



PTI Prayer & News – November 2009

'I appeal to you brothers... to strive together with me in your prayers to God on my behalf.' (Romans 15:30)

Dear praying friends,

The apostle Paul was conscious that he needed the hard work of fellow believers to wrestle in prayer for the progress of the Gospel. We face important decisions at this time for which we are very conscious of the need for the support of your hard working prayer fellowship.

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Zambia – conferences during August

We begin with matters for which we thank our gracious God in answering our prayers. In August we were privileged to conduct four conferences in Zambia. **Peter Seccombe** was in Chipata where 90 pastors attended and reports that there appeared to be genuine enthusiasm by the time the conference ended. The following week he moved to Solwezi. Peter wrote as follows:



"I sensed a great receptiveness amongst the men... the fervour of their singing and the evident joy in their faces was profoundly moving. A more than usual number of men came and talked with me personally during the break times."

One man who came to speak with Peter said that he had been praying for six years for such training in his area, which means that his prayers go right back to the time when PTI was just beginning to be formed.

Peter was helped in the leadership and teaching by Kabwe Kabwe and

Gilbert Mubanga. Among other things, Gilbert led a session which dealt with some cultural issues that pastors and believers have to face when they begin the Christian walk.

At Mongu, where we were visiting for the last time, **Alan Levy** was helped in teaching by Victor Kenyance. Alan taught on the person and work of the Holy Spirit and some of his teaching was underlined by Victor's exposition of Philippians. Most of the pastors at the conference had attended last year, and many spoke of the help that it had given them with their preaching. Victor was unwell and had to stay at home for the Mansa conference the following week, so Alan had to do all the teaching himself. He wrote:

"All I can do is thank God for his abundant provision in every way, health and strength given, undertaking for the men to grasp what was taught without much disagreement... as well as travelling mercies."

At all the conferences there were preaching workshops as well as the teaching sessions. These are valuable times when the pastors begin to realise the hard work that is involved in sermon preparation.

We thank God for the abundant help and fellowship offered by a number of friends in Zambia. The Kabwata Baptist Church bookshop and its manageress Kakonde Simbeye willingly help by receiving and storing the books that we use at the conferences. Phil Bailey gives generously of his time and helps with the books and with transport. There are three Zambian speakers and a number of excellent local leaders who do such a good job in organising each conference. It is a joy and privilege to share fellowship with these friends.

Matters for thanksgiving and prayer

- Give thanks that several who have attended at least one conference told the local leaders that previous conferences have had a great impact on their ministries.
- Pray that this year's conferences will have the same impact, as will the books which were given to each pastor.
- Pray for the local leaders who are following up these conferences.

Ethiopia – conferences during October

David Sercombe and Ken McIntosh recently made their third visit to Ethiopia. We are too near the end of the conferences to be able to give any detailed report on these two weeks, but we will do so in the next letter. We have heard brief reports from Ethiopia: "We had a very nice time in Addis. Today we were in Ambo to have a program with college students and it went very well." Similar reports by word of mouth indicate that the second week was equally valuable.

India – November 2009

Very shortly we shall be in India for the first time. The conferences begin on 9th November at Siliguri where **Merv Neal** will be teaching with **Rob Owens**. The following week **John Grindell** and his son **Jim Grindell** will be leading at Bangalore. Many of the preparations have been made, but there are some great and urgent prayer needs:

- Jyoti Chakravartty, who has done so much of the organising, has severe blood pressure problems which are very restricting. He is also burdened with a number of family illnesses.
- The books have arrived in Kolkata, but there are some serious difficulties in getting them released from the docks.
- Merv Neal is in India for considerably longer than the week of our conference. He writes, "I would value prayer for the Holy Spirit's presence and power and enabling, and for physical staying power as I am away teaching so intensely over the 5 weeks. As it is the first PTI conference in India, prayer for the right mix of men to come together and encourage one another in God's word is very important. Pray that Rob and I would have the right servant-hearted attitude towards our brothers in Christ."

India itinerary:

- Siliguri, 9th-13th November
- Bangalore, 16th-20th November



Looking ahead to 2010

We are working on plans for **Ken Brownell** to visit **Myanmar** again early next year. In February we intend to visit **Liberia** for the first time. We have a good relationship with John Duco who is the local leader. Liberia has had a difficult recent history, but there is much zeal among the Lord's people for the need of help and encouragement. **Alan Levy** is planning to lead these conferences, which we hope will be held in Buchanan and Ganta.

- Please pray for a brother to be able to accompany Alan, as well as for all the arrangements for this visit.
- Pray for the safe arrival of the books, which have already been sent. Experience shows that post to Liberia is quite slow.

Other matters for prayer and praise

- **Warehousing** – In the past we have mentioned the need for a different place to store the books. We thank God for the generosity of David and Marion Ide for the use of space in their property since we started this ministry. Later this month David and Marion will be moving from Milford. This means that by the time you read this letter, the books will be in storage. We hope that this will be for only a brief time. In the next few weeks the final decision has to be taken about where we operate from. We need great wisdom for this and to be very conscious of the clear guidance and leading of our all-wise God. We trust that we shall have more to share with you very soon.
- **More Help Needed** – In the last few months we have had more applicants seeking our ministry than on any previous occasion. During this same period, we have received more completed papers of answers to *What the Scriptures Teach*. These are matters for great thanksgiving to the Lord, but they do bring with them a number of practical needs. We praise God for those who help us with the marking of these papers as well as the *Workbook* that accompanies the *Christian Handbook*. We thank God that we have another helper to deal with all the new enquiries about our work. There are numerous others in our growing team of volunteers, but we do need more help with some of the administration and mentoring parts of our ministry. These are important needs if we are to continue in the way that we have operated until this present time.
- **Preaching Meeting** – For some time we have been concerned to get ourselves more widely known. The Lord has provided us with an unexpected way to do this. On Thursday 7th January 2010 at 7.30pm we have a meeting at the East London Tabernacle, Mile End (www.eltbaptistchurch.org). Conrad Mbewe from Kabwata Baptist Church (Lusaka, Zambia) has agreed to preach, and there will be a presentation of our work and that of Christian Books Worldwide. Conrad has been a great encouragement to us in all of our visits to Zambia. Do pray for the effectiveness of this meeting, and please join with us if you are in London area and are free that evening.
- **Christian Books Worldwide** (www.christianbooksworldwide.org) – Two volumes containing Ryle's Expository Thoughts on the Gospel of Mark will very shortly be published in Swahili. Work continues to progress on materials in Punjabi and Urdu for India and Pakistan. There have been a large number of enquiries coming to CBW about translation of books into other languages. We are encouraged at the progress of the work, but this is an important time for us. Again, please labour in prayer with us for wisdom and discernment of the Lord's leading in all the decisions that have to be made for the progress of this vital ministry.

Letters and comments about the books

Normally we only give comments from pastors, but this time we have something different to include. Earlier this year we were given a large number of second hand books and magazines. A pallet of these has gone to some friends in Malawi. Another pallet was sent to the Evergreen Christian Bookstore in Lusaka as the donor asked that the books should go to Zambia. Last month we received a message from Kakonde Simbeye, the bookshop manageress, which said:

"On behalf of the Evergreen Christian Bookstore Board Members I would like to convey my gratitude for the significant donation of books that we received from you this year. It really made a huge difference in the life of the bookstore. The magnitude of your donation added stock to our reduced stock levels and made the bookstore look like a real store. We sold most of the books at a giveaway price, almost less than 10 percent of the market price and the old books were sold at less than a Pound. Some were rare titles that we have never managed to stock before.

"We have not completely sold out and still have titles such as Christians are Forever, Life after Pentecost, Revival, Thematic Concordance, The Spirit Has Come, No Turning Back, They Beheld His Glory and Mission Accomplished.

"A Pastor from Mount Makulu in the outskirts of Lusaka could not believe it when he acquired a whole set of the Treasury of David at £10! After he bought his set he discovered that it was autographed by Spurgeon himself. He came back to me in great excitement and told me about it!

"Young people were glad to get themselves copies of Sin is Serious, Biblical Christianity, Holy War, String of Pearls by Richard Brooks, Triumph In Death by J.Elwyn Davies, Christians Are Forever by John Owen, They Beheld his Glory by Peter Trumper offered on reduced prices that we made available at their young people's Conference."

"I pray that Our God continues to bless you as you have blessed us and all who benefited because of your donation."

We conclude with some extracts from pastors' letters:

"The literature has given me and other readers tremendous insight and has extended our knowledge. Let's Study Luke is of great benefit to me and has made my systematic teaching in the book of Luke very easy and simple... The booklet on substitution I gave to a pastor friend to read. He was so amazed at the stuff in the material that he has refused to give it back." Ghana

"I have been praying for 10 years for God to send men of God to come to the rural areas of Western Province to preach and to train church leaders who can understand and have knowledge of applying the Word of God. Why did I pray to God for this? Because most preachers in Zambia and abroad were not willing to go to the rural places to share the Gospel... now through the PTI rural programme many pastors are being trained... We have decided to share on this subject "Substitution" for three months. This subject should start first in our local church afterwards we will share in the prisons and hospitals." Zambia

"The books were so inspiring. They have really helped us in the Bible School where I lecture. I have a group of 30 pastors I study with... those books were an eye opener to many ministers of God." Nigeria

"I have read the books you sent me. I am much excited about the facts I got from them. I decided not to be selfish but rather to organise a seminar for elders, deacons and deaconesses in my area to impact what I learned from the books to their lives, more especially from the book of Nehemiah written by James Montgomery Boice concerning Nehemiah's style of leadership. I am blessed because the books have changed my direction of leadership and my sense of direction." Ghana

"I send this with a joyful heart because you are helping and doing a very commendable work of the Lord... I've been helped much and very educative in those 2 commentaries and from the time I received the books, my church and some new believers have really been helped. It is really a challenge to me and my ministry." Zambia

What a privilege it is to be able to share such riches of the printed page that have been entrusted to us. All our plans are subject to the sovereign and wise will of our loving God.

With our warmest greetings,

Gordon Oram and all the PTI team

Would you like to hear more about PTI?

If you would like someone to visit your church to speak about PTI's ministry then please contact us on 02380 360108 or g.oram@pastor-training.org