



**IBCM Network exists to serve the international Brethren community through:
strengthening leaders, encouraging churches, facilitating mission, connecting worldwide.**

IBCM NETWORK NEWSLETTER

July 2020

Welcome to the third issue of the IBCM Network Newsletter. In this edition we look at:

- IBCM Network - Ministry Update, by Ian Burness, IBCM Network Chairman
- Anniversary Report
- Covid 19 - Global Relief, by David Smith, IBCM International Director
- Be Still & Know - The Impact of Covid-19 on World, Church and Mission, by Paul Young, Echoes International Chairman
- The Hole in Our Holiness, by David Smith, IBCM International Director
- Covid-19 Country Report Updates - Peru, India, USA
- Books Recommended

WELCOME

DR IAN BURNESS | CHAIRMAN – IBCM NETWORK

Just over a year ago, in a pre-Covid world, many of us met together in Rome for a memorable week of conference. A few weeks before that event, *IBCM Network* was set up as charitable organisation to organise these global conferences and to help us



all work more effectively in the service of the Lord. Much has happened in the past 12 months, despite the fact that we are separated by thousands for miles. Below you can learn more about what we have achieved during the last year.

The team and IBCM Network board have not met in the same room since we were at Rome, but we communicate weekly, sometimes daily, and meet regularly to discuss plan and pray for the developing work. So, we want to say a big thank you to all for your prayers and encouragement as we have started on this journey.

Recently, I shared in a meeting with brothers and sisters from ten countries, ranging from the West Indies to New Zealand and no one involved had to leave their home for this meeting. You may also have been part of local church services held on-line as so many have connected this way, so that despite living under lockdown we are able to meet, to pray, to listen to God's word and to support each other. This helps give you some idea of what we are trying to do through IBCM Network: to connect brothers and sisters around the world together so that we can encourage each other, learn from each other and work more effectively together for the growth of the gospel in every country. This newsletter includes an update on IBCM Network activities in the last few months, but also has a major focus on the Covid-19 epidemic that is still sweeping the world. You will also find many country reports on our IBCM Net website, so please take time to visit ibcm.net to find out what is going on. And may the Lord continue to keep you safe.

IBCM NETWORK ANNIVERSARY REPORT



A year has passed since we were in Rome in June 2019. Can you believe it? During that time IBCM Network has not been standing still, despite the Covid-19 lockdown, the team has been working hard over the last twelve months to keep you updated and connected globally. Here are a few of the highlights of the year:

IBCM Conferences

- IBCM7 Rome: 880 Participants, 122 countries
- Investigation of locations for IBCM8, 2023
- Commencement of administrative preparation for IBCM8
- Advancing processes for regional and global conferences
- Assisting some regional conferences with planning and preparations

Communication

- Updated the IBCM website (<https://www.ibcm.net/>) to include:
 - Multiple translations
 - Prayer and News posts connected to Facebook
 - Network, resource, and conference links
- Collated, increased, and edited a worldwide contact database
- Launched the IBCM Network newsletter in multiple translations

The Teams (<https://www.ibcm.net/the-team/>)

- Expanded the IBCM Network Trustees: Ian Burness – Chair (UK), Joel Hernandez (USA), Fares Marzone (Italy), Philip Miles (UK), David Smith (Australia), Neil Summerton (UK). Abraham Thomas (India) and Haydn Marshall (St Vincent & Grenadines) will join in August.

- Convened and expanded the International Advisory Group to provide guidance and direction for the network: the Trustees plus Isaias Chicola (Angola), Christian Ramirez (Colombia), Kelvin Samwata (Zambia), Peter Tan (Malaysia), Russell Thorp (New Zealand), Abraham Thomas (India) and Haydn Marshall (St Vincent & Grenadines).
- Creation of an IBCM Youth Advisory Committee to assist encourage youth networking, engagement, and participation at IBCM events: Peter Calvin (Pakistan), Joel Hernandez (USA), Sheeba Jennet (UAE), Daniele Lorifice (Italy), Johnson Mwebembezi (Uganda), Erika Raigne (UK/Argentina), David Smith (Australia), Jeremy Suisted (NZ), Frederic Walraven (Netherlands), Sanja Zurovac (Italy).

The year ahead will have many challenges, please pray with us as we continue to serve God through encouraging and connecting our network of churches worldwide.

COVID-19 GLOBAL RELIEF

DR DAVID SMITH | INTERNATIONAL DIRECTOR – IBCM NETWORK



UNITED: We believe in one united trinitarian God. We believe we are similarly called to reflect this unity as a sign of Christ's love for the world. Unity is mission. By implication our missional effectiveness as churches is connected to our unity. Our desire as a network of churches is to be known above all else as churches which encourage, support, and love one another, having the interests of the other at heart. Being others focused leads to

relationship, relationship leads to unified hearts, which leads to one spirit and purpose.

SERVICE: Now is such a time for an others focussed expression of unified love. Because of the Covid-19 pandemic many of our brothers and sisters around the world are hurting. Some have already died, many are afflicted, and even more do not have enough to survive. Down through history, when the world is in dire need, it has been the loving care of the Christians that has turned many toward God. Now is our opportunity serve Christ in unity, as a visible sign that God loves the world. Unity truly is mission.

Please contribute to the COVID-19 Global Relief fund by donating through either the IBCM Network website or through your national mission organisation (<https://www.ibcm.net/mission/>). **All donations made through IBCM Network will be directed to Echoes International as part of a global collaboration.**

"At the present time your plenty will supply what they need.... The goal is equality...." 2 Cor 8:14

CLICK HERE TO DONATE FOR COVID RELIEF THROUGH IBCM NETWORK



BE STILL & KNOW
THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON WORLD, CHURCH AND MISSION
included here with kind permission of
PAUL YOUNG | CHAIRMAN, ECHOES INTERNATIONAL



Be Still & Know

The Impact of Covid-19
on the World, Church & Mission

by Paul Young

The first half of 2020 has proved to be unique. Shops have closed, except those selling food and medicines. Places for gathering and experiencing togetherness have been shut as sports, education, social events and churches have had to cease their activities. Most people have had to stay indoors and we are expected to remain at least 2m away from other people when out for necessities. Health services have been stretched and staff overworked, but appreciated. City centres have fallen silent with many office workers adapting to work from home and some industries shutting down. It feels like the fantasy world of a film set, here and in many parts of the world, as attempts are made to stop the spread of Covid-19.

CONTINUE TO READ THE ARTICLE HERE: <https://www.ibcm.net/newsletters/>

THE HOLE IN OUR HOLINESS

DR DAVID SMITH | INTERNATIONAL DIRECTOR – IBCM NETWORK



Be Holy as I am Holy – is an inescapable command from both Testaments.

The genesis of our tradition is heavily influenced by the holiness movement and our churches past and present have made much of the pursuit of holiness as essential for a “good” Christian life. Actually the focus of much of Christianity can be summed up by the words “right belief and right action.” But if we believe this, there is a big hole in our holiness. Even today much energy is spent on cultivating personal piety; following commands, attending, praying, giving, reading Scripture, witnessing, and making sure to do's are done and the do not's are avoided. These things are all good and are right to be pursued, but the area of relationships is a gaping hole in our common understanding of holiness. As a result our holiness often leads to us judging rather than embracing each other. That can't be right! It's like we have excised 1 John 4 and 1 Corinthians 13 from our understanding. We have left invitation, welcome, compassion, forgiveness, mercy, grace, real community, the loving of one another as God loves us, out of our understanding of holiness. When was the last time you heard someone say, “That person is so holy, they love and forgive so much?” Is it possible that we have pursued personal holiness, excluded relational holiness, and find ourselves branded by society as resounding gongs?

CONTINUE TO READ THE ARTICLE HERE: <https://www.ibcm.net/newsletters/>

COVID-19 COUNTRY REPORT UPDATES

PERU, by Pablo Cenepo Torres

Coming to the end of May and having learned that our lockdown was extended till the end of June, we thanked the Lord that the assembly was overall unscathed, save a few bouts of depression and loneliness and a death due to age by natural causes. Everywhere we are able

and can go, people are willing and open to hear God's Word. Despite social distancing in everyone's mind, two of our neighbours dropped by the other day having resisted to come for so long. So, as far as ministry goes, preaching the Gospel message in person or over zoom this month has been incredibly invigorating! But then... June 2nd came and that's where the shaking began... read on!

CONTINUE TO READ HERE: <https://www.ibcm.net/peru-covid-19-update/>

INDIA, by Abraham Thomas

India is in the fourth position among the nations with the rise of Covid 19 cases. As on 2nd July, 2020 there are 6,05,808 people affected and 17,850 people who died because of Covid 19. Fifty percent of those affected have recovered according to the official reports.

Central government has announced relaxation on lockdown situation. Domestic flights are operating in a minimal phase. The train service is partially on operation. Interstate travel is allowed with guidelines announced by the health department, specific for each state.

CONTINUE TO READ HERE: https://www.ibcm.net/india-covid-19-update/?preview=true&thumbnail_id=2565

USA, by Al Adams

There are different amounts of concern regarding Covid 19 here in Florida. The Miami area is currently experiencing a rise in cases of people testing positive. Tampa also has had an increase in cases testing positive. However, there seems to be some good news. While people are testing positive in larger amounts those who are either hospitalized or even succumb to the disease those cases are very much in decline. As early as today the percentage of deaths was at 0.1%.


CONTINUE TO READ HERE: <https://www.ibcm.net/usa-florida-covid-19-update/>

FOR FURTHER REPORTS CLICK HERE

REGIONAL CONFERENCES UPDATES



Due to the Covid-19 Asia Pacific (PITH) and Portuguese Brethren conferences are postponed to 2021. For further information on Regional Conferences go to our website <https://www.ibcm.net/>



**PARTNERS
IN THE
HARVEST
PRESENTS...**

- **Date : 1st August 2020**
- **Time : 10.00am to 11.00am**
- **Venue : PITH Facebook Page Live Streaming**

Website : www.pith-ao.org
 FB Page:
<https://www.facebook.com/PartnersInTheHarvestConference/>

A Talk Show with the General Secretary of CBSM

Topic :
Disciple-making & Church Multiplication

Who should attend?
 Primarily PITH delegates and ALL those interested in assembly work in this part of the world, which would include those connected to the International Brethren Christian Missions (IBCM) Network conference.

About the Talk Show
 The Brethren Movement has been used by God at the turn of the 20th century to plant churches all over the world. There may yet come a day when God can use us a church multiplication force, when we learn to work in synergy and as partners in the harvest.

Come and find out the mission landscape happenings in Asia Pacific-Oceania.
 You will see regional representatives (from Malaysia, Singapore, Philippines, Australia-New Zealand, and if possible, Myanmar, Indonesia, India and Cambodia) telling us on what the assemblies are doing to build resilient disciples and planting/multiplying churches in their respective countries.

Asia Pacific (PITH) Regional Conference Committee is organising a series of Webinars starting on 1 August 2020.

The organizing chairman of PITH 2021 Peter Tan, will be interviewing Teo Pek Bing, the general secretary of Christian Brethren Secretariat, Malaysia in this talk show over Zoom.

You are invited to participate in this talk show via Zoom.

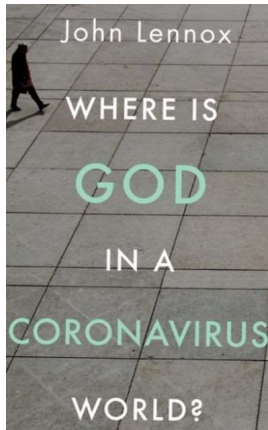
Please register below using this link:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeyTCcjYBhj_98WIKszBUK5qIKku

Any further information will be posted on PITH Website <http://pith-ao.org/wp/conference-2020/> **or on IBCM Network**

Website <https://www.ibcm.net/>

BOOKS RECOMMENDED



JOHN LENNOX, WHERE IS GOD IN CORONAVIRUS WORLD, by Stephen McQuoid

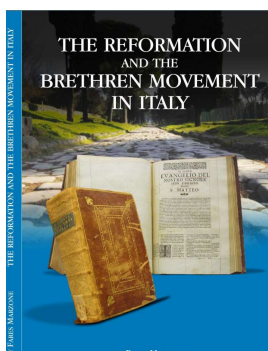
At the very start of the lockdown I got the excellent little book by John Lennox *Where is God in a Coronavirus World*. It is a brief and rapidly produced book which does a brilliant job of speaking into the current situation. It is written in John's characteristic style, both thoughtful and accessible. John starts by recognising how anxious people are about the Covid 19 pandemic, though he does note very helpfully, that viruses are by no means new and many of the viruses in the past have

been more devastating than this one. He then goes on to a short section on suffering before asking the important question, can Atheism help? His clear point is that when a crisis such as this happens it matters a great deal what you believe because a worldview such as Atheism has nothing to offer.

Next he tackles the thorny question of God's love in the face of such suffering. His answers, while brief, are good, both honest and realistic. He finishes off by focussing on the hope of eternity and the huge difference that belief in God makes at a times like these. This is a book that Christians would find encouraging but could easily be used evangelistically. I gave mine away to a neighbour to whom I have been witnessing. The modest price tag should also make the distribution of this book possible.

The book "Where is God in a Coronavirus World?" is available from The Good Book Company, www.thegoodbook.com or at your Christian bookstore (<https://www.thegoodbook.com/where-is-god-in-a-coronavirus-world>).

Watch interview with prof John Lennox here: <https://vimeo.com/403768707>



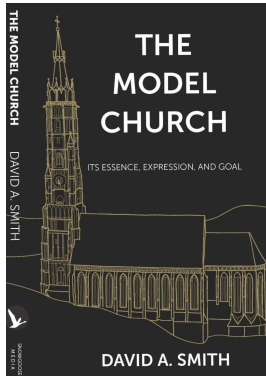
FARES MARZONE - THE REFORMATION AND THE BRETHREN MOVEMENT IN ITALY

Most readers may be surprised by the topic of this work. Few are familiar with this important part of the Reformation, and most English-language Church history texts give it scant notice if any at all. This book fills a gap, since no comprehensive book on this movement from its nineteenth century planting in Italy until the end of the twentieth

century has been published in English.

Fares Marzone has done a great service to the English-language reader by making readily available this history and is to be commended for both his labours and this book, the fruit of his labours.

£8 plus postage and handling (in the UK a total of £11.00)

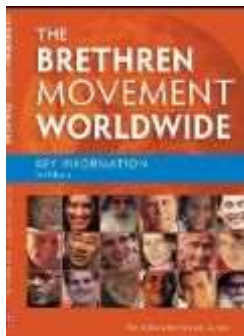


DAVID SMITH - THE MODEL CHURCH

What is the church to be? What is its essence? What is the church to do? What are its expressions? What is the church to become? What is its goal? Can the essence, expression, and goal dimensions of the church be connected? If so how? Providing the answers to these questions is the key to understanding the church and providing effective leadership of the church.

The Model Church provides the answers through developing an integrated church model, that includes the essence, expression, and goal dimensions, and can be used to evaluate and guide the life of the church.

£10 | A\$20 plus postage and handling (in the UK, a total of £13.00, in Australia \$26)



THE BRETHREN MOVEMENT WORLDWIDE

Electronic version available

here: <https://www.ibcm.net/brethren-movement-worldwide/>

Hard copy available for purchase.

£5 plus postage and handling (in the UK a total of £9)

BOOKS EMAIL ORDER HERE

IBCM NETWORK WEBSITE

Connect

Through IBCM Network and our website you can connect with the Brethren from all the nations. Please check our website at <https://www.ibcm.net/>, or send us a prayer request for your country at ibcm@ibcm.net.

Donate

We need your help to keep us all connected. If you would like to support the work of IBCM Network financially please go to

DONATE TO IBCM NETWORK

Thank you for your prayers and support.



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