

PTI Prayer & News – December 2005

Dear PTI Supporter,

2005 has been an exciting and encouraging year for PTI. With your prayerful support we have been able to continue helping many pastors around the world. Here are just some of the recent highlights which we hope will be an encouragement to you.

Kasama Pastors Conference – October 2005

Seventy one pastors and preachers attended the conference in Kasama, and we thank and praise our God that this went very smoothly. Alan Levy taught from the letter to Titus and Ian Harrison brought some truths from the life of David, and their ministry was much appreciated. The book sets given to each pastor who attended were received with much excitement and wonder. Pastor Lemmy Chilekwa, one of the pastors who helped with the organisation, wrote:

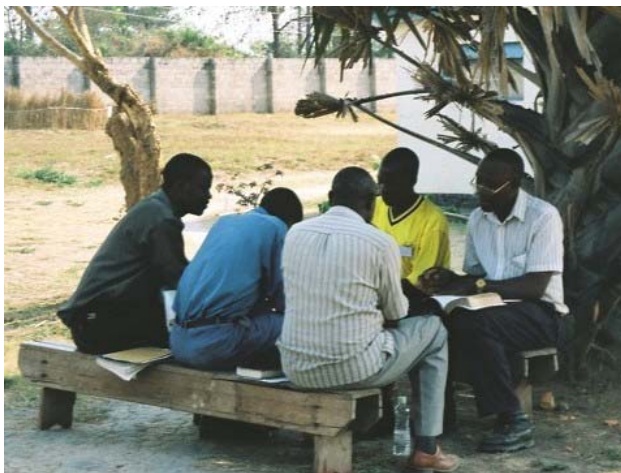
"The response was "When will the next one be? We'd be grateful to be invited again!" Everyone was very excited for the next one. The other exciting thing was the book presentation. People literally wept when they received the 16 books. No one has ever received such a wonderful gift in their life - "Thank God I came" was everyone's expression.

"As a local leadership team, we are greatly humbled by all of you at PTI especially for helping people like us in the rural areas. Take our thanks to all your partners there - we shall remain grateful to God for you, our dear ones in Christ and looking forward to another PTI blessing in the next conference. Forever grateful and praying for you."



Lemmy Chilekwa

The Conference brought out very clearly the fact that there are great needs among these pastors. As a result of comments made on evaluation forms and observations from Alan and Ian, it is clear that a number of brothers do not have a clear understanding of justification. Other points have led us to believe that it is right for us to go back again to build upon what the Lord has already enabled us to do before we move on to other pastors from this area.



A group meets to discuss a topic from the 'Christian Handbook'



The pastors at the Kasama Conference, October 2005

We have also learned that as a result of the conference one pastor who attended, Ernest Nguvila from Mbeya, Tanzania, has invited Lemmy Chilekwa and Peter Kaluba to visit Tanzania from 21-25th December to speak at a conference in his church. **Please pray** that this will be a beneficial visit.

If you have access to the internet then you can see some additional reports and photographs from Kasama on our website, www.pastor-training.org.

Follow up from Petauke

During the past month, we have had a steady flow of answers to the questions in the book 'What the Scriptures Teach' returned to us from those who attended the conference at Petauke in August. The answers have shown us how important our ministry is for such pastors.

Literature and Distance Mentoring

The ministry of literature distribution to pastors continues on an almost daily basis. We praise God that most packets reach their destination safely, but in recent weeks we have been sad to learn that a few packets and at least one box of books have failed to reach their destination in Kenya. Do pray for the safe arrival of our books, and again could you **please pray** for two boxes that are presently on their way to North West Myanmar.

Many of the pastors who receive the books live in situations of hardship and difficulty that we find it almost impossible to understand. In some countries they do not have enough money to pay for postage costs. We are pleased to be able to use international reply coupons for some of these men. **Please pray** that the books will be a means used by God not only to encourage them spiritually, but also for the enrichment of their ministry leading to the building up of their congregation in their most holy faith.

We continue to receive regular letters that express the help and blessing received from books that have been received.

"The book 'Let's Study Galatians' is a good book especially to Bible teachers and preachers who want to study more and deeper in the Word of God. Personally, I have enjoyed reading and studying it, and I teach it to the class of 14 lay preachers. The books on AIDS which is in my hand now is important because I am involved in teaching and warning people, young and old, married and single about the danger of AIDS which has killed many people here in our country and has left many orphans."

Rev Edward Musonda, Zambia

"I would like to tell you that many pastors in Zambia need help from your ministry. I am receiving letters every week from pastors who want recommendation from me in order to be part of your Pastor Training ministry. The message of your ministry has reached almost half of our provinces so continue doing the great work for the extension of the kingdom especially here in Zambia... I am every day changed in my Christian journey by the help of spiritual materials you are sending me. My ministry is not the same; God is doing a new thing every day."

Pastor Chongo Rodgers, Zambia

"All the French books arrived safely, there were 11 sets. On September 15 I left with Pastor Maynard Nkata to travel to DR Congo. We went there during the pastors' and church members' conference at Kasumba Lesa border town. We distributed the books to 11 pastors – the books brought a lot of joy on the part of the brothers there. Many pastors confessed that they have never had a ministry presenting them with good books like that. Many times they just have Bibles in their hands without reference books. But it was a miracle to them to see the books in their hands."

Pastor Peter Kaluba, Zambia

Planning for 2006

In recent weeks we have had a number of contacts from some Bible colleges in Zimbabwe, all expressing the great needs of pastors in their country. The following words from one writer sets out the situation:

"Our major need is that, in light of the economical crisis of our country, Zimbabwe, we are no longer able to get books for our graduating students. After graduation they are not able to keep on enriching themselves on what they learnt from the college. At the moment we could hardly afford to get for them study Bibles. The undesirable long term effect to this is that the quality of their sermons will lose its strength. How best can you be of help to us in such a situation?"

In the light of these requests, we are asking the Lord for guidance about visiting Zimbabwe in 2006 for a conference for pastors. We would like to help again in Malawi and at Petauke in Zambia as well as going back to Kasama. There is also an invitation from the Theological College of Central Africa in Ndola open to us. **Please pray with us** over these important decisions. Of course such conferences and the gift of books to these needy pastors can only take place as the Lord supplies the financial needs for this work. We also ask you to join us in prayer for this and the many other needs for our ministry.

Yours in Christ Jesus,
Gordon Oram – PTI Editorial Board

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