



IBI Cáirde, our past student association, was launched in 2004 and has been gaining momentum ever since. Members meet at our regular conferences for a time of chat, worship and teaching - we have the benefit of getting back into student mode without the pressure of having to produce an assignment!! We recently had a very interesting day with Patrick Mitchel teaching on Open Theism/Futureism - there were quite a few animated conversations as we broke into small groups to discuss this issue.

Cáirde has a desire to support IBI and the students currently studying here. This year, we have been able to give over €600 by way of student grants, we have also donated some books to the library and sponsored a Student Award at graduation. We look forward to expanding this support as membership grows.

All past students of IBI (and those who previously attended the Irish Bible School or the Leadership Institute) are eligible to join, even if you have only completed a module. There is an annual sub of €20 per person, or €30 for couples where both are past students. Perks of membership include:

- free membership of the IBI library
- a 10% discount at all IBI short courses/events
- free attendance at Cáirde conferences/events and receipt of Cáirde newsletters

A new development for members this year is that we now have a dedicated Cáirde area on the IBI website which we can use to keep in touch with each other, have discussion forums and post any news/event details, and we pray that this will be a valuable tool to all members in time.

Date for your diary:

Our next event is planned for **Saturday 16th August 2008** in Dun Laoghaire Evangelical Church from 12 noon to 5pm, and will be followed by a Bar-B-Que. The costs are as follows:

| | Conference | BBQ |
|-----------------------------|------------|-----|
| Cáirde members | Free | €10 |
| Non-members (Past students) | €15 | €10 |

Please feel free to bring family and/or friends to the Bar-B-Que.

Contact me at IBI if you want to join Cáirde or book in for this event.

Email: cairde@IBIonline.ie

Dawn Langrell (on behalf of the Cáirde Committee)




Masters Enrolment
January 2009
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For further details
contact Dawn on
01-8069060 or visit
www.IBIonline.ie

Prayer and Praise

As we have come to the end of another academic year we would like to praise God for the privilege of teaching and learning from a terrific bunch of students. It has been a great joy and tremendous encouragement to witness their growth in knowledge and see them develop spiritually. Would you please continue to pray:

- For those students who are faced with decisions regarding the way ahead. Pray that the Lord would guide them and that they would make wise choices as they seek to serve Him in their own church context. This was why they came to IBI in the first place, pray that their dreams will be realised.
- That the Holy Spirit will draw new students to IBI so that men and women will be better equipped to serve in the growing Irish church.
- For IBI's development plan as detailed in this newsletter. Please pray that all we do would be in accordance with the Lord's will for the work here as we seek to provide leadership training for the Irish church.
- As we try to realise some more floor space in Ulysses House. Increased student and staff numbers has necessitated some reorganisation. Pray that this would benefit staff and students alike and that it might be accomplished during July/August.



IBI Graduation
September 28th 2008
Wesley College, Dundrum
4.00pm
Speaker - Derek Tidball

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| For Charitable giving Cheques payable to IBI and post to: Dawn Langrell IBI, Ulysses House 22-24 Foley St, Dublin 1 CHY 06478 | For Tax Efficient giving Checks payable to Irish Bible Institute and post to: Nils Petersen IBI, P.O. Box 681152 Schaumburg Illinois 60168-1152, USA 501c No: 36-4380290 | Charitable donations Cheques payable to Irish Christian Charity Services and post to: Dawn Langrell IBI, Ulysses House 22-24 Foley St, Dublin 1 |



IBI Digest

Summer 2008

www.IBIonline.ie

A New Plan and New People

Jim Collins in his book 'Good to Great', throws convention out the window when he claims one should first get the right people onboard and then figure out where one wants to go. One of the things that excites me is that we have a great team of staff already on board. This team is being supplemented by the arrival of Ruth and Robbie Burns (see page 3). Recently, we have been thinking through where God wants us to go. The result of this process is a new Development Plan 2008-2012. The plan has seven key components, four of which we hope to address in the next two years.

Development of Ulysses House

As a vital enabling factor for the future, we are redeveloping our floor in Ulysses house this summer. We have experienced a 60% increase in student numbers since we moved in 2005 and a similar growth in staff numbers. This means we need to enlarge our office space and student dining area, enhance classroom technology and replace/upgrade our server, network, office computers and software.

Research/resources and staff development

From the beginning, one of our goals has been to contribute to a body of writing for the Irish church. There is little evangelical literature available to stimulate contextualized biblical thinking within Ireland. During discussions with our Advisory Council, key church leaders indicated that this should be a priority for IBI.

We hope to publish a number of key papers each year via our website, while providing other resources for the Irish church including: book reviews; useful websites on key topics; and regular "thought pieces" on contemporary issues. We also plan to enable our teaching staff to engage in research, further their education and pursue opportunities for writing. This level of commitment to research is necessary if IBI is to contribute to theological thinking within Ireland in the long term.

E-learning and learning technologies

Because of our commitment to holistic training, our concern regarding online learning has been that we might only address the head (content) issues and neglect the heart (character) and hands (competency). However,

two developments in the last year have relieved that concern. First, having looked at a number of colleges and seminaries already involved in this process, we now believe it is possible to accomplish all three elements of our model via a blend of learning. Secondly, Dr. Robbie Burns, head of learning at Ireland's largest third level institute, DIT, is retiring this summer and has agreed to work with IBI. Robbie has just completed a PhD, which specifically researched ways of supporting academic staff as they introduce online learning technologies.

Robbie will guide us in developing and establishing a technology based Learning Management System, to facilitate both in-class and online learning. This will be piloted in-house later this year, in anticipation of online courses being offered. Online learning will enhance our present delivery, and create greater accessibility to our courses throughout Ireland.



Church leadership Institute (life-long learning)

Over the years, many strong relationships have developed across denominational and theological lines at IBI and we would love to see this continue in a life-long learning programme for church leaders. One idea is to offer one day per month for eight months of the year; focusing on a variety of issues such as vision, time management, personal spirituality, ethics, preaching, etc. This will build strong relationships across a broad evangelical church network using the strengths of our present teachers in their areas of expertise, and even drawing on some of the recent research done by MA students for dissertations. This programme could be offered in a number of locations around the country.

Their Story continues ...

As we end another academic year and students complete their studies, several of them will be moving on. It is an amazing privilege to be part of what God is doing in their lives and every student has contributed to the life of IBI and will be missed as part of the 'family'. Each has a story to tell as they disperse to serve in the areas of ministry, mission or the market place. Here two students share a little about their journey to IBI and beyond:

Sarah Kingston has studied with us full-time for two years, she will graduate with a Higher Education Diploma in Applied Theology:



Sarah Kingston

"I'm from Bandon, Co. Cork, grew up in a family of 7 children with Christian parents, and became a Christian when I was 7 or 8 at a camp. I attend Carrigaline Baptist Church where I am mostly involved in youth ministry with clubs and a youth group as well as camp work. After school, I studied Nutritional Science in UCC for four years.

At an IFES conference during third year at UCC I was challenged about what I was going to do with my life and if I would have regrets if I didn't live it for God. Having been on a mission trip to Ukraine, I was thinking of going there for a few years. I talked through the options with my IFES staff worker and he mentioned IBI as a good starting point. I looked up the website and knew immediately that this was for me. The main reasons were the flexibility the course offered as I could still live in Cork and travel up and down to Dublin every week (which hasn't been a big ordeal thanks to Ryanair!), the opportunity to work with my church as part of the Mentoring and Apprenticeship Programme and the quality of teachers at IBI.

My experience has been all positive. I have had a wonderful time, learned a lot and made many new friends. IBI's motto of head, heart and hands has helped me to apply what I've learned to my own life and to serving others. The people at IBI are amazing, it is a place where you feel at home. The Mentoring and Apprenticeship Programme has been an area where I think I have benefitted the most. This is the designated time that you spend working with your church. I've had to step out my comfort zone and trust that God will equip me, which has been very good for me.

I have been working part time in youth work with my church for the past two years with the MAP programme. They have been extremely supportive and have offered me the opportunity to continue on a full time basis next year. This is an exciting prospect as we look to expand an already vibrant youth and children's work."



Cormac Shaw

Cormac Shaw is completing a BA Degree. A brilliant violin player, his musical talents have blessed us throughout his time here:-

"I am married to Karen and have five children - Conor (19), Lauren (15), Robert (11), Michael (deceased) and Daniel (4).

I was born and raised a Catholic in a place called Ravensdale just north of Dundalk. I came

to Dublin to study at UCD, graduating with a B.Comm in 1984 and qualifying as a Chartered Accountant in 1988. I have worked in various businesses over the past 20 years at senior management and director level.

I became a believer in 2002 and realised I had a lot to learn about my Christian faith. I signed up for an evening course at IBI later that year and I have been working my way through various modules ever since. I have scaled back on my business career over the past number of years in order to complete my studies at IBI and to help start a new expression of church called 'The Journey' in Blackrock, Co. Dublin, where we live.

I thoroughly enjoyed my time studying at IBI. It has been great to delve deeper into theology and gain an understanding of the historical contexts, the various underlying doctrines and the facets of church and ministry, all from a biblical perspective. The tutors are excellent at leading students into a rich appreciation for their subjects and in facilitating class discussion. There is always a focus on day-to-day life application of what we have learned. The new facilities at IBI are excellent and there is a broad range of reference material available in the library. For me, the interaction with other students was a key part of my IBI experience.

I now feel much better equipped to talk about the basis of my faith and I am more comfortable in my handling of the Bible. I believe that this will give me confidence to share the Good News of the Gospel with anyone who asks me the reason for the hope that I have.

On leaving IBI, I do not see my life changing radically. I hope to play my part with 'The Journey' and other groups in making the Kingdom of God unavoidable in our city and in our nation. I also hope to continue to use my management and accounting skills in business and teaching in order to support my family. No matter what, I would like to see my Christian faith impacting everything I do and to be used by God to point others to Him as the only true source of life."



Thinking about Bible College?

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(Continued from front page)

The final three components of the Development Plan are to:

- Establish a BA in Youth ministry as part of a youth institute
- Enhance the mentoring element within our apprenticeship programme to incorporate a mentoring centre
- Engage in offering courses addressing evangelism and Church planting issues within Ireland.

Our mission in all of this is to better serve the Irish Church and the plans which we have outlined above aim to do just that. Our prayer is that the Lord will grant us wisdom and guidance as we prayerfully commit the future of IBI to Him.

Jacob Reynolds, Principal.

New Staff at IBI

Robbie and Ruth Burns (pictured on front page), met at Queen's University Belfast, where they were both involved in the Christian Union. Before their marriage Ruth worked as a teacher and social worker while Robbie was the first full-time member of staff based in, what is now, IFES Ireland. After their marriage they moved to Dun Laoghaire and were actively involved in church life at Northumberland Hall, now Dun Laoghaire Evangelical Church.

Ruth worked as a Medical Social Worker and later, after a period as a full-time Mum, taught in St Andrew's College for ten years. For a few years before starting IBI as an MA student, she worked as a Social Worker.

Robbie meanwhile started a computer career and later transferred to an academic career in what is now the Dublin Institute of Technology. For the past five years he has been head of Learning Development at DIT, supporting academic staff to introduce learning technologies as part of the move to a student-centred learning environment which includes the use of internet options.

Over the past forty years they have experienced significant change in the Christian Church and community in Ireland. They experienced new church growth with the development of the Glenageary Fellowship, which later merged with City Gates Church. They have also been involved with SU Family Camps, and Robbie has been Chairman of the Irish Council, the Britain and Ireland Regional Council and the SU International Council. Here is what both have to say about their new involvement at IBI.

Ruth writes...

"When resigning from my last job to do the 3-year part-time MA in Applied Theology at IBI, my employer commented, "Well you certainly like a challenge." The same could be said of my new role with IBI, this time on staff. I have thoroughly enjoyed my studies at IBI, being exposed to authors I would not otherwise have read and having had my mind stretched and broadened in many ways.

The role has two aspects to it. I will help co-ordinate a research group which will explore ways of making the interesting material being produced by both MA and BA

students more widely available. Another part of this work will entail encouraging existing students to sustain some involvement in on-going learning. Secondly, it is planned that I should have some involvement with Steven Singleton in the Master's programme."

And Robbie...

"Since my early Christian experience, the Bible has been central to the development of my faith. I look back with gratitude at what God has done in Ireland in the past 40 years. The growth in student groups, now in all the third level colleges, has been remarkable and has impacted right across church life.

The fundamental issues affecting our changed society emphasise the need for the development of a biblical understanding. I believe IBI has a key role here to develop such leaders for Irish church life and beyond. The range of students facilitates a rich environment of learning, where the Bible is central and their diversity allows valuable insights to emerge. I hope my experience of academic systems and recent research into the challenges and opportunities to include online learning as part of the blend offered at IBI will deepen the existing learning experience of current students and provide opportunity to enable even more to benefit from the opportunities that are becoming accessible from all over Ireland."

Farewell



Heather Maiden, our part-time librarian is moving south. She and her husband, Craig, and family, are moving with Baptist Missions from Ballycullen, where Craig has been leading the development of a new church, to Kinsale, Co. Cork, where Craig will be starting all over again. Heather will be greatly missed at IBI, by both

students and staff. She has done a great job in managing and developing the library over the last few years, with unfailing good humour and self-deprecating wit. We wish the Maiden family God's blessing as they follow Jesus' command to 'Go and make disciples'.

Open Evening

If you are considering a course at IBI
You are invited to come to an
information evening and meet with
students and staff

On
September 9th 2008
From 18.00 pm til 20.00 pm
To let us know you will be coming
please contact
Linda on 01-8069060 or
email linda@IBionline.ie