

**Fourth International Training Consultation**  
**Theme: " Biblical Training for growing Healthy Churches"**  
**Dubuque 29 May – 2 June 2018 (DV)**

<b>Worship &amp; Devotions</b>  8.45 – 9.30 am	<b>Morning Session 1</b>  9.30 – 10.45 am	<b>Morning Session 2</b>  11.15 am – 12.30 pm	<b>Afternoon Workshops on the Practice of Training</b>  (Workshops 2.00 – 3.30 pm Weds to Friday)	<b>Evenings</b>  7.45 – 9.00 pm
<b>Day 1</b> <b>(Tues 29<sup>th</sup> May)</b>			<b>Afternoon Registration</b> 2.00-4.30 pm  Welcome & Introductions 5.15pm	<b>E.1</b>
<b>Day 2</b> <b>(Wed 30<sup>th</sup> May)</b>	<b>Plenary Session 2.1</b>  <b>Deep roots, fruitful branches</b> (Colossians 1:28-2:7)  Jonathan Lamb	<b>Plenary Session 2.2</b>  <b>Essence</b> - What is the essence of our churches?  David Smith	<b>Elective workshops</b>  <b>2.1</b> <b>2.2</b> <b>2.3</b> <b>2.4</b> <b>2.5 JL</b>	<b>E.2 Some instructional stories</b> This is an evening for delegates to hear of developments around the world.
<b>Day 3</b> <b>(Thurs 31<sup>st</sup> May)</b>	<b>Plenary Session 3.1</b>  <b>Expression</b> - What should be the resulting expressions of our churches?  David Smith	<b>Plenary Session 3.2</b>  <b>Growth that pleases God</b> (1 Thessalonians ??) Jonathan Lamb	<b>Elective Workshops</b>  <b>3.1</b> <b>3.2</b> <b>3.3</b> <b>3.4</b> <b>3.5 DS</b>	<b>E.3 Harnessing technology for future growth</b>  Online learning Environments  Len Smith, Frank J, Lisa Beatty

<b>Day 4 (Fri 1<sup>st</sup> June)</b>	<b>Plenary Session 4.1</b> <b>Growing pains</b> (Ephesians 4:1-16 – or perhaps Acts 15:1-21) Jonathan Lamb	<b>Plenary Session 4.2</b> <b>Evaluation</b> - How do we assess our current situation?  David Smith	<b>Regional Groupings. Workbook questions related to Plenary sessions</b>	<b>E4</b>
<b>Day 5 (Sat 2<sup>nd</sup> June)</b>	<b>8.45 to 10.45 am (chair: Russell Thorp)</b> <b>5.1 Planning for the future. Where do we go from here? –</b> 8.45 Worship & Devotions - 9.15 Work in smaller regional think-tank groups on the following Issues:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Action points arising from the plenary sessions</li> <li>• Regional/ language group initiatives</li> </ul> 10.50 Concluding summary and agreement on action plans 10.15 inspiration to go and train better <b>Mid-morning departure</b>			

**Workshop topics suggested so far**

- a. Accreditation matters, standards, procedures, reviews, *portability of qualifications between institutions* (assistance from Lisa Beatty (Emmaus))

***Additional, later proposals***

Curriculum development and review

Flexible learning

- b. Declining Bible college student numbers in the Western world; viability of Bible college education; creative ideas to meet the challenges; adaptations of structures and means of delivering

- c. Online education: development, opportunities, challenges
- d. Development of vocational studies alongside biblical and theological studies in Bible colleges; fitting students for bi-vocational and tent-making ministry; curriculum challenges which result
- e. Challenges from the rise of Islam and scholarly work on the subject
- f. The challenge of indigenous spiritual movements, e.g., in Africa and Asia
- g. Theology of Scripture and its interpretation; how the Bible is used in the Brethren movement and in our churches
- h. Worldviews and Christianity
- i. Implications of globalization and migration for Christianity and Christian education
- j. Doctrinal topics:
  - i. Gender, transgender, non-gender, and the church
  - ii. Sexuality and Christianity
  - iii. Understanding sin and guilt in cultures which prioritize honour, shame and fear
- k. Christianity and the marketplace