



INTERNATIONAL BROTHERS CONFERENCE ON MISSION  
NEWS RELEASE

IBCM5 CONFERENCE

*Fifth IBCM conference to be held in France on 13 - 17 June 2011*

The IBCM International Planning Group (IPG) announce that the next IBCM Conference (IBCM5) is to be held (DV) in France on 13 - 17 June 2011.

The IPG have recently accepted an invitation from the French National Committee (Commission de Service et de Référence) of the French assemblies (Communautés et Assemblées Evangélique de France (CAEF)) to hold the conference, at the Yelloh Village facility at Louan, near Provins (Seine et Marne département). This is about 80 kms due east of Paris and about 1.5 hours from the Paris Charles de Gaulle and Orly International Airports. The conference site can accommodate up to 500 people.

The theme of the conference is to be *'I will build my Church'*, and the focus of the main addresses will be on encouraging the growth and ministry of churches of Brethren background in different settings—growing cities in the Third World, rural areas, and re-launching growth in the developed world. As at previous IBCM conferences, the main speakers will be representative of the Brethren movement in different parts of the world.

The underlying purpose of the IBCM conferences is to bring together national leaders from as many countries in the world as possible, so that they can be encouraged through mutual networking and by thinking together about the great task of the church today.

Fares Marzone, Chairman of the IBCM International Planning Group, said:

'I am delighted that our French brethren have extended this invitation to us. It will be excellent to hold the IBCM conference in a Francophone country for the first time, and we hope that that will also encourage participation from the assemblies in other Francophone countries.

'At the IBCM4 conference in Germany in 2007, there were over 400 participants from 77 countries. We very much hope that at this fifth conference there will be representation from even more of the 130 countries in which churches connected with the Brethren movement are to be found.

'France has embassies and consulates in many countries and there is direct access by air to Paris from 120 or 130 cities in the world. So, we hope that those who want to come to the conference will find it easy to do so.

'Let us all pray that this conference will be even more successful than its predecessors.'

*Notes for editors*

1. The IBCM conferences were conceived in international meetings in Manila in 1989 and Vancouver in 1990. So far conferences have been held in Singapore (1993), Rome (1996), Sibiu (Romania) (2003) and Wiedenest, Germany (2007). The conferences have encouraged the development of regional conferences, for example, the Pan African Brethren Conference on Missions, and the 'Pray in the Harvest' Conferences for Asia-Oceania. The conferences have also resulted in a considerable number of national initiatives on the part of Brethren churches.

2. The conferences intend to serve the Brethren movement worldwide by enabling leaders to meet and encourage each other, particularly by focussing on the mission of the Church in all its aspects.

3. The IBCM5 conference will be publicised via Brethren magazines, to missionary service agencies, to the national co-ordinating bodies which exist in some countries, and to key individuals in as many countries as possible.

4. It is open to anyone who has a keen interest in the life and ministry of churches in the Brethren movement to participate in the conference.

5. The International Planning Group comprises Fares Marzone (Italy)(Chairman), Paul Joshua (India), Reynald Kozycki (France), Kelvin Samwata (Zambia), and Neil Summerton (Secretary)(UK). It is supported by a wider International Advisory Group drawn from a range of countries across the world, who are consulted by correspondence.