news that God has now wrapped up history. If we want to participate in this good news and get salvation we must repent and believe and be baptised. That was their understanding of the gospel.

I think our traditional evangelical gospel touches on some of those dimensions but there are many aspects that we have simply ignored in Western evangelicalism. In many ways I think we have thinned the gospel down to a superficial level and I

want to create a conversation about what the apostles actually said the gospel was.

**PM** Can I ask you about another conversation in which you were very involved – that of the emerging church? As you look back, what did that conversation achieve and where is it now?

**SMcK** The word emerging is really on the decline. Some people still use it but different words have started to appear; we use missional, we use incarnational.

The central concern of the emerging movement was largely a criticism of the evangelical church for its lack of a holistic gospel and its obsession with personal salvation (and I don't want to minimise personal salvation) to the neglect of justice and kingdom ministry in the world.



I think that the emerging movement has had and will continue to have a profound impact on American evangelicalism in the sense that justice is important to evangelical Christianity. Twenty years ago it was fairly rare that you would see evangelical churches deeply committed to any kind of compassionate justice ministry. Today you will see the majority of evangelical churches, particularly in

suburbs and inner cities, deeply committed to justice and compassion ministries and I think this is part of the emerging movement.

Now the emerging movement has kind of splintered. Five years ago I was asked what will happen and I said three things: 1. It will have a big and permanent impact on evangelicalism. 2. Some people will move back to traditional evangelicalism. I think that this has happened and that's kind of my own story. 3. A third group will move more towards liberal mainline Protestantism and I think that this also has clearly been the case.

# New Psalms

One of the subjects the BA students studied this year was Old Testament Poetry and Wisdom. In the OT Wisdom Literature module the students were required to write an original psalm. The students received several weeks of instruction on the characteristics of Hebrew poetry and then were challenged to write their own psalm demonstrating competence in their understanding and utilisation of the material discussed in class. Each psalm was to reflect the student's grasp of literary techniques employed by the Biblical authors. These include, among others, the use of: parallelism; chiasm; simile and metaphor; merismus; personification; inclusio; ellipsis and anthropomorphism/zoomorphism. The students were also instructed to write the psalm according to the "pattern" of psalm classification discussed in the course. These included: The Hymn; The Lament; Psalm of Thanksgiving; Psalm of Praise; Psalms of Confidence, Royalty and Remembrance; and the Wisdom Psalm.

The quality of the work received by this year's class was, overall, quite exceptional. The students took the task to heart and wrote psalms that were deeply personal, honest, and utilised well the elements of Hebraic, poetic, expression. While reading these psalms it becomes clear that they are written "like Biblical psalms" even if the reader isn't intimately acquainted with the characteristics of Biblical poetry. It is also evident that these psalms succeeded in reflecting what scholars refer to as the *sitz im leben* (life situation) of each student author. We at IBI were so impressed with this collection of psalms and the competency of the students in writing them that we have made it available to all for a small cost of €3.50. Upon reading it we believe that the reader will be struck with the same sensation we had - that they have just looked into the soul of a very authentic Christ-follower.

Jonathan Schuster, Old Testament Tutor.

## Psalm 18

*I will always praise the Lord and boast of what he has done for me.  
He always knows the beginning from the end, and is there in the midst of trouble.  
No matter what happens to me, the Lord will pull me through.  
He gives me strength like that of a lion, and comforts me like a mother's hug.  
Even before calamity came He knew it, and prepared me without me knowing it.  
His truth that was hidden in my heart became alive and real for me.  
As I walked through pain and brokenness, you were with me.  
You enveloped me like as if in a cocoon, your arms surrounded me like a baby in the womb.  
How I treasured that time, and want it to stay with me forever.*

*But there is a time for comfort and a time for stretching.  
My God has prepared me and given me the strength I needed.  
He promised to always be with me and would never leave me.  
With his strength I faced my battle.  
To others this seemed like climbing a hill but to me it was like climbing Mount Everest.  
He reminded me that the battle was not mine but his, and all I had to do was walk along side him.  
O Lord, you gave me courage and confidence.  
Though your arms were not seen, you carried me.  
You led and guided me like a lamb to her mother.  
Oh, how I praise your holy name.  
You are my strength and shield and I will praise my God forever.*

## Psalm 23

*I will praise you forever, my Lord, my Rock.  
Honour you always, my Rescuer, my Redeemer!  
In the year that death took my beloved:  
Majestic, powerful, holy One, I saw You.  
At the end of my rope  
My Rescuer found me;  
With more room for Him to move  
He dried my tears, moved in with me,  
And began my restoration.*

*Your promises are my nourishment, O Lord;  
Your Word a balm for my troubled soul;  
A guide for my footsteps,  
And a guard for my heart.*

*You surround me with a crowd of witnesses,  
With people who know your ways you encircled me;  
Through them you prepared a table before me.  
And brought me home singing with joy.*

*When I journey again in a shadowed valley, I recall my Shepherd's rod and staff;  
Keep in mind He is loving, just, faithful and true;  
Remember all he has done  
And my hope is renewed.*

*I exalt You Saviour, the same yesterday, today and evermore.  
Thank you, Faithful One you are in all my tomorrows.  
I will honour you always, my Rescuer, my Redeemer  
Praise you forever, my Lord, my Rock.*



To get your copy of the IBI Psalms please contact Anne at 01-8069060

So while the debate about 'emerging' may be over, I don't think the concerns of the emerging movement are going to go away. In fact, I see them in Tom Wright, in Chris Wright, in Alan Hirsch, in Michael Frost, in Brian McLaren, Tony Jones, Doug Paggitt, Rob Bell - all those people and others. You see Bill Hybels committed to justice in ways previously you didn't see. I see these people committed to a larger sense of what the church can be doing in a community.

**PM** In *The Blue Parakeet* you talk extensively about women in ministry. Why is this issue important to you?

**SMcK** This is a really good question Patrick. I think it's important to me for a couple of reasons. Number one is that in the past I've had female students (and I dedicate this book to one of them, Cheryl Hatch) who were really fantastic thinkers, sharp communicators and godly Christians gifted by God to teach but could find no place to teach.

Number two, is that it is a debate that I felt I should join. In the past I've had some colleagues that were really strong against women teachers and I respected them and I thought as a young professor 'That's not a battle I want to fight right now.' And I developed the idea that women don't need men defending them, it's patronising. So I stayed out of the conversation. But over time I became convinced by women that women needed male voices speaking on their behalf because men listen to men better than they listen to women.

I have so many female students who are gifted and I encourage them to use their gifts in the church. I'm convinced that the Bible has so much evidence of women in actual ministry that conflicts with the restriction of women in ministry in our churches today. I like to ask a very simple question: 'Do you allow in your churches women to do what women did in the pages of the Bible?' If you do, you're being biblical and if you don't you're being unbiblical. In the Bible women can teach (like Priscilla), they can be apostles (like Junia), they can prophesy, they can publicly pray - all these things occurred in the pages of the New Testament, not to mention prophets like Huldah, a prophet-singer like Miriam and a queen of the land like Deborah. In the pages of the Bible we have plenty of evidence of women in leadership.

**PM** It's hard to talk to you without mentioning Jesus Creed (<http://blog.beliefnet.com/jesuscreed>) What have been some of the benefits of blogging personally and spiritually?

**SMcK** I had really no idea what I was doing at the beginning. The big thing that happened is it became a ministry. It wasn't just a blog and it wasn't to promote my books, it was a natural instinct to me to jot out ideas and have kind of extended classroom conversations.



## Information Day

If you are considering a Day or Evening course at IBI  
You are invited to come and drop in  
on  
Tuesday August 24th  
from 2.00 pm til 8.00pm  
To let us know you will be coming  
please contact  
Linda on 01-8069060  
email [Linda@ibi.ie](mailto:Linda@ibi.ie)

Since then it has become a thing in itself. We're probably going to get about 2.5 million page views this year. I never imagined that this could happen and never imagined the number of pastors who write me letters and with whom I've become friends. I think it's flourished at the hand of God and I am thankful for it.

**PM** How can people reading this interview pray for you?

**SMcK** Well pray for wisdom; things to write about, things to focus on. I get opportunities to write and speak on all kinds of topics and sometimes you get torn and tossed in different directions. My studying and writing on gospel is coming close to an end and I'm not quite sure exactly where we're going next. I have commentaries on the Sermon on the Mount and on Colossians to write and I have a couple of other areas of interest that I'm just going to see where the Lord leads me. Prayer for discernment and wisdom to make the best use of my research and writing time.

This is a significantly shortened version of a longer interview. For the full discussion see [www.ibi.ie/resources\\_articles/Interview\\_with\\_Scot\\_McKnight\\_2010.php](http://www.ibi.ie/resources_articles/Interview_with_Scot_McKnight_2010.php) for the full text and to comment visit Patrick Mitchel's blog [faithinireland.wordpress.com/category/theology/](http://faithinireland.wordpress.com/category/theology/).

Graduation and  
Commencement  
Saturday September 25th  
3.00pm  
Wesley College