



PTI Prayer & News – August 2010

'This is the one to whom I will look: he who is humble and contrite in spirit and trembles at my word.' (Isa. 66:2)

Zambia

In April **Peter Seccombe** returned to Zambia for conferences in **Solwezi** and **Chipata**. The conferences were attended by almost 200 men in total. At Solwezi Peter was again assisted by Kabwe Kabwe and Gilbert Mubanga. The teaching included expositions from 1 Thessalonians, a series on the person and work of the Lord Jesus Christ, and sessions on pastoral issues led by Kabwe and Gilbert. A number of men travelled 160km to be at this conference. The brother shown on the left is an ex-headmaster and now pastor. He came 280km by bus to attend – as he did last year – and he always sat in the front row and was very attentive and responsive.

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One of the pastors at Solwezi

The Chipata conference was the third and last in the series there, and Peter was supported in the teaching by Albert Ngoma. This is the first time Albert has been involved in PTI work and Peter reports that his teaching, on several aspects of pastoral care, was excellent. Peter gave the main expositions, this time from John 13-17, and also taught a 4-part Bible overview and led a series of preaching workshops.

Peter commented that one highlight was meeting some delightful and impressive men. For example, one has been blind since he was 16 years old, teaches English Language and Literature in the local school for the blind and pastors a church. He has been to all three conferences, takes notes in Braille and asks lots of thoughtful questions.

Please pray that these pastors will be strengthened in their lives and ministries. Pray also for the local leaders who assisted in the teaching, in particular about the possibility of the local men arranging teaching conferences in Chipata now that the PTI series has finished.



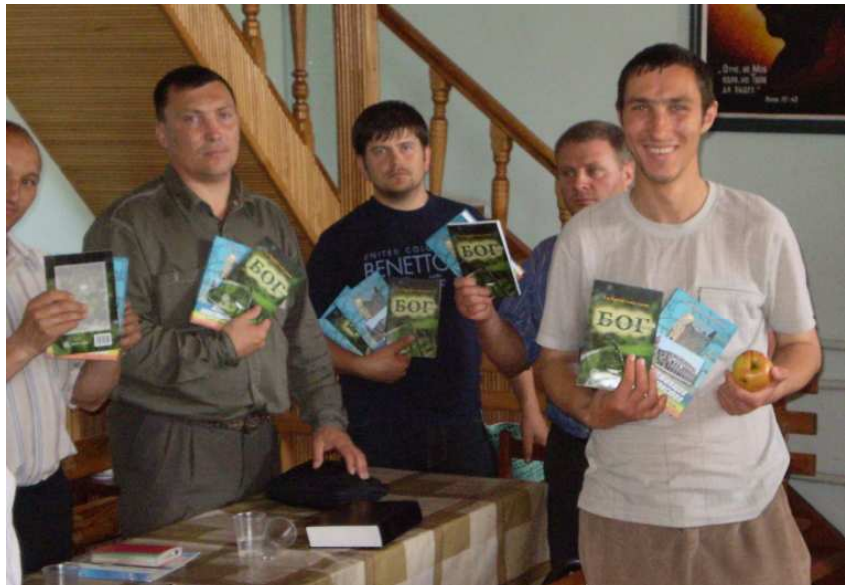
The conference group at Chipata, Zambia

Ukraine

This was the third year that a PTI conference was held at **Chudniv** Baptist Church, for pastors within that region and area of Ukraine. Approximately 20 pastors came, most of whom had come to the previous two conferences. **Gareth Jones**, who once more led the teaching, reports:

One of my first impressions from this year's conference was how much the pastors had grown spiritually. It was evident that the previous conferences, together with the books they had received, had helped them grow as pastors and as Christians. For example, in 2009 we were discussing the Biblical methods of Church discipline and some of these did not tie in with their traditional methods. This year when the subject was raised it was clear that these men had been thinking biblically on the things that had been said, and had put them into practice. It is also clear that since the PTI conferences begun, the pastors have been preaching systematically to the benefit of their own souls and the blessings of their Churches.

During the three mornings we worked our way through the book of Titus. Under God's providence it was a timely book to study. Many Churches are considering leadership and Titus 1 outlines the role of elders, explaining why they are needed. Then, there is a debate within Ukraine about the role of women within the Church. Titus 2 explains how the older women should be encouraged to teach the younger women. The pastors saw this as a real blessing as they realised that:



Pastors in Chudniv with their books at the end of the conference

1. Some of their gifted ladies can be used in this context of ministry and
2. Not all the teaching in the church has to be done by them.

On the last morning we discussed some of the very practical issues of Titus 3 which again seemed to be the right message at the right time.

At the request of the pastors, during the two afternoons, I addressed the subject of "The Perils and Dangers of the Pastor in the 21st Century". My text was from 1 Timothy 4:16 "Take heed of yourself and to the doctrine" focussing on "yourself" on Monday and "doctrine" on Tuesday. As a part of Monday's ministry we focussed also on v12 of 1 Timothy 4 where Timothy was told to be an example "in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit and in faith". Now some of the pastors, including myself, are praying personally about these things each day from Monday to Saturday and then praying for our hearts on Sundays.

Please pray for these men. They are labouring under difficult circumstances, and some are now concerned about Ukraine's religious freedoms since the country as a whole seems to be strengthening itself under Russia. In the meantime they are seeking to continue to serve the Lord, preaching His gospel and strengthening the saints. The opportunity for them to have PTI conferences is clearly a blessing which they appreciate.

Zambia itinerary:

- Mansa, 9th-13th August



Zambia – second round of ministry

Alan Levy is due to visit Zambia in early August to teach at the third of the series of three annual conferences at **Mansa**. We had hoped that Alan could also lead a first conference in Livingstone during this visit, but this has not proved practical for various reasons. We do trust that the Lord will open the way for us to include Livingstone in our 2011 programme.

Please pray for:

- Peter Kaluba and Lemmy Chilekwa as they finalise the local practical arrangements.
- Victor Kenyance, one of the local pastors, who will join Alan as Associate Trainer.
- Alan's preparation, travel, health, and strength. Pray also that he will receive much grace and wisdom from the Lord as he leads the conference.

Ghana – September

Timothy Alford and **Steven Curry** will return for a second visit to Ghana in September. The main theme will be 'The Glory and Uniqueness of Christ' which will include a detailed exposition of Isaiah 53 by Steven, while Timothy will focus on Colossians 1.

Please pray for:

- MacDouglas Ampadu, our local organiser.
- A good number of pastors who attended to return, and that all who come will be eager to learn from God's word.
- Timothy, Steven, and the local trainer as they travel and teach.

Looking further ahead

We continue to plan further conferences during the latter part of 2010, including some new locations. We are also working on the programme for 2011.

Please pray that we would be given great wisdom as we assess the needs and opportunities that are before us, so that our labours will be truly 'in the Lord' and all done for his glory.

Ghana itinerary:

- Nkoranza, 6th-10th Sept
- Mampong-Akwapim, 13th-17th Sept



At present the programme for the rest of 2010 is as follows:

- **Nigeria** – Plans are well advanced for Alan Levy to lead a conference in the Bassa region (Plateau State) from 1st-5th November. Please pray that the Lord will provide the right Associate Trainer to share the ministry. Alan then expects to minister in Port Harcourt from 8th-12th November – although this will not be a PTI conference, please pray that it will be a blessed and profitable time for all who attend.
- **Ethiopia** – David Sercombe and Ken McIntosh are preparing to visit Ginchi and then Awassa, a new location for us in the south. This will be during the second half of November. Mulugeta Ashagri, our local co-ordinator in previous years, will assist again. Tesfaye Nenko is organising and hosting in Awassa. Please pray for David and Ken as they prepare their material, and for the completion of the practical arrangements.
- **India** – We had hoped to return to Siliguri and Bangalore during November, but these conferences may need to be postponed. The next Bangalore conference (led by John Grindell and Jim Grindell) is now likely to be held February, followed by another towards the end of 2011. There are a couple of practical obstacles hindering our plans for Merv Neal and Rob Owens' return to Siliguri in November. Please pray that, if the Lord wills, these problems can be overcome. We know that his plan is perfect.

Christian Books Worldwide

Please do pray for the work of CBW, our sister organisation. Through their partners they are engaged in many translation projects, including the following:

- *Ultimate Questions* in **Urdu** and **Amharic**
- *Jesus, Dead or Alive?* in **Malayalam**
- *Preaching Pure and Simple* in **Hmar, Punjabi** and **Urdu**
- *Expository Thoughts on the Gospels Matthew, Luke and John* in **Swahili**
- *The Ministry We Need, Holiness, and Precious Remedies* in **Swahili**
- *Foundations of the Christian Faith* in **Nepalese, Hmar, Burmese & Chin**
- *Children's Bible* in **Armenian**
- *Christian Handbook* in **Punjabi, Urdu, Nepalese**

Pastors' letters and comments

We now have over 2,800 pastors from more than 40 countries enrolled in our Distance Mentoring scheme, and new applications are received nearly every day. Many of the pastors who have attended a PTI conference continue to receive books, study and learn this way. We hope that the following extracts from some of their recent letters will encourage your prayers and illustrate something of what God is enabling us to do together.

"Until I read through 'Let's Study Ephesians' I knew little of the rich message it presented. This commentary breaks easily God's word so as to explain the verses in simple and clear manner. I now will have no much trouble to present its message." – Zambia

"Thank you very much for your presence and teaching here in Siliguri. I am personally blessed by your teaching and the study materials as well." – India

"I thank God for receipt of these books. They are useful, instructive, teach, educate, give direction and edify. My life will never be the same again. I am now able to teach confidently knowing well it is the inerrancy of scripture." – Zambia

"I may not express my joy in its fullness in this letter for knowing you. It has been a blessing to me, my ministry and others. I have been touched in every way. Thank you so very much." – Nigeria

"The conference will really make a great impact in my church by the true teaching that was presented to me. I am a blind man and only listen and ask questions." – Liberia

"PTI has changed my way of preaching the word of God. Hence it will be very good for my church members, and my church will definitely change from what I have learned in this training conference." – India

"I have attached the completed workbook of the Christian Handbook for evaluation. These books are very useful to me for I'm in a remote place void of many facilities." – Andaman Islands, India

"Many thanks to God, for the previous books you have sent me have helped me much in feeding the flock and equipping 4 members to be church leaders in 4 zonal churches that have been established. Remember the books you have sent to me are of great help not only to me but to others... this is a seed you are planting in God's ministry and when you plant you can expect to reap in abundance." – Zambia

Thank you for your fellowship in the gospel. With our warmest greetings in the Lord,

The PTI team

Please note our new address given at the top of this prayer letter.
Please use this for all supporters' enquiries, finance and administrative matters.

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 at info@pastor-training.org