



## PTI Prayer & News – January 2010

*'With God we shall do valiantly; it is he who will tread down our foes.'* (Psalm 108:13)

### Ethiopia – a third encouraging visit

David Sercombe and Ken McIntosh made their third visit to Ethiopia during October, to teach in **Addis Ababa** and **Ginchi**. A few days before the conferences, they travelled 12 hours north by road to visit and encourage some churches in a region where the Christians face serious persecution. One church had seen its building burned down 4 years ago.

Ken reported on the conferences as follows:

*The first conference in Addis went very well. We gave five lecturers on the doctrine of the Holy Spirit: his person and work, his presence and power, his gifts, his fruit, and his work in evangelism. We gave four lectures on the book of Romans, and four workshops on exegesis, parenthood, the nature of the church, and the atonement. Then at the end of each day we gave character studies, on Elijah, Elisha, Hosea and Amos. Each session was followed by a question and answer time. It felt as if we were building on the foundation of the first two years and we could see and rejoice in the way that the students had matured in their Christian faith and understanding.*

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Fellowship over coffee in a believer's home



Pastors receive their books in Ginchi

*On Saturday afternoon we left for Ginchi, 75km west of Addis. That evening we spoke to about 70 students from surrounding towns. We spoke at three churches on the Sunday, including one that was a 3km walk from the nearest road. We arrived to a packed church of 300-400 people completely 'out in the sticks'.*

*The second conference began in Ginchi on Monday morning. There was another warm welcome from the 105 students and I felt that the lectures went even better than in Addis. We visited families on the Tuesday and Wednesday evenings, and on the Thursday evening we spoke at another students' meeting. The conference finished on Friday morning and, as in Addis, certificates were given to those who had attended all three conferences (35 students qualified in Addis and 87 in Ginchi). Two commentaries were given to each student attending this year – translations of Mark and Romans.*

Please continue to pray for the Church in Ethiopia, in particular that:

- The teaching and books would continue to strengthen and help the pastors.
- Persecuted Christians would remain faithful in the Lord, and find relief from trouble.
- PTI would wisely plan for future ministry in Ethiopia.

## India – reports from our first conferences

We give thanks to God for graciously enabling us to hold our first two conferences in India during November. As planned, Mervyn Neal and Robert Owen led the first conference in the North at **Siliguri** and John Grindell and his son Jim Grindell led the second conference in the South at **Bangalore**.

Siliguri – Just over 70 men attended, and some came from surrounding areas where there is open persecution of Christians. One pastor from Orissa had lost everything and is still living in a relief camp. Other men came from Nepal and Bhutan. The first man to arrive for the Siliguri conference had travelled for three days by train and many others had made real sacrifices to attend. Please pray for these brethren as they seek to minister faithfully under difficult, and often dangerous, circumstances. Jyoti Chakravartty gave a great deal of help in the preparation for the



Time to relax and enjoy fellowship at Siliguri

conference, and local men from a national mission organisation also assisted, particularly by supplying highly competent translators for the training sessions. Mervyn Neal, who has considerable experience from his previous visits to minister in India, confirmed that this area has a strategic importance for training the many young pastors in the churches there.

Bangalore – Over 80 people attended here. Many were very well educated and had oversight of large churches, or groups of churches, in some cases they were very busy during the week and were under great time pressure for sermon preparation. As noted in other countries where PTI holds conferences, the need for men to be encouraged to practice a biblically based, expository ministry was evident. John and Jim were able to minister to these needs in this first conference in Bangalore. Please pray that the teaching and the modelling of expository preaching, reinforced by the workshop sessions, will bear fruit in the ministries of the men, strengthening their churches to the glory of God.



The pastors in Siliguri with their book sets

After much prayer the books which had been shipped to India for the conference attendees were released undamaged at the last moment, having been detained in the customs clearance system for a very long time.

There is general agreement that PTI conferences in India, and distance mentoring for pastors, could provide valuable teaching under the hand of God. The possibilities of continuing and

expanding this work will be prayerfully considered, and we ask that you join with us in seeking God's guidance for our work in the future in India.

## What is planned for 2010?

### Myanmar & Thailand – January 2010

Ken Brownell will travel to Yangon for a conference on 28th-29th January. This will be sponsored by the Evangelical Free Church of Yangon and the Peace Evangel Church, and held at the YMCA. It is intended to be smaller this year as Ken will be on his own, and it will give him the opportunity to work closely with a group of men on their preaching. In Thailand Ken will visit Beverley Kalnin of Frontier Labourers for Christ in Chiang Mai in order to discuss future training opportunities. The following week, Simon Percy of Woodford Evangelical Church will visit the same people in both Myanmar and Thailand for more teaching.

### **Liberia – February 2010**

Alan Levy and David Sercombe are intending to visit Liberia to teach at PTI's first set of pastor training conferences in the country. The teaching will include expository messages from Titus, a Bible overview, plus other biblical studies and group workshops.

The invitation to visit Liberia came from John Duco, a Liberian pastor who travelled to Sierra Leone to join one of the conferences there in 2009. Please pray for John as he works hard to make the necessary local arrangements. Please also pray for Alan and David as they prepare and teach at the conferences, and for safety as they travel in this challenging and needy country.

### **Zambia – April and August 2010**

Plans are being made for Peter Seccombe to return to Solwezi and Chipata in April. He will share the teaching with two local pastors – Albert Ngoma at Chipata and Kabwe Kabwe at Solwezi. This will be Albert's first time helping at a PTI conference. It will be the third and last conference at Chipata and the second at Solwezi.

We hope that Alan Levy and Ken Brownell will return to Zambia during late August. Alan will lead our second conference at Mansa, sharing the teaching with Victor Kenyance from Zambia. They will preach on subjects including the Exaltation of Christ. Alan and Ken will then share the ministry at Livingstone. As this will be our first conference there, the main expositions will come from one of the Pastoral Epistles.

### **Ghana – August-September 2010**

We are making plans for a second visit to Ghana – later in the year this time to avoid the worst of the heat. Timothy Alford and Steven Curry will again lead the ministry, spending a week at Nkoranza and a week at a venue in the South.

### **Nigeria – November 2010**

This is another new country for PTI. We hope to hold a pastors' conference in the Northern Bassa region, with Alan Levy ministering from one of the Pastoral Epistles plus a range of other topics.

### **Ethiopia – November 2010**

The 3-year teaching cycle at Addis Ababa and Ginchi has now finished, but we have contact with a further group of pastors around Ginchi, and an invitation to visit Awassa in the South. Ken McIntosh and David Sercombe have agreed to return and lead the teaching once more, alongside Mulugeta Ashagre. The programme will include a Bible overview, the authority and inspiration of the Bible, studies from a Pastoral Epistle, plus workshops on expository preaching, justification, sanctification, and regeneration.

### **India – November 2010**

Many details are still to be agreed, but we hope to return to Siliguri and Bangalore.

#### **Liberia itinerary:**

- Ganta, 8th-14th February
- Buchanan, 16th-20th February



Please pray for the conferences coming up soon in **Myanmar/Thailand** and **Liberia**. Please also pray for the planning and organisation of the whole conference programme in 2010, especially that:

- The local organisers would secure the right venues and helpers.
- The books would be safely despatched and delivered in time.
- The UK team would wisely plan and oversee the ministry.
- The trainers would know the Lord's help as they prepare for the conferences.

## Other matters for prayer and praise

- **Gordon Oram** – Some of you will already have heard that our brother Gordon Oram has had to step back from his work with PTI on account of his health. He had been under a lot of pressure for some time, and has decided that a complete rest was the most sensible course of action. Gordon was integral to the founding of PTI and had been carrying out a work which we now call Distance Mentoring for some years previously. Please give thanks for Gordon's service over so many years. His wise, pastoral ministry will be sorely missed by many, many men worldwide. His support and fellowship in the gospel will also be missed by the volunteers who minister on behalf of PTI. Please pray for Gordon's health, and for that of his wife, Liz, who has an increasingly severe respiratory condition.
- **Warehouse** – We are currently working on finalising the terms of the lease to move our warehouse to Dunsfold Park in Surrey. As soon as this is done we need to transport the shelving frames up from Petersfield, and once erected we will bring the books over from a temporary storage location in Cranleigh. Please pray that these various steps may go smoothly and that we may be "back in business" despatching books to needy pastors once more early in the New Year.

## Pastors' letters and comments

We finish with some extracts from recent correspondence that pastors have sent us, and we hope that these comments will encourage you to continue praying for the Lord's servants around the world.

*"I start by thanking you for a great work you are doing ... by empowering us through sending some sets of books – what a gift. Though this is my first year of attendance I can testify that spiritually, knowledgeably and wisely there is lifting and growth. May God continually bless you for extending your assistance to rural pastors who had no means of receiving such blessing."* Senanga, Zambia

*"Through these I have seen more specially how to prepare a preaching message or how to teach the children of God. Please help us to help others also. I have helped other church members through [what] I have received from you by the mercies of God. I am not looking for worldly material but for spiritual material, please, please!!!"* Sesheke, Zambia

*"We highly appreciate the entire team and supporters of PTI programs. We count it a blessing to be in the family of PTI. We greet you with a heart of joy because of the help we are receiving through the books you have sent and attending these conferences."* Senanga, Zambia

*"How happy I was to see a variety of different sorts of literature. I am pretty sure I will and I am benefiting a great deal from them as far as God the Holy Spirit build me during their usage."* Mbeya, Tanzania

*"I am excited and pleased to have received a letter and a book from you with those good and important lessons with questions which you requested me to answer. As a minister of the Gospel and student, the book has really helped me to grow spiritually. I appreciate very much that those questions kept me busy by way of going through the Bible grasping more of the new insights."* Lusaka, Zambia

*"Once again, teaching books we received is not helping us alone. These books go a long way to train workers from sister churches around Ibadan."* Ibadan, Nigeria

*"Thank you so much for the set of books which I could not have paid for out of my own pocket. It is a judicious choice appropriate to my need."* Luanshya, Zambia

### 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 0208 3466321 or [info@pastor-training.org](mailto:info@pastor-training.org)