Fifth International Brethren Conference on Mission

IBCM5

" I will build my Church "

Monday 13 June - Friday 17 June 2011

Strasbourg (France)

Four-yearly conference of national leaders in the worldwide Brethren movement

IBCM 5 FRANCE

CAEF
www.caef.net

Purpose

The missionary outreach of the Brethren movement has been remarkable. There are now churches linked to it in at least 130 countries. There are over 20,000 congregations with over 2m Sunday attenders, and maybe more.

But often Brethren churches in one country have little contact with those in other countries - and even between themselves within a country. In some countries, the number of churches is small; in others, large. Some groups are growing rapidly; some are stagnant or declining. Countries which received foreign missionaries are now sending workers abroad themselves.

All this means that it's good for Brethren leaders from the different countries to meet regularly for fellowship, prayer, spiritual reflection, renewed experience of the Lord, networking, exchange of information, discussion of common questions - above all, for mutual encouragement. IBCM conferences provide the opportunity.

So, join us in France on 13 - 17 June 2011!

Objectives

- To seek the presence and direction of the Lord together
- To enable leaders from across the world to discover and encourage each other
- To strengthen networking, fellowship and prayer
- To raise awareness of the spiritual challenges of current trends and cultural developments
- To share practical experience, ideas and methods
- To encourage younger leaders
- To encourage the development of regional conferences with similar objectives

Earlier IBCM conferences have stimulated new action and developments in a wide range of places across the world.

'Mission' in 'IBCM' refers to the whole task of the Church everywhere. We want to encourage churches to be 'missional' in the widest sense.

Our goal is that at least 90 countries should be represented at IBCM5, and we would be very happy to exceed that number.

The conference is for both men and women. In particular, please encourage and help younger leaders to come to the conference.

Conference theme

Under the title of 'I will build my church' (Mt. 16: 18), we plan to focus on growing the church in the many different settings, cultures, groups and generations which face us, and on what this means for the structure, practices and methods of our churches in different parts of the world.

Location

The IBCM International Planning Group is very happy that the IBCM5 conference has been invited to France by the **Commission de Référence et de Service of the Communautés et Assemblées Evangéliques de France** (CAEF - the body that unites about 100 assemblies in France).

The conference is to be held at Strasbourg, an ancient city on the Franco-German border which was important in the Reformation and is now the seat of the Parliament of the European Union. Conference sessions and main meals will be in the EPIS church buildings and overnight accommodation in the CIARUS or St-Thomas hotels or with a family.

Strasbourg is accessible from the international airports at Paris and Frankfurt (Germany) as well as other international hub airports in Europe. There are European air services to Strasbourg, Basle-Mulhouse and Karlsruhe-Baden. Strasbourg is well served by rail and motorways.

> For me, one of the greatest joys is to catch a glimpse of what God is doing in various parts of the world and the opportunity to get to know brothers and sisters serving under various conditions. IBCM4 participant

Entry Visas

Citizens of European Union and European Economic Area countries, and of a considerable number of other countries (including at present the USA, Australia, Canada, New Zealand, Malaysia, Singapore and some Central and South American countries) do not have to get a visa in advance to visit France. To check whether you need to get a visa in advance, visit **http://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/espaces_dedies.php3?id_rubrique=2045**

Those who need to get a visa in advance will need to apply themselves in very good time to the French diplomatic post in the country where they live. The visa application will need to be accompanied by an official letter of invitation to the conference, which will be issued by the CAEF. If you need to get a visa in advance, you must request the official letter of invitation on the booking form. You should not initiate your visa application until you have received the official letter of invitation. The decision whether to grant a visa is entirely a matter for the diplomatic post to which the application is made.

The cost of the visa will fall to the applicant.

For further information on visa requirements and procedures, please see the French Government website at **http://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/espaces_dedies.php3?id_rubrique=2045**

If you are then still in doubt, contact Matthew Glock, 2 rue Champ Rochas, F-38240 Meylan (**matthewglock@gmail.com**).

Conference fees

	on or before 31 March	After 31 March
1. Full conference including bed and breakfast (2-4 beds per room) in Ciarus hotel*	265 €	305 €
2. As above but single room in Ciarus or St-Thomas hotel	345 €	385 €
3. Full conference without bed and breakfast (but including lunch and supper)**	160 €	200 €
4. Daily rate***	40 €	50 €

** This fee also applies to accommodation with a local family.*
*** Includes lunch and evening meal, access to sessions and workshops, and conference pack.*
**** Those who wish to make their own hotel arrangements may do so and pay this conference fee; a list of hotels will be available on the websites at www.ibcm.net and www.caef.net.*

These fees include charges for use of conference facilities, equipment, translation costs, administration, main speakers' expenses, etc. The full fee includes an amount for the short daily tram trips between the hotel and the conference centre. The fees exclude all travel costs to and from the conference, which will fall to participants themselves, including those to and from airports. The fees are for the period from the evening meal on Monday 13 June to the afternoon of Friday 17 June. Accommodation can be available for nights before and after the conference by prior arrangement only at a cost of about €50 per person per day, including meals. Day visitors should still complete and submit the booking form.
No booking can be made without submitting a completed booking form.

I cannot stop telling my brothers and sisters of all the wonders of the conference…I have been very encouraged!
IBCM3 participant

Conference languages

We plan simultaneous translation with headphone between: English, French, Spanish, and German. Informal arrangements for translation into other languages will be made, as practicable and necessary.

Travel to and from France and airport-Strasbourg transfer

Conference participants are responsible for arranging and paying for their transport to and from France, and from the point of arrival in Europe to Strasbourg and return, and for meeting all costs associated with travel, including food and accommodation en route.

In short, this is one of the best conferences that I have ever attended. IBCM4 participant

Bookings and payment

Booking forms can be downloaded from the IBCM website (www.ibcm.net) or the CAEF website (www.caef.net). Please book electronically if possible. **Please return electronic booking forms** (one for each person being booked) to (**IBCM5France@gmx.net**). Paper bookings from outside France should be sent to: Neil Summerton, Abbey Court, Cove, Tiverton, UK, EX16 7RT. Bookings (electronic or paper) from those resident in France should be sent to: Matthew Glock, 2 rue Champ Rochas, F38240 Meylan (**matthewglock@gmail.com**).

- It is essential to complete and return a booking form if you want to book a firm place at the conference. If at all possible, please book by 15 May 2011.
- Once we have acknowledged receipt of your booking, please pay immediately either the full fee or a non-returnable deposit of €60.

Those paying their own fees are requested to pay the full fee by 31 March 2011, if at all possible (to assist in meeting advance payments for the overnight accommodation).

Payments can be made as follows

- **Electronic bank transfer** (transaction costs to be met by you):
Bank: Caisse d'Épargne Rhône Alpes
BIC: CEPAFRPP382
Ét.: 13825 Guichet: 00200 **Cpte**: 08002783926
Rib : 06
IBAN: FR76 1382 5002 0008 0027 8392 606
Please annotate the transfer instruction: 'For IBCM5 + [name of participant]'.

- **By PayPal** (a simple system permitting payment by credit card) on the websites www.ibcm.net or www.caef.net. There is a transaction charge varying with card type.

- **To pay by Sterling** cheque or bank transfer, contact Neil Summerton (**neil.summerton@ruralinternet.co.uk),** who can arrange payment via Partnership (UK) Ltd.

Insurance

All participants are strongly advised to arrange travel and medical insurance for themselves for the period that they will be outside their own country. See **www.ibcm.net** or **www.caef.net** for more details. Those who need to get a visa in advance will be required to provide evidence of medical, travel and repatriation insurance before a visa will be issued to them.

Assistance with costs

The IBCM International Planning Group recognises that participants from some countries (particularly in Africa and parts of Asia) may need financial assistance with conference fees and travel costs. Such assistance will only be given if essential to enable the participant to attend. Normally, only one person per country will be assisted, and assisted participants will be expected to make at least some financial contribution themselves.
To request assistance, please apply to Neil Summerton (**neil.summerton@ruralinternet.co.uk** or Abbey Court, Cove, Tiverton, Devon, EX16 7RT, UK). Please state why the assistance is needed and what proportion of costs you will be able to meet yourself.
Whether help can be given will depend on whether funds are available. Decisions on who will be assisted will not be made until the spring of 2011.
The organisers hope that individuals, churches and foundations will be willing to provide financial help to enable participants to attend the conference, and to meet administrative costs which will by no means be fully covered in the conference fee. If you can help in this way, please be in touch with Neil Summerton (**neil.summerton@ruralinternet.co.uk**).

Provisional programme

Monday 13 June

Arrival, registration, and meal at 6.30 pm
Opening Session 'I will build my Church'

Tuesday 14 June

Bible reading: 'Launching the Church' (Acts 2)
Strategic Session: 'Growing the Church in the world's cities'
Workshops - Worship and prayer - Inspiring international examples

Wednesday 15 June

Bible reading: 'Opposition and growth in Jerusalem' (Acts 4)
Strategic Session: 'Growing the church in the rural Third World'
Workshops - Worship and prayer - Inspiring international examples

Thursday 16 June

Bible reading: 'Mission in Samaria' (Acts 8)
Strategic session: 'Growing the church among young people'
Workshops - Worship and prayer - Inspiring international examples among young people

Friday 17 June

Bible reading: 'Mission to the Gentiles' (Acts 10 & 11)
Strategic session: 'Re-launching growth in the developed world'
Worship and communion
Closing address: 'Grow the church'

There will be exhibition space to enable participants to give information about their work for the Lord.