



PTI Prayer & News – February 2006

'The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart' (Psalm 19:8)

Dear friends of PTI,

We thank you for all your support for our ministry in prayer and in other ways. We have many reasons for which to praise God for his help in past weeks; letters continue to arrive from pastors in Africa expressing appreciation and thanks to God because they have had His Word opened through the books they received, and their hearts rejoice in what they have learned of Him and His truth. They also thank God for all who support the work: *"My best regards to all the brethren who are supporting your ministry."*

Such words of appreciation come from pastors who minister under very difficult conditions. One pastor wrote to tell that his 9 year old daughter had been sexually abused by a man with AIDS and that she was now very ill. He did not have money for any medication.

Earlier in January a letter from Zimbabwe contained the following words, *"I remember telling you that God had blessed us with a baby girl. Unfortunately the child passed away mysteriously on 28th May 2005. Ever since that tragedy struck, marriage has never been the same again. My wife has failed to accept reality since now. I have tried but in vain to console her. I have suffered yet another blow as of now. My wife has packed all her belongings and left for her parents' residence."*

In many other letters from the eastern side of Africa the very real prospect of starvation is a major concern. While we cannot offer practical help in these situations, we try where possible to point these men to those who are equipped to help meet those needs.

Then there are regular letters that mention the lack of Bibles and Christian literature. *"Thanks for all the books you sent to me. In rural areas here books are difficult to find."* wrote a pastor from Mpika in Zambia.

Another pastor from near Ndola in Zambia wrote, *"We do not have a bookshop here. It is difficult to encourage converts to go to town to buy Bibles which are so expensive. The town is about 40km away..."* We praise God for an unexpected gift of Bibles just before this letter was received.

Encouragements

Despite these difficulties, many brethren write bearing testimony to the help and blessing received from the good hand of the Lord through the books. We include a few for your encouragement:

"The book 'God Delivers' (Isaiah) is helping both me and the church. As of now my spiritual knowledge on the book of Isaiah has grown up. I conducted a three day seminar digging out Isaiah for elders... The elders enjoyed the stuff from Isaiah. One elder testifies that knowing Isaiah is knowing the whole Bible. The book is helpful to my church."

Pastor Jonathan E Symon, Malawi

"Let me tell you what I have achieved from these books just in few past months:

- *I trained the workshop for church leaders on the life of the leader – preparation from 'Pastors and Teachers', 'Learning to Lead' and from 'Bible Guidelines'.*
- *I was teaching our local leaders and the church on Christian characters – from 'Questions on the Christian Faith' and 'Know the Truth'.*
- *I was also training 22 church leaders at Senanga town on Evangelism and follow up – preparation from 'Witness and Work', and 'Bible Guidelines' and other books."*

Moses Yamba, Zambia

"Pastors and Teachers' is really excellent in that it is centred on the life of the under-shepherd which should be above reproach and exemplary. And I believe that without doubt if a man did according to this book, he would make a really good leader. I was really helped very much by this book and it is a book that one should go through time after time to remind one of his life and work as a pastor."

Stanley Mokola, Zambia

Writing about 'The All-Sufficient God' by Lloyd-Jones, Jean-Francois Modeley from Mauritius says:

"The first few chapters have broken my heart and led me to think about my own position in Christ and to check if I'm living true Christianity. After years of Christian walk you often take for granted your spiritual growth and in fact in some areas you may be going astray and this book has made me think about the warfare in my own life and things that need to be settled before the Lord"

We continue to receive warm comments of appreciation concerning the Kasama Conference last October. Here is part of a letter received just recently from Pastor Vincent Chizungo:

"The purpose of writing you this letter therefore, is to confirm to you that the conference was fantastic and educative. Above all I acknowledge receiving the 16 books from the conference. In this case therefore, I would like to express my sincere heartfelt thanks for the books and for your consideration. I have found the books to be of great helpful to me and my congregation. So far, I have managed to read 7 of them and my intention is to open up a small library to enable members of my congregation and others to have access to these wonderful books."

Pastors Conferences in 2006

We are making plans to follow up the conference in **Kasama** (Zambia) with another one there this April. The aim will be to focus on the important subjects of regeneration, justification and sanctification – it became evident from the last conference that there was a weakness of understanding in these areas. We had hoped that Timothy Alford would be able to lead the conference, but this will not now be possible because his wife Pansy is due to have open heart surgery in April. However, we are grateful to the Lord that **Alan Levy** is able to take Timothy's place. Please pray that the right helper will be available to assist Alan for that week.

Kasama will be followed by a further week at the Theological College of Central Africa in **Ndola** (Zambia). We are grateful to David Wegener, who is a member of the teaching staff, for his help in arranging this.

God willing, our plans are for a further two weeks in **Malawi** in August, when Timothy hopes to be able to teach. This will be held in fellowship with our friends from the Zambezi Mission and the Evangelical Association of Malawi.

At about the same time, Covenant College in Petauke are making arrangements for a conference at **Lundasi**. While in Zambia we would like to have another week in the country, please pray with us for clarity from the Lord about this matter.

As mentioned in the December Prayer and News letter, we have been seeking the Lord's guidance about running some pastors conferences in **Zimbabwe**. Following on from a meeting with Victor Nakah of the Theological College of Zimbabwe, we agreed that it will be wise to wait until 2007 before holding these.

Other Matters for Thanksgiving and Prayer

- We thank God that he has enabled **Matthew Connolly** to join with us. Matthew will be dealing with the ordering and receiving of books as well as the dispatch of bulk orders. He will be working every Wednesday at Milford, and as the Lord prospers we plan to expand the time he works and the tasks for which he is responsible.
- Please also pray for the safety of packets in transit. We have had more than normal go astray in recent weeks.
- The volume of requests for books together with the number of pastoral questions for advice has increased during recent weeks. During December and January we heard from 35 first-time contacts, and sent out just under 200 packets and about 40 boxes of books. Please pray with us that the Lord will raise up those who would be able to help us in this part of the work.

Yours in Christ Jesus,
Gordon Oram – PTI Editorial Board

www.pastor-training.org