



NETWORKING THE BAPTIST FAMILY TO IMPACT THE WORLD FOR CHRIST

10th Baptist International Conference on Theological Education (BICTE)
July 5-7, 2024

2024 BWA Annual Gathering
July 7-12, 2024
Lagos, Nigeria

Event Information

1.	<i>10th Baptist International Conference on Theological Education (BICTE)</i>	2
2.	<i>2024 BWA Annual Gathering</i>	2
3.	<i>Schedule</i>	2
4.	<i>Meeting Venue</i>	3
5.	<i>Registration and Fees</i>	3
6.	<i>Nigeria Entry Requirements</i>	4
7.	<i>Health and Vaccinations</i>	4
8.	<i>Accommodation</i>	5
9.	<i>Safety and Airport Transfers</i>	5
10.	<i>International Humanitarian Action and Development Intensive Course</i>	6
11.	<i>General Council Members</i>	6
12.	<i>Program of Assistance for Travel and Hospitality (PATH)</i>	6
13.	<i>Worship on Sunday</i>	6

Dear friends,

We are excited to be collaborating with the Nigerian Baptist Convention (NBC), the largest Member Partner of the BWA, to offer a wonderful experience as we gather as global Baptists in Lagos, Nigeria, in July 2024 to experience two dynamic events:

1. **10th Baptist International Conference on Theological Education - July 5-7, 2024.**
2. **2024 BWA Annual Gathering - July 7-12, 2024.**

Both these events are not just for denominational leaders, but an opportunity for everyone from across our Baptist family. People of all ages and backgrounds are invited to come together so we may hear and learn from each other. Through this time, we want to encourage and support one another, building our friendships across nations, cultures, and languages – expressing our solidarity in Jesus Christ who unites us all. In addition, alongside the BICTE dates, a special **International Humanitarian Action and Development Intensive Course** will be held and will be open specifically to those involved in this field.

We are most grateful to NBC for all the work they have undertaken already and will continue to undertake to ensure we have a blessed and safe time together. They are working to provide a safe and enjoyable time for us all in Lagos, including airport greeting and secure transportation between the airport and the hotel. They have been negotiating with the Nigerian Government to ensure there is a straightforward visa application process as well as working with the hotel to get the best rates for us and facilitating all other aspects of the meeting. A **special cultural event** at the Baptist International Convention Center in Ibadan will be a highlight for us all.

We are looking forward to a wonderful time together in Lagos as we share together and show solidarity with our Nigerian brothers and sisters. Come and experience the full breadth of fellowship, input, and blessing as we are strengthened and encourage each other as the global Baptist family to continue to impact the world for Christ. Your presence will enhance these upcoming events.

We take pleasure now in providing all the information you need to make your preparations to join with us in July.

1. 10th Baptist International Conference on Theological Education (BICTE)

BICTE, scheduled to take place July 5-7, 2024, is held once each quinquennium to draw together Baptist theologians, theological educators, and others around a specific theme.

In 2024, the theme is: **Blessed Are the Peacemakers: Becoming Agents of Peace.** This time together will include special guest speakers with teaching and discussions, impactful worship and networking, creating space for all participants to learn from one another and grow as disciples of Christ.



2. 2024 BWA Annual Gathering

The Annual Gathering following directly after BICTE, July 7-12, 2024, is a wonderful opportunity to meet as a General Council, Commissions, Networks and Regions. We will worship, pray, learn, plan, share meals, encourage one another, and then rededicate ourselves, alongside our sisters and brothers in Africa, to pursuing God's mission as a global Baptist family.

3. Schedule

A draft schedule for the events is attached. Please check our website (www.baptistworld.org/annual-gathering/) regularly for updates. **Please refer to the website version of the schedule when making your travel arrangements.**

4. Meeting Venue

EKO Hotels and Convention Centre
Address: Plot 1415 Adetokunbo Ademola Street,
PMB 12724, Victoria Island, Lagos, Nigeria

Phone / Fax. +234 1 2772700-25
<https://www.ekohotels.com/>

EKO Hotels and Suites, our accommodation and meeting venue, is in the southern part of the country on a secure compound located on Victoria Island, Lagos. It offers guests a variety of sleeping and eating options and price points. See [Accommodation](#) section for more information.

Please note: **Lagos** (Murtala Muhammed International) Airport is the closest airport. (Code: **LOS**)

5. Registration and Fees

Registration will be open until **June 5, 2024**, but we recommend that anyone needing a [visa](#) register by **March 31** to enable you to gather the documentation needed in order to apply for your visa on a timely basis. Registration fees will be charged in NGN for Nigerian attendees and US Dollars for all other participants. **Participants will register for the event and book their accommodation at the same time.**

Registration Fees	BICTE	Annual Gathering
Before April 30, 2024	US\$330 / NGN 330,000	US\$550 / NGN 550,000
May 1 – June 5, 2024	US\$360 / NGN 360,000	US\$600 / NGN 600,000
Fee covers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Participation in the event and use of the venue• Conference materials• 2 Lunches (Saturday / Sunday)• 2 Dinners (Friday / Saturday)• 4 Coffee Breaks• Plus! Access to Virtual Platform	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Participation in the event and use of the venue• 5 Lunches (Monday-Friday)• 10 Coffee Breaks (Monday-Friday)• Plus! Access to Virtual Platform
Virtual Participation	US\$30 / NGN 30,000	US\$50 / NGN 50,000

Please Note: Accommodation is NOT INCLUDED in the registration fee. However, accommodation will be booked during the registration process. See [Accommodation](#) for more information.

Register and make your accommodation reservation all in one place!

How to Register

Please register for the event and book your accommodation online via the BWA website at <http://www.baptistworld.org/annual-gathering> or the direct link: <https://bwa.regfox.com/2024meetings>. Payment is required when registering and can be made via credit card on our secure registration page. *Please note:* There are 2 registration streams – one for Nigeria resident participants to use and pay in local currency, and the second for all other participants to register and pay in USD.

Requests to pay on arrival can only be granted in extenuating circumstances. Please contact the BWA office at meetings@baptistworld.org to request this special provision. Further information will be requested from these participants depending on the type of restriction they are facing.

Cancellation Policy:

Registration fees (which will increase after April 30, 2024), along with hotel accommodation costs paid, will be refunded only when a written request arrives in our office before May 31, 2024. An administration fee of US\$50 / NGN50,000 will apply to all cancellations. We regret that cancellations made after May 31, 2024, will result in loss of the entire registration fee and accommodation charge.

6. Nigeria Entry Requirements

We are grateful that the Nigerian Baptist Convention has been coordinating with the Nigerian Government regarding visas. They will ensure all embassies are aware of our event and will process visa applications favorably. We encourage you to start to research your respective process for applying for a visa. Interviews at Embassies can have long waiting times to get an appointment. Please note, however, that some visas are issued for only 3 months validity and in this situation, the visa should not be issued more than 3 months before you intend to arrive in Nigeria.

Entry for Africans:

Those from ECOWAS countries do not require a visa to enter Nigeria. Those from other African Union countries can apply for a Visa on Arrival. <https://immigration.gov.ng/visa-on-arrival-process/>

Entry for Non-Africans:

Most other attendees will need to obtain a visa. Participants who do need a visa are advised to apply for the following:

*Visa Category: **Short Visit Visa***

*Visa Sub-Category: **Exchange, Journalism, Religious, Sports & Entertainment***

*Class of Visa: **Religious Tourism Visa - F7D***

Some helpful information for applying for visas.

- **You will need an invitation letter before commencing the visa application process** as some of the information you will need for the application will be included in the letter. When you register for the event(s), you will be able to request this letter and supply the information needing to be included. The BWA, in coordination with NBC, will issue invitation letters that will include confirmation of registration and hotel booking after you have completed the registration process, **within 2 weeks of complete registration**. Thank you for your patience.
- You will also need a digital passport photo (Image size should be less than 1MB) to upload as part of the application process.
- See https://immigration.gov.ng/visa_class/religious-tourism-visa/ for more information on what is needed to apply, relevant fees, and to start your application.
- After following the links, some may see two application channels: eVisa or Visa at the Embassy. The eVisa option for many countries is actually only in relation to a business visa, so you are therefore likely to need to select the **Visa at the Embassy** option.
- For those in the USA, appointments can be made after you have an application number and reference in Atlanta, Houston, Los Angeles, New York City and Washington DC. For those from other countries, during the application process you will get information about where your nearest visa issuing office is.
- When requesting a visa appointment, if Religious Tourist Visa is not an option, select Tourist Visa. The office will then advise which documents you need to bring in addition to your invitation letter.

7. Health and Vaccinations

The Nigerian Government requires those arriving in the country to show evidence of having had vaccinations against polio and yellow fever. These should be had at least 10 days before travel. We also recommend you speak to your doctor about whether anti-malaria tablets are recommended.

Medical Insurance: we strongly recommend that you ensure you have a medical insurance plan that provides coverage overseas and includes medical evacuation coverage.

Always carry your prescription medication in your hand luggage and in original packaging with your doctor's prescription.

Please check your own country's requirements for travel to and from Nigeria as they may have specific requirements that you need to follow.

8. Accommodation

We are thankful to NBC for negotiating very favorable rates at EKO Hotels and Suites for our accommodation and meeting venues. The hotel offers guests various accommodation types, nine different restaurants serving a range of international cuisines, as well as recreational options.

Hotel reservations are made via the BWA website at the time of registration and must be made by **June 5, 2024**. Prices for the various room types are as follows:

HOTEL CATEGORY	ROOM TYPE	RATES		
		Single Occupancy <i>One Bed/One person</i>	Double Occupancy <i>One Bed/Two people</i>	Two Twin Beds <i>Two Beds/Two people</i>
EKO Hotel	Classic Superior	US\$75 / NGN 60,000	US\$94 / NGN 75,000	<i>Not Available</i>
	Atlantic Superior	US\$82 / NGN 65,000	US\$101 / NGN 80,000	USD\$101 / NGN80,000
EKO Gardens	Garden Superior	US\$75 / NGN 60,000	US\$94 / NGN 75,000	<i>Not Available</i>
EKO Suites	Deluxe Room	US\$88 / NGN 70,000	US\$107 / NGN 85,000	<i>Not Available</i>
	Studio Suites	US\$107 / NGN 85,000	US\$ 126 / NGN 100,000	<i>Not Available</i>
EKO Signature	Club Suites	US\$158 / NGN 126,000	US\$177 / NGN 141,000	<i>Not Available</i>

NOTE: We provide links above for each category to see the room details, but please **DO NOT USE THAT LINK TO BOOK** as the rates we have been given are significantly more favorable.

Details

- Nightly room rates include complimentary breakfast, Wi-Fi, taxes and service charges.
- Any reservations made after June 5, 2024, will be subject to availability.
- Check-in is at 3:00 p.m. on the day of arrival with check-out by 12:00 p.m. on the day of departure.
- Room Rates are available to book to stay July 3-14, 2024.
- **Sharing a room:** If you wish to share a room, you will need to arrange this yourself but only one of you should book the room through the registration process. The 2nd person will have opportunity in the accommodation section of the registration process, to indicate they will be sharing.
- **Hotel Cancellation Policy:**
If you need to cancel, please contact Carolina at meetings@baptistworld.org by May 31, 2024. We cannot guarantee a refund after that date.

9. Safety and Airport Transfers

The NBC Team is working hard to ensure we have a safe and secure time together in July. The team from NBC will be on hand to greet participants as they arrive at Lagos airport and ensure your safe transfers to the hotel. Closer to July, we will be asking for flight arrival and departure information to enable the team to facilitate this. It will be most important that everyone gives the relevant information at that time as the team will only be able to guarantee transport for those they are expecting.

The EKO Hotels and Suites are located on a secure compound, safely located in the heart of Victoria Island, away from the hustle and bustle of the Lagos metropolis. NBC leaders are taking extra steps to provide additional security for our event. When we visit the Baptist International Convention Center in Ibadan, we will be taken by buses in police-escorted convoy.

As with all our events, the BWA will continue to monitor the security situation at the location with the local team and will respond as needed.

10. International Humanitarian Action and Development Intensive Course

The International Humanitarian Action and Development Intensive Course from July 5-7, 2024, is open to leaders within BWA conventions and churches (or a participant in a BWA Member Partner program) primarily from within Africa, who are currently responsible for managing aid and development and/or social service projects and would like to further their knowledge in this field. Leaders of BWA Member Partners primarily in Africa who desire to develop an Aid and Development Ministry as part of the work of the convention's ministry are also invited to apply for a place on the course. Please note that participants will need to obtain a reference from their BWA Member Partner as part of their application process. (*The Applicant Reference form is available via the link below*). Participants will also be responsible for covering their travel and accommodation. Limited scholarships will be available for international participants to help with accommodation. Please apply early to be sure of a place in the course. You will receive a response within 10 days informing you if you have been allocated a place in the course. That email will include the link to register for the course. At that time, you will need to pay the US\$100 Registration Fee and international applicants will be given the opportunity to apply for a scholarship towards accommodation. For more information, please see the attached document or refer to: <https://baptistworld.org/humanitarian-aid-course/>

11. General Council Members

a. Proxies: If your organization, as a Member Partner is sending a proxy in place of your named General Council member, BWA will need an official letter stating the name of the person proposed as proxy and whom they will be replacing at the meeting. Please send the letter before June 1, 2024, to Julie Justus at Julie@baptistworld.org.

b. Virtual participation: In keeping with our commitment to provide a hybrid model of participation as well as more equal representation at our meetings, this year we will have all sessions of the General Council available in hybrid mode. More information on how to join the General Council meetings virtually will be available soon.

12. Program of Assistance for Travel and Hospitality (PATH)

PATH Donations

When you register, you will be given the opportunity to donate to the PATH (travel and hospitality) Fund to help facilitate the attendance of Member Partner leaders who would otherwise be unable to attend the Annual Gathering. We value the voice of all our leaders and appreciate your support of their participation in Nigeria. We thank you in advance for any donations you can designate as a PATH donation while registering online. These may also be sent to the BWA Office, Attn: Finance Department.

PATH Requests

PATH Grants for 2024 are limited. Normally, those who wish to apply for a PATH Grant must ensure the BWA Member Partner that they represent has made at least one contribution to the BWA since January 2021. Please consult your Member Partner before writing to us. For further information, please email Julie@baptistworld.org.

13. Worship on Sunday

Lagos Baptist Churches are looking forward to receiving you at their services on Sunday, July 7. Please let us know when registering if you are interested in attending or preaching at one of their Sunday worship services. Arrangements for getting to and from these services will be dependent on the demand. BICTE participants will be worshipping as a group at 9:00 a.m. as part of their Sunday program. All Annual Gathering participants are welcome to join BICTE's morning worship.

Should you have any more questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Director for Global Events, Carolina Mangieri, via email meetings@baptistworld.org.

We look forward to seeing you in Lagos in July.