

PTI Prayer & News – June 2006

'What you have heard from me... entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.' (2 Timothy 2:2)

Dear praying friends,

Thankfulness for the April training conferences at Ndola and Kasama

We praise God that we have received in excess of 40 letters expressing appreciation for the conferences and the books. God has been answering prayer in recent months in a manner far beyond our thoughts.

April 18-21 – A pastor from Ndola writes:

"The PTI Pastor Training Conference with Pastor Alan Levy from the UK has been such a blessing to me. His presentation of the book of Titus has really helped to reshape my way of approach to pastoral work. The books we received during this conference are a great gift to me. Just a quick look at each one of them tells me that these books will be of great use and blessing in my ministry here in Ndola."

April 25-28 – A pastor from Kasama writes:

"The two conferences (2005 & 2006) which I have attended have really meant a lot to me and the ministry of the Lord. As a leader of a local church, I am now equipped with true doctrine which I've taken from the conferences and the books that you are supplying to us. I am one of those who are writing to Gordon Oram therefore I would like to thank the entire PTI team for its good arrangement. Teachers like Alan Levy are really a blessing from the Lord because they teach with strength and emphasis. I never considered the book of Colossians to contain such spiritual truths. I occasionally read from this book, but from now on I will be teaching a lot of things from this book for the glory of the Lord."

Alan Levy, who conducted the conferences, writes:

At Ndola difficulties were experienced because of the men not being together 'on site'. They lodged overnight in their own homes or with friends or relatives. This caused a lot of late arrivals. It also meant that they were unable to spend much time in fellowship and discussion together, which has been of such benefit and encouragement previously.

Due to a misunderstanding, the total attending was not as large as hoped, but it was encouraging to meet quite a number of men who had already received some books from PTI, via Gordon, and were most appreciative of them.

One of the matters that came to the fore was the necessity for Pastors to recognise their 'servanthood'. From Titus we saw that they are 'bondservants of God', servants of Jesus Christ, in order to serve the people of God.



An afternoon group discussion session at the Ndola conference, April 2006



One of the pastors in Ndola receiving his book-set from Alan Levy

In Kasama the following week, 96% of the 50+ in attendance had never had any prior training before becoming Pastors. All but 5 of them had attended the first conference held last October with Ian Harrison & Alan Levy, so they had a good idea of what to expect.

They were all 'on site' so starting times could be adhered to. The men closely followed the exposition of Colossians (the church with multiple problems), and their work in the Group Sessions was so encouraging. Noticeably from last year they seemed to have grasped major doctrines and were clear with their answers. What made the difference? "It was the teaching we had in the first conference and the books that were given us then have proved to be such a help in guiding us" was the reply.



The Kasama pastors with their book-sets. Alan & Mary Levy and the cooks in the back row.

In both Ndola and Kasama it was a privilege and joy to share the ministry with a Zambian Pastor, Gilbert Mubanga, from Ndola. He spoke clearly and most movingly on 'The Godly Character' which we need to develop, illustrating it most helpfully (positively and negatively) from the lives of Solomon, Daniel and Jonah.

We have been very grateful to the Lord that Phil Bailey made himself available to drive Alan and his wife Mary to the centres in Zambia, for transporting the books in his truck and for his warm and encouraging fellowship and support of our ministry in Zambia.

Please pray that the Lord will continue to bless all these men in their ministries and personal lives with the truths learnt and the books given.

Prayer for the future

God willing, there will be further conferences in **Zambia** in August/September. The dates have to be finalised, but we are making arrangements for a further week with a different group of pastors in the Copperbelt, and for a return visit to Covenant College at Petauke. Please pray for **Peter Seccombe**, who is to be the main teacher at both conferences. We understand that perhaps 85 pastors who attended last year at the Petauke conference will be at this year's conference. This will give a good opportunity to build on truths taught last year.

In October we hope that Timothy Alford's wife, Pansy, will receive medical clearance to be able to accompany him to **Malawi** again. Timothy writes, *"Our heart-felt gratitude to the Lord for Pansy's slow but steady recovery from the triple by-pass heart operation, and to the numerous friends who have prayed for us both. The depth of peace experienced during the past few weeks has been quite remarkable."*

Early preparations are in hand for Timothy to lead two conferences in Malawi during the first two weeks of October. Abraham Folyan, former principal of the Evangelical Bible College of Malawi and missionary member of Zambesi Mission will share the teaching programme.

For 2007

We are presently making arrangements with brethren from a number of new areas as well as seeking the Lord's will for building upon our ministry in Malawi and Zambia. We receive more invitations than we are able to accept. Please pray with us that we will have wisdom from the Lord in discerning his way for us.

Extra item for praise

Due to a generous donation to PTI, money has been used for literature to be published in Spanish, German, Polish and Russian. Some books are already in print. Our friends at the Evangelical Bible College of Malawi in Blantyre are translating another book into Chechewa.

For those who will be at the EMW conference in Aberystwyth this year – please do visit our stand at the missionary exhibition.

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