

# Pastor Training International

Flat 5, 104 Hendon Lane, London, N3 3SQ, United Kingdom  
Email: [info@pastor-training.org](mailto:info@pastor-training.org) Internet: [www.pastor-training.org](http://www.pastor-training.org)



Teach to Preach

## PTI Prayer & News – April 2010

*'If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.'* (Jn. 8:31-32)

### Myanmar & the Golden Triangle

**Ken Brownell** returned to Myanmar (Burma) in late January. In Yangon he led a conference on expository preaching, which was well received by the 60 attendees. The teaching and the workshops were based on the epistle of James. Ken had further meetings at training centres in Yangon, and with pastors in Mandalay. After this, Ken flew to Thailand and met with Christians working in training and church planting in the 'Golden Triangle' border areas of Burma, Laos and Thailand. The highlight was a meeting with an evangelist going into Laos (a largely unevangelised country with a government resistant to Christianity) who is keen to develop training for Laotian Christians.

#### In this issue:

- Myanmar conference report
- Liberia conference report
- Zambia itinerary & prayer points
- Ukraine itinerary & prayer points
- What else is planned for 2010?
- Other items for praise and prayer
- Pastors' letters and comments

#### Please pray for:

- The Lord's continued blessing on the preachers who attended the Yangon conference.
- Wisdom as we explore how God might use PTI in these other areas of South-Asia.
- Praise God for a very fruitful trip and pray for the planning of next year's ministry.

### Liberia

We give thanks for the safe travel and good health granted to **Alan Levy** as he visited Liberia in February for the first PTI conferences in that country. You will remember that David Sercombe, who was to have accompanied Alan, was unable to travel at the last minute due to a medical condition. Sending one man alone to such a difficult country was a concern to us, but in answer to prayer, God provided abundantly for His servant.

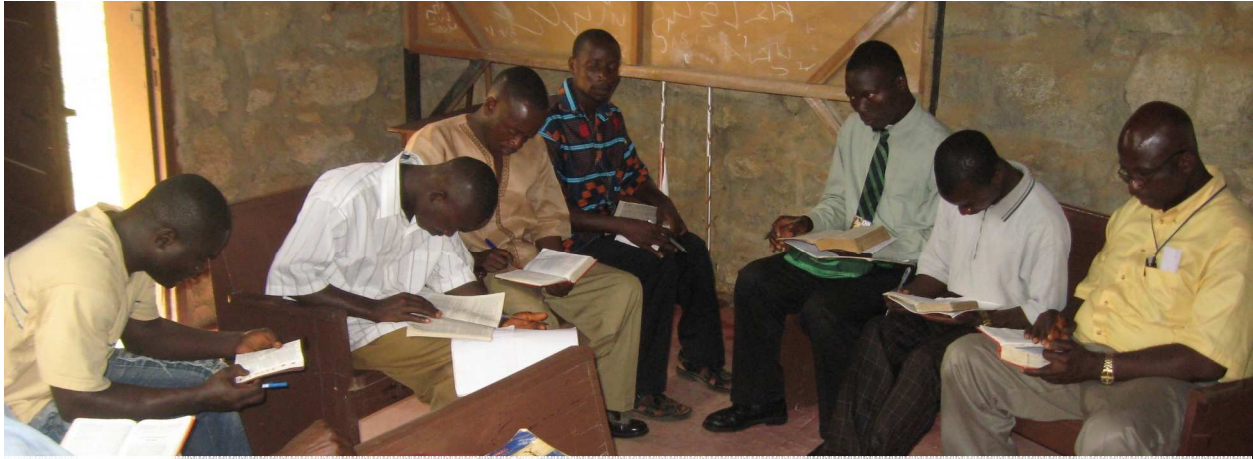
The local leadership team reported:

*"The lessons were very much clear, the method of presentation friendly and respectful to the students and others. The Lord brought in leaders who really had ears, needed and wanted to study the truth. Brother Alan also was ready and his teaching really did impact all who attended. Trainees went home with great joy in the truth, biblical teachings and vow to set in order those doctrines being practised at some of their home churches."*



The conference group at Buchanan, Liberia

At Ganta, in the first week, there were about 70 attendees and at Buchanan, in the second week, there were about 65. The sermon outlines on Justification and Sanctification were of mixed quality in Ganta but the work in Buchanan was the best that Alan has seen at any of the conferences he has taken. There was good listening and there were lots of good questions. Two of the men there told Alan that it was a life-changing and ministry-changing experience for them. The leadership team also reported that the PTI ministry primarily focussed on *"the very poor pastors... It paid careful attention to us to impact in the life of the very poor of the poorest pastors."*



A workshop group at Ganta, Liberia

There were some problems with the local conference organisation; including issues with local financial control and some unrealistic expectations for the level of resources that would be provided. Despite this, it was apparent that the teaching and the books were very much appreciated.

Please pray:

- That the Lord of the Church will build up His servants in Liberia and use them to minister to His people.
- For wisdom as the PTI leadership discuss requests to return to Liberia next year.
- And please give thanks for the many answers to prayer concerning Alan's safety whilst he was travelling to, from, and within Liberia.

### Zambia – two conferences in April

Please pray for **Peter Seccombe** in his final preparation, particularly for new sessions he is preparing on the Person and work of the Holy Spirit, and for a Bible overview in four sessions. Pray also for pastors Kabwe Kabwe and Gilbert Mubanga who will again be sharing in the teaching at Solwezi, and for Albert Ngoma who will be helping at Chipata, where he has recently become pastor of the Reformed Baptist church. This will be Albert's first time teaching at a PTI conference.

About 100 men are expected at each conference. Please pray for good fellowship across a wide range of denominational backgrounds, and that the teaching will make a positive difference in the ministry of those who attend.

On a practical note, the arrangements for water at Solwezi were not satisfactory last year and some of the men became ill. Pray for better provision this year. Remember Peter in prayer for safety and good health, and for freedom from disruption due to potential BA strikes!

**Zambia itinerary:**

- Solwezi, 11th-16th April
- Chipata, 18th-23rd April



### Ukraine itinerary:

- Chudniv, 31st May–2nd June



### Ukraine – May-June

Please pray for **Gareth Jones** as he prepares for the conference at Chudniv from 31st May – 2nd June. He has been asked to cover the letter to Titus, and the pastors have identified a particular need in meeting the challenges in ministering in the modern world. Pray for the new difficulties for most protestant churches following the recent political changes in the country. Please also pray that the pastors will have enough time to take on board all the teaching they receive at the conference and to apply it in their lives and their churches.

### What else is planned for 2010?

Please continue to pray as we work on plans for the pastors' conferences later in the year. Arranging a PTI conference can be a very long and challenging process, which includes arranging suitable and cost-effective venues, accommodation, catering, local helpers and transport, as well as securing the right men to lead the teaching. We also have to transfer quite large sums of money and deliver a lot of books – safely and on time. Please pray that the Lord would give wisdom, patience and success to those who serve in these practical ways.

The schedule for the rest of 2010 currently includes:

- **Ghana** – two conferences during August-September, led by Timothy Alford and Steven Curry.
- **Zambia** – two further conferences during August, led by Alan Levy and Ken Brownell.
- **Nigeria** – this will be our first visit to Nigeria. We hope that Alan Levy can minister in the Northern Bassa region during November.
- **Ethiopia** – we hope that Ken McIntosh and David Sercombe can return in November, teaching in Ginchi and Awassa.
- **India** – plans are being made for Merv Neal to return to Siliguri, and for John Grindell and Jim Grindell to return to Bangalore in November.

### Other matters for prayer and praise

#### Distance Mentoring

One distinctive and important part of PTI's ministry is our mentoring scheme. Through ongoing contact with pastors we seek to build their understanding and reinforce the Biblical truths taught at the conferences and in the books.

Please give thanks that several more volunteers have recently joined the PTI team:

- Three new people have taken on roles in dealing with and responding to incoming letters and emails from overseas pastors. They are also involved in preparing the book lists for the men on regular mentoring.
- Five new men have also joined our team of mentors. PTI mentors are experienced and mature Christian men who have been elders or pastors themselves. They write to pastors overseas in response to their questions on doctrinal and practical issues, and provide personal guidance and support from the Scriptures.

This area of ministry is growing fast as a result of the many contacts we make through our conferences. Please pray that God would provide more suitable men for this role in the coming months.

## **Warehousing**

Our book stock has now been moved into new storage facilities and books have already been despatched for the conferences in Zambia. The books for the mentoring ministry are also being sent out once again. Thank you for your prayers about this change of location. The whole operation has taken place with the minimum of impact on the pastors overseas. Bill Bridgens and John Reid, who carry out the activities associated with the stocking and despatch of books have been involved in a heavy workload to relocate the books to temporary storage and then to set up the new location. Please give thanks to God for all the volunteers who give freely of their time and energy to further the work of the Gospel.

## **Pastors' letters and comments**

One of the great encouragements in the work is to receive letters from pastors who have attended conferences or received books through our Distance Mentoring scheme. We give a selection of extracts below which we trust will spur you on to pray for these dear servants of the Lord, and for the wider work of the gospel across the developing world.

First, some comments from India, where we held our first conferences in 2009:

*"I enjoyed your teaching sessions in Bangalore. I will practise expository preaching and teach bible exposition to my emerging leaders."* P.S. – Mysore, India

*"Thank you very much indeed for your prayer support for the ongoing ministry here in India. Please pray that the church and mission leaders will prove themselves to be people of integrity and faithfulness, and that our preaching will be completely scripturally based."* P.W. – Bangalore, India

*"St Paul's life of suffering for the sake of the Gospel has empowered me with new thoughts. I enjoyed the fellowship and I liked the way the trainers trained us and their willingness to help us."* S.P. – Parthasarathy, India

Ghana was another new venue for us last year. One Ghanaian pastor recently wrote:

*"Dear brothers in Christ, I just don't know what to say; your books have been a blessing to me. Thank you so much for your concern for my life and others."* S.Z. – Nungua-Accra, Ghana

And we conclude with a further selection from other parts of Africa:

*"It is my first time to attend the PTI conference in Zambia. I have enjoyed the lessons and the books. This has built my faith and renewed my mind of knowing more about our Lord Jesus Christ. My daily life is completely changed."* A.L.K. – Senanga, Zambia

*"I was really challenged by "Words to Winners of Souls" (Bonar). The words are fresh and sharp as if they were written just recently. I use the study papers for studies in my person and church services... your help means a lot to me!"* P.M. – Kasama, Zambia

*"Your sending books have caused me to love the Saviour more and to evaluate my understanding of God."* A.T. – Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

*"Greetings in our Saviour's Name – our Lord Jesus. I was thrilled to receive the packet of lovely books that you sent me... it was so kind of you, and I am deeply grateful. This year again the Lord has opened a wide door of our ministry."* S.M. – Mbeya, Tanzania

*"I have received the books you sent to me in my ministry. Oh, what a wonderful time with me as I went through these materials. You are a contributor to my ministry."* G.I. – Port Harcourt, Nigeria

Thank you for your faithful and prayerful interest. With our warmest greetings in the Lord,

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