

## Prayer and Praise



Many thanks for your on-going prayers for the work of IBI. We are very grateful for the way in which the Lord has blessed us with dedicated and committed students. It is such a privilege to see spiritual growth in people and realize that these changed, well equipped lives are going out to affect their local churches, communities and places of work. Your prayers impact all of that.

► We are now well into the second semester. Some students are managing very well and some struggle to balance study with all that every day life demands. Pray that the Lord would give them perseverance and encouragement in their faith. Please remember also our MA students many of whom work in full-time ministry and other jobs.

► At this time of the year we start thinking about the next intake of students. Pray the Lord would direct the hearts and minds of those who may be considering taking courses at IBI and that our efforts to advertise and recruit would be blessed with a good number of enthusiastic and committed new students.

► God has truly blessed our Annual Appeal this year and we are so thankful for his provision through the sacrificial giving of his people. Fundraising does however remain an on-going challenge as we look to the next academic year. Jacob has just returned from the US, where he has been trying to raise awareness and expand our support base.

► Please pray for one of our graduates, who is mourning the loss of a much loved son of only twelve years in age. Our hearts go out to him and his family. Pray that they would know and feel the compassion of the Lord at this time and in the future.

Again many thanks

Every Blessing,

Anne Somerville, PA to the Principal



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

## Open Day and Information Evening

If you are considering a course at IBI  
You are invited to come and sit in  
on class and meet with staff  
on  
April 22nd  
For times and details and to book in  
please contact  
Linda on 01-8069060 or  
email [linda@IBIonline.ie](mailto:linda@IBIonline.ie)

## Financial Review



A huge 'Thank you' to everyone who has contributed towards our Annual Appeal. We have been amazed and humbled by the response, which has been much higher than in previous years. When you consider the current economic climate we are living in that is particularly encouraging. We continue to monitor our budget closely, and the cutbacks implemented in the new year continue. We are very thankful to the Lord for His provision for IBI once again, and continue to look to Him for every need in the coming months and year. Pray with us, that together we will be good stewards of all that God provides.

Dawn Langrell, Bursar.



The next Cáirde event will take place on  
Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2009, in **Kilkenny**.

Please note the change of location, and do plan to come. We will meet in Kilkenny Presbyterian Church from 12 noon to 5pm.

Our speaker will be Jonathan Reid.

Cost – free to members, €15 to past students who are not yet members of Cáirde.

Please book in by April 30<sup>th</sup> by contacting

[Dawn@IBIonline.ie](mailto:Dawn@IBIonline.ie)

IBI, Ulysses House, 22-24 Foley St., Dublin 1 / 01-8069060 / [info@IBIonline.ie](mailto:info@IBIonline.ie) / [www.IBIonline.ie](http://www.IBIonline.ie)

# IBI Digest

Spring 2009



## Walk with us..

It is good not to walk alone! We enjoy and deeply appreciate the company of many of you who walk with us. Some walk as supporters, helping to carry forward the vision for IBI through prayer and financial support. We are grateful that the Lord has placed us on your heart and that you have responded by journeying with us in this way. Others walk with us for a time as students. Several will finish their courses in May and our paths will diverge. As they depart, we are now meeting new students who are following a 'call' to begin a journey with us

In walking alongside one another we are spurred on to greater things than we imagined ourselves capable. In the physical sense, walking gives us time to think, to talk, to listen to one another and it creates community. For many of us car drivers, walking is something we do to exercise but we seldom walk to get anywhere! Not so with Scripture - in the Bible everyone is walking somewhere and with a purpose both physical and spiritual. Likewise, we are called to be a people on the move, growing spiritually and, as we are changed, changing society by the way we live.

God called Abraham out of Ur and Abraham walked all the way to Canaan and into God's blessing for his life and the whole earth. God called Moses to bring his people out of Egypt and they walked (with a few detours over 40 years!) into the blessing of the Promised Land.

Jesus walked the Galilee area and the Gospels recall journeys back and forth to Jerusalem. He walked from Gethsemane to Golgotha; and the risen Lord walked from Jerusalem to Emmaus. As he walked, he taught. There are two verses at the beginning of Matthew 5 that are intriguing and easily missed;

"When Jesus saw his ministry drawing huge crowds, he climbed a hillside. Those who were apprenticed to him, the committed, climbed with him. Arriving at a quiet place, he sat down and taught his climbing companions..." (Mt 5:1-2 *The Message*)

The Gospels make it obvious that Jesus had a very deliberate plan in place for his three-year, itinerant ministry, part of which

was developing his disciples. His message was received by many. At times it was appropriate that these disciples stay where they were and tell their family or neighbours the good news (Lk 8:39 and Jn 4:39). On other occasions, the walk he beckoned them on was more challenging. Those who climbed and sat at his feet to learn were the ones who would later be described as people who 'turned the world upside down' (Acts 17:6).

To walk with Jesus is a commitment to get to know him through study of God's Word, the pursuit of holiness, and a life of sacrificial service to a broken and hurting world. This will involve, of course, our spiritual transformation but also the transformation of the culture in which we live as we model His Kingdom come on earth. The call is still to be known as the ones who turn the world upside down!

Here at IBI it is a pleasure to walk with men and women who have responded to this call and to serve them as they are equipped to bring in the Kingdom in every facet of life whether ministry, mission or market place. Our students come from all walks of life and from diverse backgrounds. This makes the journey through here an interesting and varied one.

In this issue you will meet several students who currently walk with us. Jonny and Sheila Lindsay are working together on the new Christian magazine VOX; Kevin Barrett works in the midst of the troubled financial sector; Marie Quinlan from Co. Tipperary is a housewife and mother of two teenage children and Jamie and Amy Gilbert are newlyweds who have a passion for the Gospel and soccer!



Linda Basdeo, BA Programme administrator

Please pray for these students, and others like them, past, present and future, that their time at IBI will deepen their walk with Jesus and lead them to be his agents of change across Ireland.



Jonny and Sheila Lindsay

**What made you consider IBI?**

A few factors contributed to how we decided to study in IBI. The ethos of "Head, Hearts and Hands", coupled with the modules offered were attractive; being of a very practical nature and taught with the view of understanding the Irish culture. Being validated by

University of Wales was an added bonus in that it will enable us to pursue/continue to pursue further education should we be based elsewhere. We also enjoyed and valued being in a class with others from all walks of life, of varied denominations, cultures, age; it certainly enriches one's learning experience.

**What is the one thing above all that has been a blessing to you?**

*Sheila:* To study and learn again after such a long lapse of time. The teaching methods of the lecturers and the nature of assignments (yes...the much dreaded assignments had their pluses too) made learning interesting and motivating.

**What are some of the things that God has taught you?**

*Jonny:* I am not a very disciplined person - I need deadlines to encourage (or force?) me to get certain things done, so this makes IBI the perfect place for me - lots of deadlines! I love the variety of the subjects, from church history with all its facts and dates right through to the very personal pastoral care which had a close impact on all in the class at some stage. My evening class is currently looking at church history in the middle ages - it's fascinating to hear the stories of all the different characters (warts and all) on whose shoulders we now stand. Our lives are a walk in the park compared to what they went through!

**How does what you are learning connect with your work?**

*Jonny:* What we're currently doing wouldn't be classed as typical ministry, but then aren't we all called to minister? I think I picked up quite a lot of very practical tools in the pastoral care class, that I've already been able to use. Especially in the current climate, people are longing for a listening ear and some signs of care. This is our chance!

**What do you think God might be calling you to after you graduate?**

*Jonny:* For the last ten years we worked with OM, five years onboard the MV Doulos (where we met - not as romantic as you might think!) and then five years here with OM Ireland. Since the summer though we are now part of an exciting new project, launching Ireland's only inter-denominational Christian magazine, VOX. It has been a massive amount of work since we are a very small team of three part-timers, but thanks to a lot of support from others and a gracious God, the first issue was launched in mid-January. The feedback has been very positive which we are delighted about.

But, as Fianna Fáil put it, "a lot done, a lot more to do"! If any of the readers are interested in the magazine, we won't turn anyone away from subscribing at [www.voxmagazine.ie](http://www.voxmagazine.ie)

We are in a transition at the moment after spending 10 years with OM. Currently involved in VOX magazine and seeing where the Lord will lead us in the year(s) ahead. Pray for patience and faith during this time.

Jonny and Sheila Lindsay



Kevin Barrett

When a friend suggested that I join him on the evening course in IBI I was looking for some 'formal' Bible study but had no idea that Tuesday evenings would become the highlight of the week for the next three years as my initial one year commitment got extended and extended.

I was immediately impressed by the very high teaching standards and challenged throughout by the variety of assignments. I was equally impressed by the commitment of all the teachers to true head, hands and heart learning. IBI was giving me more than head knowledge and I was regularly 'stretched' in my spiritual walk. Reflective or practical assignments balanced the more academic modules and kept the 'Relationship with God' as central which, after all, is why we read the Bible in the first place.

While I have been reading the Bible for many years, one of the most useful things I learnt in my first year was how to interpret the different forms of literature contained in God's word and how to arrive at a correct application of the text. If I had had this knowledge years ago I could have avoided a lot of confusion and wrong application!

Prior to studying at IBI I had little real understanding of the Old Testament. I always found it difficult to know how to understand the prophets or the seemingly strange actions of God in different Old Testament stories. It all seemed to me to be somewhat disconnected from the God of the New Testament and just a bit too hard for me to figure out. While not all my questions were answered, I did come away with a new respect for the Old Testament and a real sense of God revealing himself through history.

It is now less than a year since I finished in IBI and, while I miss the special experience of the Tuesday evening class, I am trying to find ways to put the things I have learned into practice. I have been increasingly challenged not to see my life in Christian and non-Christian segments and have tried to become more involved in the life of my church, particularly through using the Bible study skills I learned to teach the word.

Kevin Barrett



Marie Quinlan

The day I walked into IBI I knew it was right for me. I love the Lord and just wanted to learn more about him and be better equipped to share his love with others. Using the head, heart and hands motto has helped me hugely to put into practice what I learn. I have been challenged to step out of my comfort zone and teach at a ladies day in church. This through God's grace led to starting a weekly women's group in my home where we study God's word and how to apply it to our lives. Also I have got involved with a youth group which I wouldn't have dreamt of before.

I am amazed by God's transforming grace and have been stretched and encouraged by both staff and students.

Marie Quinlan



Jamie and Amy Gilbert

Even though we were studying the Bible on our own during the free hours of the day, we found ourselves wanting more: more direction, more insight and more of a relationship with God. After speaking with our pastor, he pointed us in the direction of IBI where our thirst for more was quenched.

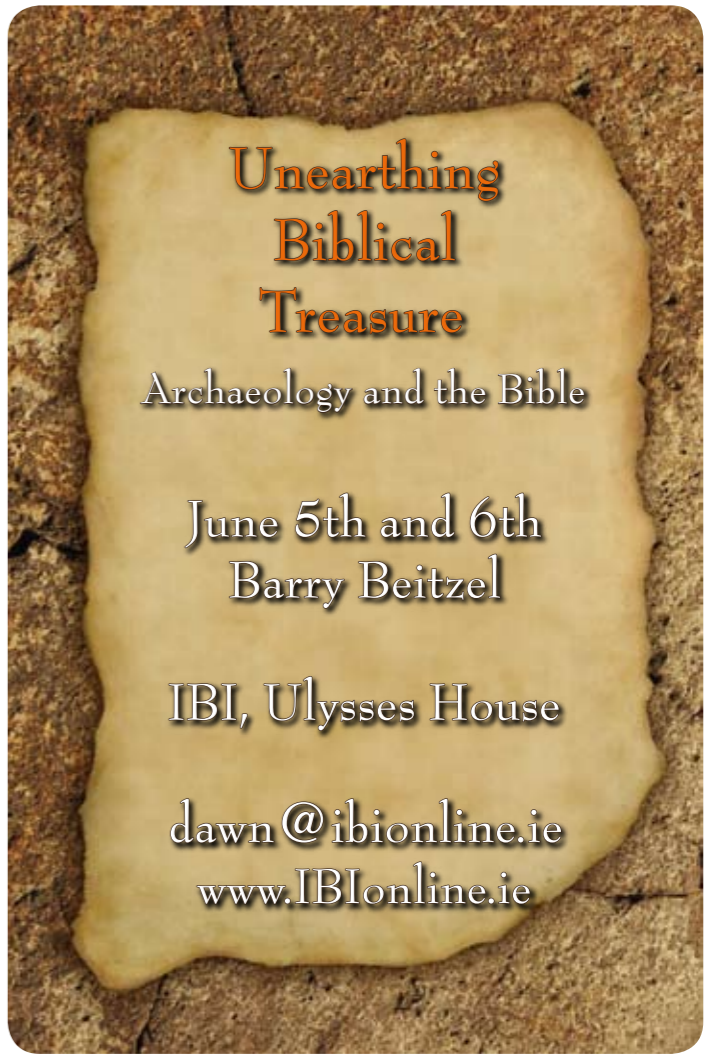
Over the last few terms God has taught us about the sufficiency and power of His Word, that He doesn't fit in any sort of a box we try shaping, and how little we deserve to be heirs to His throne. Though these lessons have refined us and we are so very thankful for them, they were not easy to accept as each one required months of grappling in prayer, reflection and confession. Surprisingly, one of the greatest things God has taught us at IBI is that Christians don't all look the same. Some sing and dance and others lay low, some hardly stop talking and others hardly talk, some mostly smile and others mostly weep, but at the end of the day they all share in the truth that Christ is Lord.

Some of the greatest blessings for us as a couple are that we are being refined together and are able to support and pray for one another, and that we have a tight-knit family at IBI who has helped us transition into life in Ireland and has prepared us for building loving relationships with folk in our every-day life. Most certainly, IBI has improved the skills needed for children's ministry and sports ministry, but most of all it has been the platform for understanding how to love as God loves us.

After graduation we are considering pursuing a master's degree for further studies and training with a view of full-time ministry in the future. The context of that ministry is not certain, but whatever we do and wherever we go we are certain that God has prepared us well for His task through the work, studies, and relationships at IBI.

Jamie and Amy Gilbert

# Summer Institute 2009



It is a special privilege to welcome Dr. Barry Beitzel, *Professor of Old Testament and Semitic Languages* at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, Deerfield, IL as our **2009 Summer Institute Lecturer**. Dr. Beitzel will lead us in the fascinating topic of **UNEARTHING BIBLICAL TREASURES- Archaeology and the Bible**. Barry is more than a scholar, however, which is why we are so pleased to have him lead our summer institute. He is a teacher and a gifted communicator who understands ministry. Prior to teaching at Trinity Seminary, he also served as Christian education minister at two California churches.

*"I was privileged to have Barry Beitzel both as a lecturer and as a mentor. His knowledge of the Biblical World and the Old Testament is simply staggering. His love for God and the Word is infectious and to listen to him teach is a real treat. He has been, beyond a shadow of doubt, the most influential person in my life in the area of Biblical Studies. If that weren't enough, he also has a pastor's heart. His ability to bring a dynamic subject into union with application and relevance will make the 2009 Summer Institute one to remember for a very long time."*

Jonathan Schuster, Lecturer in Old Testament, IBI

For more information :  
[Visit /www.ibionline.ie/ibi/upcoming\\_events.php](http://www.ibionline.ie/ibi/upcoming_events.php)