

## Graduation 2016

College Graduation is always a great event in the life of the Irish Baptist College, and this year was no exception. It was great opportunity to celebrate the success of this year's graduates and to hear from the Assembly speaker Pastor Philip De Courcy.



The Graduation service marked the end of another year of attainment by IBC students. Thirty-five students graduated from the Day Release, Evening Classes, Women's Ministry Course and Ladies Study Course and Ladies Study Fellowship. A further fifteen full-time students graduated with College awards. Whilst twenty-one students who received University of Chester awards during the year

were also recognised. The range of awards points to the part the College plays in serving our Association of churches.

One of the great encouragements of the evening was the fact that eleven Peruvian students graduated, albeit *in absentia*. These were students who had completed the College Christian Education Diploma through the SEB-SUR Seminary in Tacna. It is hoped that this is the first sign of developing co-operation between the College and the Tacna Seminary.

The John B Craig Awards for Contribution to College Life, Application to Study and Pastoral and Communication Studies went to Elisha King, David Holmes and Joel Marcus respectively. The Hugh Burrows Award for Youth Ministry, Essay Prize went to Bertie Coffey.





Philip De Courcy's address taken from 1 Timothy 1 called upon students to cultivate a sense of amazement at what God has done in their lives. He noted that from the Apostle Paul onwards those who had amazing ministries were those who were amazed that they were in the ministry. It was a great message of encouragement from a College old boy to those who had graduated from College and are now preparing for a life in ministry.

## What's next for our graduates?

Stephen and Linda Park are among the graduates pictured. Stephen has been studying for 3 years full-time and Linda has completed the part-time Christian Education course while working as a GP. Stephen and Linda say:

"Naturally as Stephen's studies have drawn to a close, the future has been brought into sharper focus. We have spent much time thinking, praying, talking, exploring, searching - ultimately seeking God's will for us as a family. After contemplating various possibilities, we had the opportunity to talk to a number of missionaries at Kiwoko Hospital in Uganda and are currently exploring the possibility of longer term service based at Kiwoko.



So, in just 3 weeks we will be heading to Kiwoko for short exploratory trip (24<sup>th</sup> June – 17<sup>th</sup> July) during which we plan to spend some time looking at possible future ministries. [For more information on the hospital have a look at [www.kiwokohospital.org](http://www.kiwokohospital.org).]

We are all excited by the upcoming trip. We are planning to spend a few days at the end of the trip holidaying in Uganda, during which we can relax but also consider God's call for us as a family. We appreciate your ongoing interest and prayers."

### Thank you for praying for our September intake.

We currently have 13 enrolled for the Preparation for Ministry course and 3 Postgraduate students.

Our prayer target is 15 UG and 8 PG.

### Commencement Service

Tuesday 20th September  
7:30pm

Carrickfergus Baptist Church

Preacher: Jonathan Lamb  
(CEO and minister at large,  
Keswick Ministries)