

IBC Graduation 2017

A capacity congregation gathered in Lisburn Baptist on Wednesday 17th May to witness IBC students graduate. IBC courses range across a variety of levels from evening classes to Postgraduate studies, and this spectrum was well represented in the body of graduating students. There is a sense of relief and gratitude to God attached to the graduation ceremony, as well as some apprehension - students look back on the Lord's past leading, the profit of their time at IBC, and anticipate a new chapter in which they will lean on God's providence to guide them and use them in future ministry.



The evening was stirringly led off by the worship team from Emmanuel Baptist, Lisburn, and was chaired by ABCI President Pastor John Gault. A [video](#) highlighting the unique space which IBC occupies in providing conservative, evangelical training for ministry was shown, helpfully showcasing the academic rigour and practical exposure which the college provides for its students. Principal Pastor Edwin Ewart shared about the 10 year vision of the college, emphasising the robust ministry philosophy and training ethos which IBC upholds. The college seeks to be an 'institution active in the service of Christ, dependent on the grace of Christ, training students who will serve in churches, sharing what has been entrusted to them'. IBC stands for Biblical authority, is concerned for spiritual formation, and is staffed by experienced practitioners. Prayer was sought that God would provide 15 undergraduate, and 8-10 postgraduate students, and that existing staffing levels would be maintained. The offering for the evening was for the [Ministry Partnership Scheme](#), and amounted to £2630.



([Click here](#) for a 2 minute video of graduation highlights)



Following the awards presentation and an intercessory prayer from Dr Sarah Dalrymple, Dr David Luke and Dr Peter Firth hosted a series of interviews with graduating students from across the range of courses. Niall MacCárthaigh's comment that the college is 'an incredible resource our churches have, at a time of incredible spiritual need', was

representative of the appreciative tone of all those interviewed.

Our Assembly speaker, Pastor Bill James, closed the evening with a [message](#) from Colossians 1:24-2:5, focussing on the task, goal and means of Christian ministry. Pastor James directly challenged those graduating about how they would now use the training they had been given at IBC in their future ministry.



10 Year Vision

This is a significant year for Edwin Ewart, College Principal, and Nigel Younge, Director of Training, as they have been in post for 10 years. They have seen 64 graduates placed in various forms of ministry over the past 10 years and have been considering the next 10 years. They write...



We asked ourselves the **question** 'How will we reach our land and further afield with the gospel, break new ground, disciple the next generation and see our churches grow and develop?' We believe that **godly and effective leadership** is key.

The Irish Baptist College plays a **VITAL** role in providing that leadership.

We have set targets which we would like to become prayer ammunition.

1. 15 new undergraduate students each academic year.
2. 8 to 10 new postgraduate students each academic year.
3. Maintain the current staff team of 6 fulltime and 1 part-time.
4. Increase church & personal giving to give financial stability.

We believe that this would enable us, with God's help, to place

70 gospel workers into ministry positions over the next 10 years.

So please pray with us about this.

