



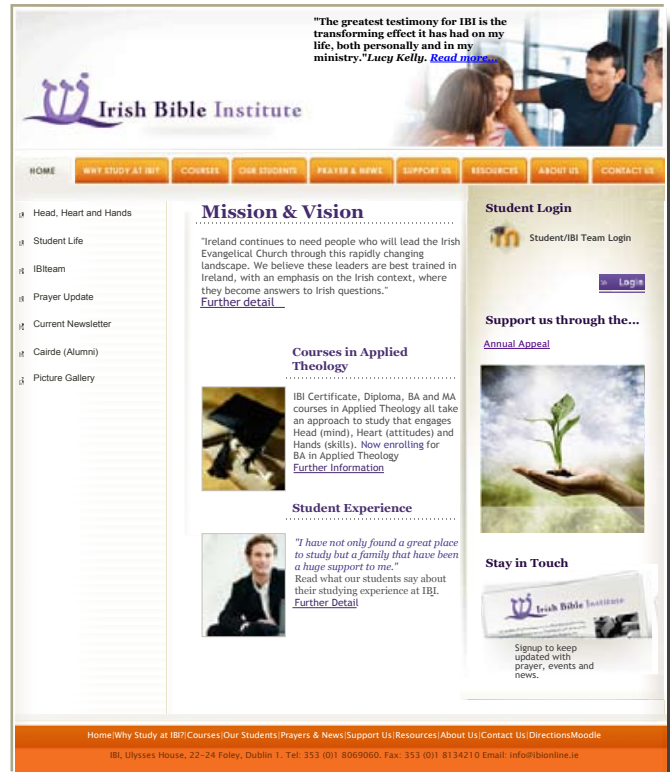
www.IBlonline.ie Irish Bible Institute



New IBI Website Launched

We are delighted to announce the launch of our new website. It doesn't only look different, it is now a real "one-stop-shop" for everything to do with IBI. You can:

- ➔ Find detailed course information and download a prospectus and application form
- ➔ Read stories from our students both past and present
- ➔ Learn about and book into upcoming events
- ➔ Sign up for regular prayer updates
- ➔ Students will soon be able to log into their own area for course notes and discussion groups
- ➔ You can even now make online donations and pay fees via the online giving facility.



Why not pay us a visit today!

Masters Students

Read more about the MA students at www.IBlonline.ie/our_students/

Three years of MA students came together for a week's teaching on Evangelicalism given by Patrick Mitchel. 7 new MA students joined this year to bring the total number to thirty two.



Standing, (l-r), Billy Cooper, Hugh Morrison, Jonathan McCracken, James Hardy, Mike Neglia, Aubrey McCarthy, Jabulani Mwale, John Murphy, and Roy Hanan.

2nd row, (l-r), Philip Matthews, Joe Donnelly, Adam Jones, William Perry, Kieran Ryan, Kieran Taylor, Rory McDonald, and Jonathan Reid. 3rd row, (l-r), Lynda Gould, Ingrid Harley, Tom Gilliam, Paul Perry, Dougie McCormack, and Kathi Perry. Front row, (l-r), Sharon Wood, David Stanfield, Ruth Burns, Rosemary Lindsay, David Dunlop, and Kieron Lynch.

IBI digest

Spring 2007

A good time to be a Christian

It is a good time to be a Christian in Ireland. Why? Well, I've just finished teaching an MA course on 'Evangelicals in Ireland' and preparing for it has made me think afresh about 'times past' and 'times present'. All things considered, I've concluded that today holds much greater potential for the advance of the 'Good News' of the gospel in Ireland than perhaps at any time for centuries. That sounds like a big claim so let's consider why.

Evangelicals have been around in Ireland since the time of the Moravian John Cennick in 1746. But it was the arrival John Wesley and the Methodist movement around the same time that proved to be a catalyst for the extraordinary advance of evangelical faith in Ireland during the 19th century. The reach of evangelical influence in Ireland was remarkable in that it penetrated the highest echelons of Protestant society. Figures such as Lord Farnham, Robert Jocelyn, the future Lord Roden, Power le Poer Trench (Archbishop of Tuam in 1819), the Wingfield (Powerscourt) family (particularly Lady Theodosia Powerscourt) and the La Touches of Bellevue constituted a formidable source of political and economic capital which was used to fund and facilitate rapid evangelical expansion.

But this Protestant Ascendancy was facing increasing political insecurity. The French revolution of 1789 and the apocalyptic scenes of the 1798 rebellion had deeply shaken the established order. On top of this, the Protestant minority was also facing the threat of an increasingly numerous and disaffected Catholic peasantry and the rising assertiveness of political Catholicism, particularly in the form of Daniel O'Connell's campaign for Catholic Emancipation.

In the face of such challenges, Irish Protestantism needed a 'big idea' and the one that emerged was that of the advance of evangelical Christianity. What followed was an educational evangelistic campaign (described by one writer as a 'Protestant crusade') unheralded in its

Continued on back page

*Irish Bible Institute
Graduation and
Commencement 2007
Sunday
September 30th
4.00 pm
Wesley College,
Dundrum*

Summer Institute 2007

Job

A Message for Children of Dust
Dr. Gus Konkel

June 5th-8th
9.00am-1.00pm
Cost eur100

Dealing with suffering is a universal problem. The book of Job has much to say to those who struggle with suffering and pain while genuinely seeking God in the middle of it all. The book tackles "the mystery of evil" and "the issue of the innocent suffering" and considers "man's place before God".

The answers may not be what we expect or want, but answers they are. Come and find out more about Job's message to "The children of dust".

Dr Gus Konkel is President and Professor of Old Testament at Providence Seminary, Manitoba, Canada.

In addition to having been on the translation team of Job in the New Living Translation Gus has written commentary on Job. (Tyndale Press, Cornerstone Biblical Commentary 2006).

His commentary on 1 and 2 Kings has just been published in the Zondervan, NIV Application Commentary series. And he is writing a commentary on Chronicles for Herald Press (Believer's Church Biblical Commentary).

"While Gus will not be known to most, I want personally to recommend this year's Summer Institute. While Gus is an excellent academic, he has an incredible ability to communicate profound biblical truth so that it is understood by all. More than any other single individual it was Gus who instilled in me a love for the Old Testament by his gift of making it come vividly to life for today's world.

I am confident that all who attend will learn much and have a very enjoyable time in the process".

Jacob Reynolds, Principal

To book your place, contact dawn@IBIonline.ie, or visit our website at [www.IBIonline.ie/Summer Institute](http://www.IBIonline.ie/Summer%20Institute).



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Course Options 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 2008. (Validated by the University of Wales)

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 2007. (Validated by the University of Wales)

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 formally validated qualification or are not in a position to study at degree level. Course begins September 2007.

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 2007.

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 semester in which the course begins. Semesters begin September and late January. Applications open all year.

For an application form contact Linda at 01- 806 9060 or email linda@IBIonline or visit our website at www.IBIonline.ie

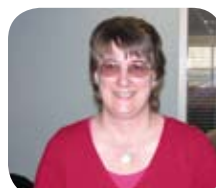
What the students say



"Study has been by turns affirming, challenging, stimulating, frustrating, helpful, scary but never boring."
Rosemary Lindsay MA student.



"We have some great discussions both in class and during our breaks as we share our knowledge and understanding of God and Scripture."
Charlie Mills BA student.



"Really the best thing about IBI is that it's a living teaching place to learn (and unlearn) about God and Jesus. Faith is touchable from the students to the tutors and to the staff."
Valerie Hilliard Certificate student



"Everything I have been taught at IBI has been put into practice or shared with people at work."
Stephen Hamar, Evening course student.



"I had been away from academic studies for a long time and wasn't sure if I could manage a full course so I opted for one module. Not only did I find the help I needed to get back into study mode but it gave me a hunger for more."
Carol Robinson Modular student

To find out more about each course described above visit www.IBIonline.ie/courses/

To read the full stories of each of these students visit www.IBIonline.ie/ourstudents

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 18th from 10.00am til 2.00 p.m.

To book in please contact
linda at 01-8069060 or email linda@IBIonline.ie

Eric Chaloner @ IBI



Eric is Head of Support and Development at IBI. His job is to develop relationships between IBI and individuals, churches and other organisations. Eric answers some questions about what this role entails.

How do you approach fundraising?

IBI is a faith ministry, so the term fundraising rings alarm bells in my head.

We want to enable folk to give as the Lord prompts them and to avoid pressure or manipulation. So, I try to answer questions and supply information to aid what needs to be a spirit led process. Also to be more than responsive and to recognise when it is appropriate to ask

How much does IBI need to raise?

The amount rises each year, due mostly to growth in student numbers. This year we need at least €315,000 in donations to balance the books. It is particularly encouraging that over 70% of our support comes from within Ireland and mostly from individuals.

Does tax back really make a difference to IBI?

Yes, and more than you might think. If you are in the PAYE system we can reclaim tax paid on donations made, with certain restrictions. Last year we received additional 'bonus donations' of €13,500 from the revenue authorities. [for more information visit www.IBOnline.ie/support]

Why give to IBI ?

If you need any convincing you should speak to one of our past or present students. I promise you will be captivated by a sense of the Lord's working. Lives enriched, expanded and enabled are a great testimony to the effectiveness of quality Christian training. I have no doubt that IBI plays a vital role in shaping the Church of today and tomorrow in this country. You can be part of that exciting process.

Eric Chaloner

Prayer and Praise

- ⇒ IBI Certificate & BA Students: We are now half way through the academic year, please pray for all our students, particularly those who are struggling with health or personal matters at the moment.
- ⇒ MA Students: Our third intake or 'Cohort' started in January, please pray for them and all MA students as they prepare to submit further papers.
- ⇒ IBI team: Pray for our teachers, they will also be blessed with renewed joy as they prepare and teach.
- ⇒ Pray for all staff members as they take care of the daily running of IBI.
- ⇒ Giving thanks for the growth we are experiencing, pray that the Lord would enable our staff to serve the student body with compassion, care and competence.
- ⇒ Our new website www.IBOnline.ie: Pray that it will be an effective tool to inform people who we are and what we do, that it will clearly reflect the aim of 'excellence' that we at IBI aspire to in the Lord's name.

A good time to be a Christian (continued from 2nd page).

scope, vigorousness and ambition, to convert the Catholic population. Why? Well, historians point out that there was a widespread 19th century belief that biblical Christianity was the most effective guarantor of social and political stability and that it had been Protestant religion and constitutional government had saved Britain from the terrors of revolution that had overtaken France. Peter Roe, a well known Irish evangelical leader, put it this way, 'Those who are most under the influence of the word of God are most anxious that its [government] administration should proceed steadily and uninterrupted - while, on the contrary, those who are unacquainted with, or neglect, or oppose that word, are dissatisfied, turbulent and rebellious.'

Now discerning motives of others is hard enough when you know someone well, let alone of people who lived over 170 years ago. I am sure there were many different ideas behind the initiative, including those of who were spurred to action, not by political self-interest, but by a primarily spiritual desire to share the gospel. However, the legacy of the 19th century Protestant evangelistic campaign had at least two long-lasting and unfortunate aspects. One was that it contributed to a hardened antagonism that came to define relations between Protestants and Catholics and was to become permanent feature of the Irish political landscape in the 20th century during which there was an unofficial, almost unspoken apartheid between Catholic and Protestant identities. The second was that evangelical Christianity became inextricably associated with the political interests of a Protestant and British identity and was perceived as an alien form of Christianity compared to the assumed innate 'Irishness' of Catholicism.

It is only in this generation that the predictable, bi-polar boundaries of the past are (at last!) beginning to collapse. The long alliance of Catholicism and Irish identity is breaking down, allowing more 'space' for other religious identities within a broadened understanding of Irishness. Contemporary Irish evangelicalism is, for the first time in history, largely made up of people from a Catholic and nationalist cultural identity, supplemented by a those from a Protestant background and, even more recently, by increasing numbers of immigrant 'ethnic evangelicals'. Recent research suggests relatively rapid growth in the last 25 years. For example, less than 150 evangelical congregations existed in Ireland in 1980, compared with over 400 today, resulting in a rise in total attendance from less than 10,000 in 1980 to over 30,000 by 2006.

While still small in scale, this is a revolutionary development in light of the divided legacy of Irish history. A new type of evangelical community is emerging, this time not a Protestant elite associated with preserving their political power, but one enriched by a diverse range of people from different backgrounds existing within a broader and more inclusive Irish identity than that of the past. If this new type of evangelical community can manage to be 'of' the people while at the same time living out its calling to articulate the biblical and apostolic evangel from which it gets its name, then today truly will be a good time to be a Christian in Ireland.

Patrick Mitchel