

# INTERNATIONAL TRAINING PROJECT

2022 Report

train ONE ... feed MANY



# INTERNATIONAL TRAINING PROJECT 2022

**5** COUNTRIES CONNECTED

**182** STUDENTS STUDYING

**361** ACCREDITED SUBJECTS OFFERED

ETHIOPIA | 25 students | 40 subjects

UGANDA | 25 students | 30 subjects

RWANDA | 33 students | 49 subjects

KENYA | 42 students | 94 subjects

ZAMBIA | 58 students | 148 subjects



## TESTIMONY—LINUS OLUOCH OTIGO—DIPLOMA STUDENT IN KENYA



"I really thank our almighty God for how far he has brought me. Since I joined Australian College of Christian Studies, my eyes are now widely open in many areas since I commenced studying. In critical thinking I learned that I have to think critically and wisely, I have to think before acting. In Old Testament I learned how the plan of God through Jesus Christ was presented throughout. I am really happy to be part of ACCS training because I have never seen a college that meets a students' needs like this one. Thanks to Opal Trust I can read the Africa Bible and also use a commentary that was written by African authors. I am able to have structured accredited training which is affordable, effective, and efficient. In our Group discussion we are able to relate the learning to our local settings, which is helping us to contextualize the training to the local needs to help us in our local churches. May God be with the ACCS team and bless them according to His riches in Glory."

## 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 which commenced in Zambia in 2020 celebrated the first graduation in Zambia on 18 November 2022. At GLO-Zambia 22 students graduated with their accredited Diploma of Theology after 2 years of hard work. This was a historic occasion. Many students had previously been taking the advance leadership course offered previously by GLO but had continued their training in order to now receive an internationally recognised Diploma. Many of these graduates continued on into the Degree course which commenced the following week. The first degree subject was "The Nature and the Mission of the Church" and was taught by Dr David Smith who was present at the graduation along with Frederic Walraven and Erika Raigné who will be teaching other degree subjects through 2023.



*Dr David Smith with graduate Kelvin Ng'andwe*



*Diploma of Theology Graduates*

## THE VISION

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

# KENYA

To meet the needs of the churches in Kenya which are wide spread the training is facilitated in three locations for the Diploma of Theology course—in Rongo, in Nairobi, and in Busia. Each centre has offered three of the Diploma subjects so far. The training is facilitated by Daniel Ochieng in Rongo, by Moses Kokoyo in Nairobi, and by Evans Amahundu in Busia. Students are excited saying “For the first time I now know how to interpret God’s word well.” Please pray for the continued training in Kenya as the government, like in Rwanda, has introduced regulations stating that each church must have a leader with an accredited degree.



*Group discussion in Nairobi*

*Class in Rongo, Kenya*



*Class doing Old Testament in Busia, Kenya*

THE  
IMPACT

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

## UGANDA

Uganda has struggled to recover after Covid-19 and the students have found it particularly difficult to meet for training and also to pay for their fees. However the work goes ahead. Dr David Smith met with the students in Kabale, Uganda, in September 2022, following the Pan-African Brethren Conference in Kigali. Johnson Mwebembezi says the Diploma of Theology training, which commenced in 2021 has major objectives. Firstly, at giving our students a deepened understanding of the Bible and its application. Secondly, a strengthened capacity in theological reasoning and ethical decision-making through enhanced communication of Biblical concepts. Thirdly, building capacity in pastoral care, leadership and ministry skills with a heart for God and people

The program currently has an enrolment of 25 local leaders including youth leaders, elders, and women. Please pray for the work in Uganda:

- To intensify monthly trainings to ensure the first cohort of students finish and enrol new ones.
- To set up a reliable power source and internet to enable students to finish courses in a timely manner.
- To seek financial support from well-wishers to help students raise their student fees.



*Students at Kabale, Uganda*

## 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, MSC Canada, Help Charitable 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 25 students in Addis are pastors, evangelists, and school teachers, and have been trained in three subjects from ACCS so far: Critical Thinking and Writing, New Testament Introduction and Old Testament Introduction. Dr David Smith visited Mulugeta and the students at the centre in Addis Ababa. He spoke on the importance of training, the need to interpret God's word well, and how to discern what is false teaching. Please pray for the continuation of the work in Ethiopia.



*Dr David Smith with Mulugeta Ashagre Endeshaw, training leader in Ethiopia*



*Diploma students in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Mulugeta Ashagre Endeshaw, the training leader is third from the right in the front row.*

**DIPLOMA  
OF  
THEOLOGY**

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

# RWANDA

**IN RWANDA THE GOVERNMENT HAS PASSED LEGISLATION THAT REQUIRES ALL PASTORS AND LEADERS OF CHURCHES TO HAVE AN ACCREDITED MINISTRY OR THEOLOGY DEGREE BY 2024, OTHERWISE THE CHURCHES WITHOUT ACCREDITED LEADERS COULD BE CLOSED.**

The International Training Project commenced in Rwanda in December 2022 with 27 students, under the leadership of Joseph Muyombana, which is a wonderful start. But given that there are 185 Inkuru Nziza Christian Brethren churches in Rwanda the task ahead is considerable and the financial need sizeable. 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. The "Bridge the Gap" cost is A\$250 per student subject. 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.



*Joseph Muyombano  
Training Leader in Rwanda*



*Students taking their English literacy test in Gihogwe training centre, near Kigali, Rwanda*

**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**

## ABTN—PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Following the Pan-African Conference which was held in Kigali, Rwanda, the African Brethren Training Network (ABTN) remained for a further 2 days of professional development and discussions. This event, supported by AMT (Australian in Mission Together) included all the leaders of the countries involved in the International Training Project. Sessions on "Discerning False Teaching" and "Biblical Interpretation" were delivered by Dr David Smith. The group also collaborated on the content needs of a Bachelor of Ministry as the project moves from the offering of a Diploma to the offering of a Bachelor of Ministry. Administration, orientation, and students care issues were also considered in sessions led by David Power from GLO-Zambia. Given the move by the governments of many African countries to require church leaders to be accredited, that is to have a Bachelor degree in Ministry or Theology, the group of 15 leaders from 5 countries were unified in the importance of training their future leaders to not only be accredited but to also strengthen the churches in their respective countries.



*ABTN participants in Kigali, Rwanda, September 2022*

*Back: Juvenal Ngendahayo (Rwanda), Daniel Ochieng (Kenya), Evans Akhwale (Kenya), Kelvin Samwata (Zambia), Mulugeta Ashagre (Ethiopia), David Smith (Australia), Johnson Mwembembezi (Uganda), Moses Kokoyo (Kenya), David Power (Zambia), Emmanuel Bwegyeko (Uganda), Sanja Zurovac (Italy), Cosmas Chapili (Zambia), Ishmael Ochieng (Kenya).  
Front: Joseph Muyombano (Rwanda) Frederic Walraven (Netherlands) Eric Karerangabo (Rwanda).*

**PARTNER  
WITH  
US**

**train ONE ... feed MANY**

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