

Pastor Training International

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Teach to Preach

PTI Prayer & News – April 2006

'The statutes of the Lord... More to be desired are they than gold'
(Psalm 19:8, 10)

Dear praying friends,

Praise

- We give thanks to the Lord that the final arrangements have been made for the training conferences at Ndola and Kasama (Zambia) next month. We also give thanks that finances are available to enable these conferences to take place.
- We thank our God for the helpfulness of the publishers who make books available to us very cost-effectively. Without their generosity this ministry would have much less impact. It was good to be able to meet with these publishers at the recent Christian Booksellers Convention.
- We thank God that he has enabled us to build on the work of Robin and Margaret Bird. Many of the contacts that we have for the conferences this year and possibly next year are the result of their labours.
- We thank God that Rev. Martin Peirce from Carshalton, and Rev. Brian Lotter from Farnham, have started to help with the mentoring ministry.
- We continue to give thanks to the Lord for the many testimonies that we receive from pastors who are helped by the books that they receive from us.
- We have been asking for prayer for books into Myanmar – praise God that three boxes arrived in early February. Pastor Zam Khan Khual has spoken of many conversions, and says that many more pastors and a number of Bible colleges are in need of helpful books.

Pastor Training Conferences 2006

Ndola – 17th-21st April. This conference is to be hosted by the Theological College of Central Africa, and we are grateful for all the planning and preparation undertaken there by David Wegener. We hope that the conference will be attended by final year students from the college and other pastors known to us.



The **Kasama** conference is due to take place the following week, **24th-28th April.** We hope that many of the pastors who attended the conference last October will return, so that we can build upon the teaching that was given on that occasion.

- Please pray for Alan Levy, who has a heavy teaching responsibility. He is speaking at another conference for families before these two conferences.
- Please pray for the pastors who will attend. They will each be given a set of books – please pray that the conference will give them help and guidance about the use of books in their ministries.

In **August** we plan to sponsor a conference at **Lundazi** (Zambia), which is being organised by Covenant College, Petauke. We appreciate the help and support of the principal Jan Van Straatan in this project. We would like to be able to follow this with a conference in the **Copperbelt area.**

- Please pray for the arrangements that remain to be made. Peter Seccombe has agreed to speak at these conferences, and he will need our prayers for his preparation.
- Please join in praying with us that the Lord will provide every need including the finances for these conferences.

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Malawi – October. We have had many changes of plan for these conferences; however it now looks as if they will take place. Once again we will be working in close fellowship with our friends from the Zambezi Mission and the Evangelical Bible College of Malawi. With the later dates for these two conferences, it is hoped that Timothy Alford's wife Pansy will have recovered from surgery to enable her to accompany him as he leads these conferences. He will be helped in the teaching by Abraham Folayan, a lecturer at the college.

- Please pray much for all the arrangements for these last two sessions. We have faced a number of difficulties, but we look to our God who is able to do more abundantly than we can ask or think.

Training Conferences 2007

We are already seeking the Lord for guidance about conferences for 2007. We have received many more invitations than we are able to accept, and we need much wisdom and discernment over these matters.

Bibles

We regularly have requests for Bibles from pastors. While we cannot meet these, we do seek to pass them on to those who can help. What is surprising is the fact that Bibles are so expensive and often beyond the pockets of believers in many parts of Africa. In some cases, even where translations have been made into local languages in the past, they may not be in print and available today.



Pastors with their new book sets at the end of the Kasama conference in 2005.

Correspondence – Post & Emails

Every day brings letters and emails of warm encouragement and thankfulness to the Lord, and to us, for the help given through the book ministry. One recent example of this is from Pastor Francis Kimwele of Kenya, who writes of the blessing from reading the books:

"I am making some notes from 'Let's Study John' to teach people in the church during Bible study periods, and I will do the same with the other books."

Earlier this week Pastor Alex Kaphel from Malawi wrote:

"The book of James which you have sent to me is wonderful! ... We are doing Bible study, 14 pastors on the book you have send of James. It is great! It is helping us understand the Bible mainly the book of James. If you have more workbooks and books for studying please send us we need them. I have heard that some pastors want to join us which is good for fellowship as leaders."

A comment from another pastor in Zambia illustrates the rarity of good books in these parts of the world:

"I have read the books that were posted to me. The books have been of help to me, I do not want to leave them. I am teaching a little about HIV, things I never knew... I can testify I wanted to be stealing the books while in the Bible college, but I praise God he kept me from this sin because he knew that one day he would give me books through you. God is great!"

Requests for books from pastors continue to grow each week. Please pray with us that the Lord will provide additional brethren who are able to help with this aspect of the ministry.

Book Packs

In recent weeks we have learnt that book packs have been going astray en route to a number of African countries. In an effort to minimise this we have begun to send packets by air mail, and have arranged a contract with the Post Office which helps to keep down the extra costs.

- Please continue to pray for the safe arrival of the books to these needy pastors.
- Then please also pray that God will speak to them through what they read and that these truths will be lived out in their lives and proclaimed from their pulpits.

Thank you for your ongoing prayerful support for this Gospel ministry.
Yours in Christ Jesus,

Gordon Oram – PTI Editorial Board

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