

# Pastor Training International

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Teach to Preach

## PTI Prayer & News – January 2012

*My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When can I go and meet with God? (Psalm 42:2)*

### Ethiopia

In October **David Sercombe** and **Ken McIntosh** had their fifth (and, they felt, best) visit to Ethiopia for PTI. David reported as follows:

*On Thursday we drove to Ambo for an early start to Chobi on Friday. This is the strongest area where the Christian Brethren Churches are found. Not only do they have over 40 churches (some with several hundred members), they also have an*

*acre of ground where the Chobi Bible School is located. The road to Chobi is very difficult. We were the first vehicle to travel after the rainy season, and we got stuck in the soft mud a few times. The catchphrase was "This road used to be bad". Friday is the Elders' Bi-Monthly Training Day. Ken and I addressed about 200 of them from the surrounding area.*

*The next day we went back to the church for the Young Peoples' group. There were at least 300 in the church, with others sitting on windowsills or standing outside. Ken and I were asked to speak to them, which was a joy. In the afternoon we travelled back to Jeldu to be ready for preaching services on Sunday morning. There must have been a couple of hundred adults and 100 children, 41 of whom formed the children's choir.*



The conference group in Ginchi

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*In the afternoon we travelled back to Ginchi for the conference. There were 82 Trainees from 9 different denominations this year. Our first day went very well indeed, with an unusual sense of the presence of God, which bode well for the rest of the week. At the close of the conference on Friday, the PTI Books were given, and we returned to Addis.*

*On Sunday, Ken and I preached again in the CBC Churches at Akaki and Kaliti. In the afternoon we travelled the 270 kms to Awassa, ready to start the 2nd PTI Conference there. This had been organised by Tesfaye Nenko, who co-ordinates 160 Full Gospel Churches running down 500 kms to the Kenyan border. There were 100 Trainees here, including some from 4 other denominations. These gave their fullest attention throughout. We also had the usual questions when Ken spoke on the sovereignty of God on Thursday. Friday was the book distribution, all in Amharic, 'Servant Leadership', W. Wiersbe on John's Gospel, and a commentary on Hebrews by Hailu Mekonnen.*

#### Please pray

- That the Word of God, preached and taught, would lead these brethren into ever greater faithfulness as they live for Christ and serve him in their churches.
- For wisdom as we consider how best to assist the Ethiopian Church in the future.

## Ghana

**Steven Curry** returned to Ghana for two pastors' conferences during September, accompanied for the first time by **Ivan Watson**. Our local organiser, **MacDouglas Ampadu** (Pastor of Set Time Baptist Church in Accra) reported on the visit:

*Nkoranza: The theme was THE CHURCH. We were grateful to the Lord that 70% of the participants had been part of the last two years' conferences. This gives us the assurance that our labour in the previous years was not in vain. Despite the intensity of the program, the folks were very keen and attentive and they participated fully. What a blessing the Trainers were as they expounded Scriptures to bring us the truth about the Church and the emphasis of doing church after the New Testament model. The mentoring program of PTI was introduced and the folks were encouraged to take advantage of its benefits.*



MacDouglas Ampadu and his family

*We returned to Accra and headed for our live interview at the Ghana Broadcasting Corporation. By the grace of God, the program went well both on TV and Radio. We had the privilege of lifting the name of our Lord Jesus Christ and also to talk about PTI and its ministries. We thank God for the opportunity and even interacted with listeners.*

*Aburi: Almost 80% of the previous participants attended. To tell you the truth, I believe that this year's conference is the most fruitful and need-focused of all. One*

*could sense it from the faces of the people (their interest and keenness). The topic was well treated by the Trainers and the Lord used them to bring to the fore some things that have been taken for granted for so many years in the church in Ghana. Oh! What a blessing it was!*

*We had twenty calls from the Radio listeners and 6 people attended the conference as a result of the Radio interview. Folks came from many denominations across the country. Even though the numbers were not what we envisaged, we are grateful to our Sovereign Master for the ones He brought our ways to bless. This year is the best of all the conferences we have had in terms of meeting spiritual and structure needs of the churches. The name of the Lord was honoured and exalted in all our doings. Our prayer is that lives and ministries will be revitalized. The people were yearning for more and even suggested that we hold such conferences twice in a year. We thank God for the impact PTI is making in the lives of Ghanaian Pastors and Ministries.*

## India

**Mervyn Neal** and **Robert Owens** taught at PTI's third Siliguri pastors' conference in November, during a visit that also included other ministry opportunities of their own elsewhere in India. Merv reported on the conference as follows:

*There were 18 men this year, which looked disappointing to start off with! However, there was a very good spirit among this group, most of which were here for their 3rd year. Robert and I both got to know many of these men and their church situations in a far deeper and more meaningful way.*

*In the morning I took the men through 1 Corinthians and we had some lively discussions. In the 2nd session each day we looked at the person and work of the Holy Spirit. This seemed to give a much needed corrective to some faulty thinking some of the men had. In the afternoon sessions Robert took the men through the person and work of Christ using the "I am" sayings in John's Gospel. They also worked through sermon outline preparation from some of these passages. Robert also gave a helpful seminar of the difference between justification and sanctification.*

*On the second evening we had a session for each of the men to share about their situations and for us to pray with them and for them. On the 3rd evening we had a very useful question and answer session, with a very helpful discussion of women in the ministry, a burning topic in India!*

## Burkina Faso – January 2012

This will be PTI's first time running a conference in a French-speaking African country. The needs of the Church in this part of the continent are, if anything, even greater than in the countries where English is widely known. In planning for this extension to our ministry we have greatly benefitted from advice given by experienced missionaries to this part of Africa.

The ministry will be led by **David Vaughn** (Reformed Baptist Church, Chalon, France) with **Peter Maclure** (Enfield Evangelical Free Church). Peter writes:

*We really value prayer as we travel to Burkina on the 6th January. As this is our first visit we are very conscious of needing the Lord's grace and enabling. We will stay one night in the capital, Ouagadougou, before going by bus down to Gaoua for the conference with the Protestant Evangelical Church of Burkina which will run from the 9th to the 13th. Then we will travel to Bobo-Dioulasso. The seminar with the Assemblies of God pastors has been postponed but we are looking forward to meeting the church leaders and establishing a relationship with them which we trust we can build on in subsequent visits. Then the journey back to Ouagadougou for the homeward flight on 17th January.*

*The verse that comes to mind is 1 Peter 4:11, 'If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.'*

### Burkina Faso itinerary:

- Gaoua conference, 9th-13th January
- Preaching & meetings in Bobo, 14th-16th



### Myanmar itinerary:

- Yangon conference, 8th-10th February
- Bible College graduation services, 11th
- Preaching in Mandalay (Ken) and Yangon (Paul), Sunday 12th
- Pyin-oo-Lwin conference, 13th-14th
- Bible College teaching (Paul), 15th



## Myanmar – February 2012

We are planning for **Ken Brownell** and **Paul Williams**, Pastor of Swindon Evangelical Church, to visit Myanmar in February. They will teach at two conferences and take a number of other preaching engagements. The conference ministry will include expositions from Old Testament narratives (Ken) and Romans (Paul). They will be joined by a local pastor, Aye Min, in Mandalay and at the conference nearby in Pyin-oo-Lwin (May Myo).

### Please pray:

- That the outstanding travel arrangements will be settled in good time.
- For Paul, Ken and Aye Min as they prepare themselves and their material.
- For a hunger for the Word in the hearts of all those who will attend the conferences.

## Further plans for 2012

Please pray that the Lord would give us wisdom as we plan and prepare for the ministry later in the year. Some of the important matters for prayer are as follows:

- **Madagascar:** We are planning a first visit during April 2012. **Ken Brownell** will lead the ministry at a conference for pastors, many of whom are recent converts with very little, if any, training.
- **Zambia:** During the last couple of years we have spent much time investigating suitable new locations for conferences. Detailed plans are now being made for two rounds of training during April: at Zambezi and Kasempa (led by **Peter Seccombe** and **Bruce Jenkins**), and at Serenje and Kabwe (led by **Alan Levy**). Experienced local pastors will share in the ministry.
- **Ukraine:** We trust that **Gareth Jones** will be able to return to teach in Chudniv during May. We would also like to add a second conference in the eastern part of the country.
- **Ethiopia:** A sixth visit is being planned for November. We hope that these conferences can be led by **David Sercombe** and **Ken McIntosh**.
- **Serbia:** Some training opportunities may develop in Serbia. Please pray that the Lord would make his will known to us.

## Pastors' letters and comments

PTI's central aim is to help the pastors and preachers we serve to grow in their understanding of the Word of God, and in their ability to preach it. We believe that in this way the Church will be strengthened to the glory of God. The conferences, books and mentoring are simply means to this end. It is encouraging to read letters from men who have received help. The extracts below give a taste of some of this recent correspondence.

*"Thank you very much, and express our appreciation and gratitude by assuring you that the books will not sit on the shelves and collect dust, but that they will be extensively used. Some of us are in places where books are not easy to reach, and when we can find them, they are more than we can afford. Your gift is therefore received with the greatest appreciation. They will go a long way to help us improve our sermons and how to present them, and also help us look after our churches according to the expectation of our God to our best abilities." – Harare, Zimbabwe*

*"These books ['How To Enjoy Your Bible', 'Finally Alive', and 'The Gospel As It Really Is'] have helped my ministry and my church is growing through your help and prayers. People are coming to Christ every time... The work of discipleship is growing in good way, because the material which is coming from you is very powerful." – Solwezi, Zambia*

*"Reading through the pages of these materials has been a blessing to my personal spiritual life. These books will surely help me to be the kind of servant that God will use to His own glory and honour. Indeed, these materials will not only be useful to me but to the church and many other individuals who will have access to read them." – Kericho, Kenya*

*"What a mine of wisdom and inspiration these volumes are! Blessed be the hands that selected and posted them. They are inspirational books that have helped in my teachings and built up my faith, hope and understanding, my daily worship and glorification of the Almighty God." – Mamfe-Akuapem, Ghana*

*"I have not enough words to express the incredible blessing and inspirations I received from the wonderful books. My heart is full of gratitude toward your wonderful ministries for inspiring and encouraging me so much in the Lord's service." – Addis Ababa, Ethiopia*

With our thanks for your prayerful interest, and with greetings in the Lord Jesus Christ,

**The PTI team**