

# INTERNATIONAL TRAINING PROJECT

Update #2 - December 2021

train ONE ... feed MANY



# INTERNATIONAL TRAINING PROJECT

From inception in September 2020 to the end of 2021

**5**

COUNTRIES CONNECTED

**131**

STUDENTS STUDYING

**279**

ACCREDITED SUBJECTS OFFERED

ETHIOPIA | 20 students | 40 subjects offered

UGANDA | 25 students | 51 subjects offered

RWANDA | commencing next year

KENYA | 48 students | 48 subjects offered

ZAMBIA | 38 students | 140 subjects offered

train ONE ... feed MANY

## THE NEED

In many places around the world the gospel has taken root and there are a growing number of churches. However, specifically in majority world countries, local Christians often lack access to pastoral, leadership, and Bible training, that is essential to ensure the growth, maturity, and future of the churches. In a number of countries there is the real threat that government legislation will close churches because pastors and leaders do not hold any form of accredited training. In response to this overwhelming need the Australian College of Christian Studies (ACCS) and IBCM Network together with its training arm the Brethren Training Network (BTN) have joined together in a commitment: to provide and facilitate quality contextualised ministry training that is accessible, affordable, and accredited, to the majority world nations in our network. Please pray with us as we seek to continue and to grow this important ministry.

Dr David Smith  
International Director—IBCM Network & ACCS



## ZAMBIA

The International Training Project commenced in collaboration with GLO-Zambia centre in Ndola in 2020. There are 23 students who have now completed up to 5 of the Diploma of Theology subjects, and 15 who have done the first two. Of these, 10 are youth leaders and the rest are local church elders, deacons or deaconesses. There are 7 ladies at present. All students have either been sponsored or have paid for themselves, so GLO is able to meet the running costs of the centre. The students are very grateful for the supporters in Australia and elsewhere, which means each subject registration cost is kept to a manageable amount. This is what some of the students have to say:



### **HAPPY KAFALUNGA** (YOUNG MAN FROM ONE OF THE LOCAL CHURCHES – 1ST YEAR)

"The diploma program has been very helpful in a way that I can now understand Christianity. I have grown up in a Christian family but was still like a new born baby feeding on milk compared with the depth of the word and the history attached to the lessons we are receiving. **READING THE BIBLE IS NICE BUT LEARNING IT IS EVEN MORE WONDERFUL.** I thank you for the teachers who made it simple for us to understand. I am looking forward to next year."



## THE VISION

To provide and facilitate quality contextualised ministry training that is accessible, affordable, and accredited, to the majority world nations in our network.



## ZAMBIA—CONTINUED

### KELVIN NG'ANDWE (*CHURCH ELDER AND 2ND YEAR STUDENT*)

"I have been a church elder at one of the local Christian Brethren churches in the city of Ndola since 1994. Over the years I have yearned to find sound biblical teaching and have attended a number of trainings, workshops, conferences, elders' seminars etc, but none of those brought me to the levels I was looking for. From the time I started the diploma course, with ACCS and Glo Zambia, with the academic writing and critical thinking session, my mind and the horizon just opened and I started seeing things differently. **THE DIPLOMA COURSE IS INDEED AN EYE OPENER FOR ME AS I AM ABLE TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN HERESIES AND SOUND TEACHING** and I am able to understand different views on faith and doctrines. I am able to correctly interpret Bible books as I no longer quote out of context as was the case before. The interactive and discussion sessions with staff and students are superb and **I CAN ONLY WISH MANY OTHER LEADERS EMBRACE THE DIPLOMA PROGRAM SO WE CAN TOGETHER TAKE THE CHURCH TO HIGHER LEVELS.** I pledge my loyalty to the program and desire to go even for a degree with ACCS and will never disappoint the team for the knowledge you are imparting to me and the rest of my fellow students."

### ISHIMELI IYAMVWA (*CHURCH ELDER, RETIRED ARMY OFFICER — 1ST YEAR*)

"The word of God, has been misunderstood and misinterpreted many times by some local church elders due to a lack of knowledge. This has led to disputes among elders themselves or elders with the flock. With the sound knowledge and wisdom from the Lord, such challenges encountered by the church can be reduced or completely eradicated. **THANK GOD WE CAN OBTAIN SUCH KNOWLEDGE THROUGH LEARNING PLATFORMS LIKE THIS ONE.**"



THE  
IMPACT

train a **LEADER** | strengthen a **CHURCH** | change a **NATION**



## UGANDA

In May 2021 Emmanuel Mission Uganda embarked on a collaboration with Australian College of Christian Studies to encourage students to study formal accredited training modules. The program is aimed at meeting the training needs in the African context. Johnson Mwebembezi says this Diploma of Theology training achieves two main goals:

1. To raise critical thinkers who can tackle theological issues in the African context.
2. To raise role models in church leadership—through using a contextually sensitive curriculum delivered with an African perspective on theology and ministry.

The program currently has an enrolment of 25 local leaders including youth leaders, elders, and women, but it has been greatly affected by two Covid-19 lock downs. Please pray for the difficulties in places like Uganda which are duplicated in many of the other countries:

- Pray for our students who were affected by Covid-19 lockdowns. The economic status of many of our students has been critically affected.
- Pray for the provision of funds to allow the training ministry to keep running.
- Providing facilitator transportation, lodging, and meals, is a challenge.
- Pray for stability in electricity and internet facilities to enable the training to go smoothly.



## PARTNERS

In addition to the contribution of ACCS, IBCM Network, and BTN, the International Training Project is currently supported by AMT (Australians in Mission Together), Echoes International, Opal Trust, and a number of churches and individuals.





## ETHIOPIA

While the other locations around Africa run one week intensives to facilitate the learning, Mulugeta Ashagre Endeshaw facilitates the Diploma of Theology training in English in Addis Ababa each Monday. The students in Addis are pastors, evangelists, and school teachers, and have been trained in two subjects from ACCS so far: Critical Thinking and Writing and New Testament Introduction. The books from Opal Trust have arrived and are very helpful for the students and for the teachers to use in class and for our library. Mulugeta says, "Thank you very much to the Opal Trust for their kind donation." Similar supplies of books are headed to the other centres also.



*Students in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia*



*Johnson (Uganda) and Mulugeta (Ethiopia)*

## RWANDA—URGENT NEED

In Rwanda, as in other countries across Africa, there is the real threat that government legislation will close churches because pastors and leaders do not hold any form of accredited training. **IN RWANDA SPECIFICALLY THE GOVERNMENT HAS PASSED LEGISLATION THAT REQUIRES ALL PASTORS AND LEADERS OF CHURCHES TO HAVE AN ACCREDITED MINISTRY OR THEOLOGY DEGREE** by the end of 2023, otherwise the churches will be closed.

The International Training Project has commenced discussions with the leaders in Rwanda to facilitate accredited training in two ways. Firstly, students who have prior degrees in English will enrol with ACCS in Sydney, and commence their studies online in January 2022. Similar to the other International Training project students, ACCS will subsidise much of the student subject cost and rely on the supporters of the project to "Bridge the Gap" and assist with the cost of offering this training. Secondly, we will continue to work towards having a facilitated online training centre in Kigali, Rwanda, ready in 2022. This will allow other leaders to receive training and to keep their churches open, and ensure the work of Christ continues to grow in their region of the world. Please pray for the situation in Rwanda, for the leaders who are studying, for those who will facilitate this new work, and for the staff of the International Training Project and ACCS who seek to provide the required training to meet this urgent need.

DIPLOMA  
OF  
THEOLOGY

Critical Thinking & Writing  
Old Testament Introduction  
New Testament Introduction  
Spiritual Foundations  
Introduction to Theology  
Biblical Interpretation  
Contextual Ministry  
Contextual Theology



## KENYA

Daniel Ochieng, in Rongo (20 students), and Moses Kokoyo, in Nairobi (11 students) have completed facilitating the first accredited subject in their respective locations in Kenya. A third location in Busia (17 students) is also underway. In appreciation Daniel Ochieng says on behalf of the students in Rongo, Kenya:

"We thank God for ACCS's commitment to training church leaders for ministry in Kenya, and for Opal Trust and Echoes International for supporting us with books and computers. We have desired for structured studies with an accredited college for a long time - to help us equip the church with trained leaders to help in evangelism, discipleship, and sound biblical teaching, which is essential in this age of false teaching. The students were so happy with the first training subject, Critical Thinking and Writing and they have been looking forward for New Testament Introduction in the new year. The Critical Thinking and Writing subject content sunk into them so much that they now hardly talk without using the word "critical". It has become part of our speech for our daily conversation. **THE STUDENTS WHO HAVE ENROLLED FOR STUDIES HAVE A RENEWED PASSION FOR EVANGELISM.** Recently we baptised nine believers who have accepted the Lord through their ministry. Pray for us as we carry on with practical ministry, as we wait for the second phase of training in January 2022."



BRIDGE  
THE GAP

### SPONSOR A STUDENT TODAY

Each student is required to contribute to the cost of their training according to their ability. However a funding gap remains. It costs around an extra A\$250 to offer each accredited subject to a student. Each student takes 3-4 subjects a year costing around A\$750—A\$1000. Please consider partnering with us to bridge the gap.

A\$250  
subject

A\$1000  
per year



## KENYA—CONTINUED

Moses Kokoyo, relating the impact of the training which started in Nairobi in August, says:

"We are grateful for ACCS Australia for coming up with online training modules that are suitable for Africa. This means people can be trained wherever they are without thinking of the trouble associated with traveling abroad. This has given us great hope, that our desire to be properly trained in theology and ministry will be accomplished and our people empowered. Training among the brethren in Kenya has been a challenge for many years. We have never had well-structured training that can offer good courses with recognized certificates. This has meant that most leaders are not properly trained and empowered well to handle the word of God and also lead in the right way. This has resulted in much stagnation in most of the assemblies. There are many areas of ministry which require much training. **TRAINING PREPARES LEADERS AND OTHER WORKERS TO BE EFFECTIVE IN MINISTRY AND TO BE ABLE TO FACE THE CHALLENGES THAT COME WITH THE ADVANCEMENT OF THE GOSPEL.**"

Here is what the students in Nairobi are saying:

**"THE TRAINING ACCS IS GIVING US AT DIPLOMA LEVEL IS MORE COMPREHENSIVE AND ADVANCED THAN MOST OTHER TRAINING IN KENYA. THIS MEANS THAT THOSE WHO DO IT TO COMPLETION WILL BE WELL EQUIPPED."**

**THIS TRAINING IS LIFE CHANGING IN MANY WAYS.** It boosts my oratory and written skills which are very vital for ministry. And my spiritual life has and still is being boosted in terms of Bible study. Through the ACCS course I have found the urgency to consistently and continuously read the word of God. I hope to acquire more Bible study skills.

## ACCREDITATION IN OTHER LANGUAGES—URGENT NEED

In Ethiopia, like in many countries, there are very few who can study in English at an accredited level. In addition to Addis, Mulugeta runs a training centre in Chobi, Ethiopia, in the local language of Oromiffa. The Chobi Bible School meets for six weeks every year. From January to February. They have been running this school for the last 20 years and would like to accredit this training also.

There are many students in such training centres around the world who need access to accredited training in their own language. Providing accreditation in other languages is a desire of the International Training Project. However this requires additional staff and associated support to get this new work off the ground. Please pray that God may open the way for us to meet this need and provide the much needed accredited training in other languages such as Oromiffa in Ethiopia, Swahili in Kenya and Uganda, and Bemba in Zambia, as well as meet many other training needs across the globe.



*Students at Chobi Bible School, Ethiopia*

**PARTNER  
WITH  
US**

**train ONE ... feed MANY**

**W | [ccs.edu.au](http://ccs.edu.au) | [ibcm.net/donations/](http://ibcm.net/donations/)  
E | [info@ccs.edu.au](mailto:info@ccs.edu.au) | [ibcm@ibcm.net](mailto:ibcm@ibcm.net)**