

**Fourth International Training Consultation
'Biblical Training for growing Healthy Churches'
Dubuque May 29 – June 2, 2018**

WORKSHOP: Wednesday May 30

**Developing non-formal training of preachers
Jonathan Lamb**

1. The global context

- The growth and strength of the church in the majority world
- The challenge of growth without depth
- Limited resources: many preachers and pastors without adequate training
- Challenges: prosperity teaching, tele-evangelists, negative influence and poor models
- Our leadership model: a positive tradition of commitment to scripture and the encouragement of lay preachers; but often busy leaders with insufficient time for Biblical study and preparation.

2. The urgent need

- Biblical preaching and teaching is THE essential element for growing healthy churches: we will be discussing this theme in the plenary sessions.
- Every local church needs to nurture its preaching team, and to constantly look to the future.
- Training preachers needs to be intentional, sustained and in community.

3. The process of training

- **How did we learn/are we learning to preach?**

- **What are the core values?**

Convictions not just techniques

Practice not just theory

Team not just solo

Training not just teaching

- **What is the learning process?**

Modelling – teaching - practising

Personal observation - Group work – Feedback – Sermon - Evaluation

4. What are the ways of ensuring continuity and growth?

Accessible and practical materials

A simple but thorough curriculum over a realistic time-period

Preachers' groups

Models and mentoring

Evaluation and feedback

Was it faithful? Was it relevant? Was it clear?

Networks and partnerships in towns and across churches

Some discussion areas:

1. What are some of the models for training preachers we know of, and how effective are they?
2. How do our training institutions provide help in this area, and how would we measure their effectiveness?
3. What are the possibilities and the limits for training within a local congregation?
4. What resources are available?
5. What partnerships or networks are working well? For example, with other churches? With a local training institution? With Bible Colleges or seminaries?
6. What are the ways of encouraging those who handle the Word in other contexts: youth workers, women workers, evangelists ...
7. How can we encourage local churches to start the process, and equip them for sustainable training ministry in this area?

Jonathan Lamb

May 10, 2018