

Please publish the details of this conference in national magazines serving the Brethren movement in your country, on websites, and otherwise make the details known to those who would be interested in coming to the conference.



BE MY WITNESSES



The International Brethren Conference on Mission (IBCM) brings together every four years national leaders and others who work within the Brethren movement across the world. The aims are biblical reflection, mutual encouragement and insight, fellowship, strategic thinking, and, we pray, renewed guidance from the Lord.

Seventh International Brethren Conference on Mission

You shall be my witnesses

Monday 24 June - Friday 28 June 2019
Hotel Selene, Pomezia, Rome, Italy

We invite you and others who are active in the Brethren movement worldwide to join us at the **IBCM7 conference**. It is (DV) to be held at the Hotel Selene, Pomezia, near Rome from **Monday 24 June to Friday 28 June 2019**.

The conference will be followed on Friday afternoon 28 June to Saturday afternoon 29 June 2019 by extra sessions organised by the **Brethren Training Network**. **NB, these additional sessions will be at extra cost to those who choose to stay on to participate in them.**



In response to the Great Commission, the Brethren movement has been remarkable in its missionary work for Christ in the past 180 years. As a result, there are local churches connected with the movement in at least 155 countries in the world, and assemblies are being planted in new countries even today. There are 25,000-30,000 congregations worldwide, with more than 2m people worshipping together Sunday by Sunday, and thousands of additional preaching points, many of which will blossom into new congregations. In many countries, there is much vision and dynamism for Christ from which we can all learn.

So it's good for national leaders and other workers from different countries to meet regularly for fellowship, prayer, biblical reflection, renewed experience of the Lord, networking, exchange of information, and discussion of common questions - **above all, for mutual encouragement** in the work to which God has called us.

We have much to learn from one another, and the six global IBCM conferences so far have spawned new work and co-operation in many countries and between countries. There are now also flourishing regional conferences associated with IBCM, as well as the consultations and work of Brethren Training Network, and we rejoice in these.

So we do hope that you will be able to join us in Rome in June 2019. Up to 800

participants can be accommodated, and we hope for 120 countries to be represented.



Speakers

At IBCM7 in 2019, Professor John Lennox of the University of Oxford (UK) will be giving four strategic addresses on 'Engaging with the world for the gospel'. There will be other strategic addresses by speakers from across the world, as well as a highly-relevant workshop programme led by gifted introducers. The draft programme will be available on the IBCM website shortly.



Specific 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 explore in depth in strategic sessions and workshops key issues that affect our churches
- To share practical experience, ideas and methods
- To encourage younger leaders
- To encourage the development of regional conferences with similar objectives

The conference is for both men and women.



We are especially concerned to see more younger participants (in the 20 - 40 age bracket) at the IBCM7 conference. We encourage those responsible in individual countries to consider how they can assist younger participants to come to the conference in 2019.



Location

The conference is again being held in Italy at the invitation of the Italian assemblies.

The Hotel Selene is a four-star hotel with good facilities, conference hall, and a large number of fully-equipped break-out rooms. All conference activities are concentrated on the one site. The hotel is located within 40 minutes of both of Rome's international airports, thus minimizing participants' travel time and costs. Airport transfer to and from these airports for those arriving on Monday 24 June and departing on Friday 28 June will be provided as part of the conference fee.

The great majority of rooms are two- or three-bedded. If you are paying the basic early-bird conference fee of 295 € for the four-day conference and you are not accompanied by your spouse, you will be asked to share a room with one or two others.

The extra cost of participating in the BTN conference extension, and of arriving early and/or staying on at the conference centre, or in Italy or elsewhere in Europe, will fall to each participant who chooses to extend their participation in this way.



Conference languages

The conference is planned so as to be truly global and multi-cultural. In main sessions, there will be simultaneous translation via headphones between English, Italian, French and Spanish, and perhaps another language. Informal arrangements for translation into other languages will be made in particular parts of the hall, as practicable and necessary. Some of the workshops will be in Italian, French, or Spanish, as the case may be.

Costs preclude the employment of professional translators, but every effort will be made to provide some translation with the volunteer expertise available, and we trust that all will show Christian grace towards those who seek to assist us in this way. Some main addresses may be in languages other than English, with consecutive translation into English and onward simultaneous translation into other languages.



Conference fees

The basic conference fee per person for the period Monday afternoon 24 June - Friday afternoon 28 June is

- 295 € if paid by 31 December 2018, or
- 340 € if paid on or after 1 January 2019.

The fee includes the cost of hotel room, meals, charges for use of conference facilities, equipment, translation costs, conference administration, main speakers' expenses, and transfer to and from the Rome airports on arrival on Monday 24 June and departure on 28 June.

Meals at the hotel before the conference begins in late afternoon on Monday 24 June, and after the conference ends at 4.00 pm on Friday 28 June, must be paid for as an extra (10€ per meal).

The fee excludes all other travel costs to and from the conference. These will fall to each participant, except for transfer to and from either of the two Rome airports on 24 and 28 June. It also excludes the cost of visa applications if needed. Medical and repatriation insurance for visa purposes will be arranged by the organisers to facilitate visa applications; the fee for this insurance will be charged to the participants concerned as an additional item. If therefore you need a visa, please do not arrange medical and repatriation insurance yourself; you will be billed for the insurance which we arrange.

Single rooms: there are only a very few rooms for single occupation. For these, the conference fee will be 345 € if paid by 31 December 2018 and 395 € if paid after that date. Single rooms will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis, unless a single room is required for significant medical reasons which must be given priority.

Day visitors: the fee for day visitors (i.e., excluding hotel room and breakfast) is: 55 € per day (65 € a day if booking after 31 December 2018). Day visitors must submit a

booking form.

Arriving before the conference and/or staying after the conference:

Accommodation can be available for nights before and after the conference, **by prior arrangement only and must be booked only with the conference organisers**, to avoid confusion and because rooms booked directly with the hotel for this purpose will be considerably more expensive than if booked through us. The cost via the conference organisers is 60 € per person per day, including breakfast and dinner (but not lunch).

No conference participant should expect to be accommodated before or after the conference unless they have indicated their intentions to us by 15 May 2019 at the latest. If participants simply turn up without warning, it will not be possible to accommodate them at the hotel before or after the conference.

Please complete the booking form accordingly if you wish to request such accommodation.



Bookings

To book a firm place at the conference, it is essential either to book online after 1 June 2018 on the IBCM website (<http://ibcm.net/>) or, if that is not possible, please complete and return a booking form, downloadable from the IBCM website from 1 June 2018. (Please complete the downloadable form electronically and return it by email if possible, or print it out and complete it in manuscript and return it to the address on page 3 of the form.)

Booking will open on 1 June 2018.

If at all possible, please book by **15 May 2019** at the latest (but, remember, it is significantly cheaper to book by 31 December 2018). Those who need a visa in order to attend the conference **MUST** book by **31 March 2019** at the latest, in order to allow us time to provide documents that you will need for your visa application.

Once we have acknowledged receipt of your booking, you will be asked, please, to pay a **non-returnable deposit of 100€** by a date which we shall specify. (If you prefer to pay the full fee immediately, that will save administration for you and us.)

Those paying their own fees are requested to pay the full fee by 15 May 2019 (to assist in meeting advance payments to the hotel).

Visas

Participants from a considerable number of countries will require a visa in order to enter Italy for the conference.

To ascertain whether you need to obtain a visa in advance of travel, please visit the following official Italian government webpage <http://vistoperitalia.esteri.it/home/en#BMSommario> and fill in the details for your case.

You will need to apply for a visa to the Italian embassy in your country of residence, or to the embassy of the European (Schengen) country which handles visa matters relating to Italy in your country of residence.

In order to make an application, you will need a number of documents supplied by the conference organisers, including proof that travel and health insurance has been taken out for you for your stay, proof that you have an airline reservation for the return trip, and a letter from Hotel Selene certifying that you are booked for board and lodging for the period of the conference.

If you need a visa, the booking form asks relevant questions to enable us to issue you with the necessary documents **(it is essential that these questions be answered with meticulous accuracy, first time, to avoid delay which may put at risk getting a visa)**. So long as accurate information is supplied, the conference organizers will provide the necessary documentation for the visa application in time to allow you to make your visa application.

Insurance

Visa requirements apart, all participants are strongly advised to arrange travel and medical insurance for themselves for the period that they will be outside their own country.

As already described, those who need to get a visa in advance will be required to provide evidence of medical and repatriation insurance before a visa will be issued to them. **This will be arranged by the conference organisers** in Italy and you will be sent a certificate to accompany your visa application. The cost of this insurance will be charged to the participant as an extra, unless the conference is giving financial assistance to the participant (in which case the cost will be deducted from our grant to you).

Brethren Training Network extension

The Brethren Training Network (BTN) extension on 28 and 29 June 2019 (4.00 pm - 4.00 pm) is intended to give conference participants who wish to take part (and can meet the costs of doing so) the chance to go into certain subjects in more depth. The outline programme for the extension will be available shortly on both the IBCM website (ibcm.net) and the Brethren Training Network website (brethrentraining.org).

The cost of the extension will be 75 € per person if booked by 31 December 2018 and € 90 per person if booked on or after 1 January 2019. The extension concludes at 4.00 pm on Saturday 29 June; meals and accommodation at the hotel after that time will be an extra charge on participants.

If you wish to participate in the extension, please complete the relevant section of the booking form for the main conference.

Conference organisation

The IBCM conferences are organised by an IBCM International Planning Group, assisted in this case by an Italian National Committee. At present the International Planning Group comprises Fares Marzone (Italy - chairman IBCM), Ian Burness (UK), Joel Hernandez (USA), Ken Newton (Australia), Kelvin Samwata (Zambia), David Smith (Australia), Neil Summerton (UK - General Secretary IBCM), Abraham Thomas (India), and Russell Thorp (New Zealand).

The BTN extension is organized by the BTN Steering Group. This comprises Russell Thorp (New Zealand) (Chairman), Philip Boom (USA), Mark Davies (UK), Simeon Havyarimana (Burundi), Joel Hernandez (USA), Sunny Philip (India), Christian Ramirez (Colombia), David Smith (Australia), Len Smith (Australia) and Neil Summerton (UK) (secretary).

The conference is not a commercial enterprise and is not conducted for a profit. With the exception of, perhaps, a conference administrator appointed for a limited period, the conference organisers receive no remuneration nor travel or other expenses in relation to organising the conference.

Conference fees are pitched in order to allow the conference to break even; and any surpluses that may arise are applied to the expenses of succeeding conferences or applied to other activities conducted under the auspices of IBCM.

we are waiting for you

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