

PTI Prayer & News – October 2005

Pastors' Conferences in Malawi and Zambia, July – August 2005

We give great thanks to God for the three conferences in Malawi and Zambia during July and the early part of August. Over 200 brothers attended these conferences, for which “overwhelming appreciation” was expressed. They each received a pack of 14 books at the end of the conference, including titles by Derek Prime, Stuart Olyott, Sinclair Ferguson, Peter Jeffery, Philip Eveson, Dr Lloyd-Jones, J C Ryle, and others.

A number of men have already returned completed answer sheets to the questions on the book ‘What the Scriptures Teach’. We praise God for the zeal and spiritual hunger shown by this quick response.



Pastors listening during a conference session in Petauke.

Please pray also for their ongoing study of the books to have a great effect upon their own personal walk with the Lord as well as in their teaching and preaching ministry.

On his return to the UK after the conference at Petauke in Zambia Timothy Alford wrote:

“Throughout the five days of the Malawian conferences it was really helpful to have Andrew Docherty working alongside. We missed him in Zambia where I was responsible for all the teaching at the conference in Petauke. This was a very demanding schedule, but our strength was renewed each day. Almost 100 pastors and students were present, and their attentiveness and response was on a par with what we experienced in Malawi. In each case, the presentation of books as gifts from Christians in the UK was a joyful climax to these conferences. One of the pastors handed me the following letter as we were leaving:

‘To the church in the UK, grace and peace to you from God our Father and our Lord Jesus Christ.

I thank God very much every time since the time when the Lord brought us together to know the brethren from the UK. Thanks for the team and thanks to God because of your heart to be partnership in the Gospel, being very much confident that it is God's own timing.

I have many things to say and to write what your support has done through books and the teachings we had during our pastors' conference... but pen and paper cannot express it all, but thank God who knows what is happening in each man's heart.

I have nothing to appreciate you but I feel by writing to you and in my own handwriting at least I can feel better, but if I did not I was not going to feel better, but now I am. For I have written you.

God bless you and to God alone be the glory - Amen.

Yours in Christ Jesus.

Pastor Mbewe Mwape’

I am assured by church leaders in these countries that there are thousands of such pastors who need the kind of help available through our book/conference ministry. The appeals and invitations are like Macedonian calls to us, and we need wisdom from the Lord to know how and when to respond.”

October Conference in Kasama, Northern Zambia

From Tuesday 11th until Saturday 15th October, Alan Levy from Swansea and Ian Harrison from Wolverhampton plan to be in Kasama for another conference. We have been greatly assisted by three local pastors (Peter Kaluba, Lemmy Chilekwa and Mpundu Chanda) who have very carefully and zealously made preparations for this. **Please pray** that the Lord will use the conference to bring great help and blessing to the lives and ministries of many of the pastors from rural areas who will be attending.

2006 Conference Planning

Please pray for the planning of conferences for 2006. The needs and demands are very great and we need wisdom far greater than we have to make the best decisions for the coming year. When in Malawi, Timothy Alford was told that because of the multiplicity of churches in the country there are thousands of pastors needing the kind of ministry and resources provided by the conferences. In Zambia, Covenant College in Petauke, where the August conference was held, would like to continue this work with "new" men and possibly in another part of the country. There are also pressing requests from leaders in other countries in Africa.

Other Matters for Prayer and Praise

Please continue to pray for the work of the Gospel in deprived parts of the world. The following quotes from letters received in the last few weeks tell of the situation that faces the church in Africa:

"Pray for us here we are really in a great hunger. Life is very hard since our country is experiencing shortage of food due to drought. The book called 'Pastors and Teachers' was really a great importance to me because it taught me several things I did not know as a pastor. Please continue to pray for us here in Africa and the poverty we are facing."

Pastor Nhamo Mumba, Zimbabwe

"The problem I am facing is the problem of Christian Literature. I am kindly asking your organisation if you can assist me build my library by sending me books which will help my life and the ministry I am leading. So far I have about 5 pastors in our area who I am teaching in discipleship but because of lack of books we can't expand the teaching although there are many pastors and church leaders who would want to join my teaching."

Pastor Rex Chipoya, Zambia

"These books have helped to expand the horizons of my mind. In a country where there is syncretism and the cults are coming out strong, doctrinal knowledge is of paramount importance. The knowledge I have been acquiring from the books has been helping me to minister to a number of pioneer churches where I have been preaching. As religion takes root in Africa, knowing sound doctrine becomes more important than ever. These books are being used to teach other Christians whom I am discipling."

Chimfwembe Ng'oma, Zambia

But in situations like these, the Lord is greatly at work and brethren are making good use of the literature they receive as well experiencing much blessing from our gracious God.

"I am learning a lot from all the books that you gave me and I am sharing these with some ministers of the Word and we are all overwhelmingly blessed. Pass my greetings to the saints who stand by you in prayer."

Paradzai Mazvimbo, Zimbabwe

"First and foremost, I would like to express my heartfelt thanks for your kindness and help and love to me for all the books you produce. They really help me grow spiritually in preaching and mastering in the pastoral ministry. The books, 'Expository Thoughts on Matthew' and 'The Cloud and the Silver Lining' are of utmost importance to me. I lend some of the old ones to my friends who will return them back in good order because I want them to be my future generation of the ministry."

Solomon Abenor, Ghana