

INSTITUTE FOR BIBLICAL PREACHING

PREACHING, PRESENCE, PULPIT & PEDAGOGY



@ Hokma House—Centre for Biblical Research

A PROSPECTUS

PREAMBLE:

BIBLICAL PREACHING IS THE LIFELINE OF THE CHURCH'S MINISTRY, AND ITS VERITABLE MISSION TO THE WORLD. PREACHING MAKES THE MINISTER, AND GOOD PREACHING MAKES A GOOD SOCIETY. AS PREACHING GOES, SO GOES THE CHURCH—WITH THE SOCIETY! THIS PREACHING INSTITUTE IS DESIGNED TO SUSTAIN THE ART AND WORK OF PREACHING ITSELF, AND SHAPE A *NEW* LEVEL OF DISCOURSE FOR THEOLOGICALLY TRAINED PERSONS ENGAGED IN PREACHING MINISTRY, AND FOR HOMILETICS LECTURERS. IBP UPHOLDS BIBLICAL PREACHING AS A PRIMARY VEHICLE FOR REALIZING GOD'S DIVINE PRESENCE IN THE WORLD; RESTORES THE CENTRALITY AND INTEGRITY OF THE PULPIT *IN* MINISTRY; AND PROVIDES SEMINARS AND WORKSHOPS FOR THE PREACHER'S EDUCATION AND MINISTRY IN THE CONTEXT OF A *NEW* AFRICAN SOCIETY

PURPOSE:

IBP seeks to create a learning forum for biblical preaching in Africa, and thereby provide a platform where such preaching can be established and enhanced through acquiring the right knowledge and skills to address relevant issues and needs today. It seeks to develop Christian preachers to this end.

PARAMETERS AND TARGET PERSONS:

IBP primarily targets Christian preachers or such persons as have a preaching ministry inside and outside of the local church, including Christian leaders. These ministers of the Word should have completed a recognized and relevant academic degree in biblical, theological or religious studies, and must be currently engaged in some form of preaching ministry (students currently in training at graduate seminaries are allowed to attend and or participate).

IBP is closely linked to the **Society of Biblical Scholars, SBS**, from where it often draws its resource persons, and whose meetings IBP registrants may also occasionally attend. IBP meetings are often planned in conjunction with **SBS**, thus location and duration may vary. Both IBP and SBS have a clear focus on Africa: to work for the critical transformation of that context, shaped by the Word.

The activities of IBP are focused on promoting *good* preaching to edify the church and *reform* the society and people of Africa. To this end, a key defining feature of IBP meetings is the *symposium*. The IBP symposium continually probes preaching *and* preachers (!); studies the preaching landscape in Africa; critically examines the state of the art of preaching in Africa; and fully explores how good preaching can make a good society.

PROGRAM:

As an institute dedicated to fostering biblical preaching, IBP explores enduring practices and norms in preaching, while giving equal attention to new developments, detours and the divine mandate of preaching. IBP deals with African issues and problems; works on the sermonizer and critiques the sermon. IBP program ultimately shapes a new discourse on preaching in Africa in the new century.

PREACHING!

It's all about *preaching*, not personality! Everyone wants to do it, but only few seem to master it, or do it well! It's beyond (post-) modern rhetoric, but it's rooted in ancient rhetoric. It engages with the society, but it's often locked within culture. It's a demanding task, yet one that generally receives very little or no preparation for it. If preaching speaks to the whole person or self and addresses the whole society, then adequate attention should be given to how preaching deals with the critical intersection of person and society in Africa, as, indeed, elsewhere.

PRACTICE AND OPERATION:

IBP operates seminar/workshop modules for participants, facilitated by the attendees and other key resource persons. These modules cover a wide range of relevant topics in preaching and allow for new topics. IBP also features an institute lecture, which deals broadly with these various areas of concern, by articulating the transforming power of biblical preaching for Africans, and a Christian apocalyptic and social vision of African society in the new century.

PROSPECT:

By upholding the central role of the ministry of the Word in the life of the church—the gathered Christian community—IBP commits to developing new resources for the edification of the body of Christ. Sermons with good content nurture Christian disciples so they can impact their society for God. Inasmuch as ministering the Word is a trust, ‘ministers of the new covenant’ must avoid all forms of frivolity, and reckon with their own faithfulness and fragility as ‘earthen vessels’ so that Christ’s glory may be seen, and the gospel *re*-presented as a ‘new social offer’ for African society in the ‘present age’.

IBP @ ECWA Wuse 2 Auditorium (Off Ademola Adetokunbo), ABUJA—AND YOU!

We invite you to join us for a stimulating time at IBP, if you are engaged in the ministry of the Word!

You can attend IBP seminars (and meetings) under the sponsorship of your church or denomination, and organization or fellowship. If you wish to sponsor yourself, you may do so, approval subject to the number of other reps from your church group or organization.

To begin: please, ensure you register before **20 August**. You may pay after you have received your official invoice (to reserve your place); or you may pay at the venue. *There's no late fee! But you need to pre-register.* To do so, please go to Downloads (on www.hokmahouse.org) or request for the Registration Form at hokmahouse.conf.2000@gmail.com or hokma.ibp@gmail.com

Finalize registration at the venue: if you have preregistered, present your invoice to make payments (cash only, *or pay in advance into the bank account number on your invoice, and present a clear printed evidence of your payment*); you will receive your file/name tag. If you didn't preregister, you may do so at the venue, subject to space availability, in order to attend the Institute.

For enquiries: contact us: E: hokmahouse.conf.2000@gmail.com ; Ph: +234 703 155 4297 (sms ok).