

Pastor Training International

PO Box 1082, Woking, Surrey, GU22 8WX, United Kingdom.
Email: info@pastor-training.org Internet: www.pastor-training.org



Teach to Preach

PTI Prayer & News – August 2006

'Now I beg you, brethren, through the Lord Jesus Christ, and through the love of the Spirit, that you strive together with me in your prayers to God for me.' (Romans 15:30)

Dear praying friends,

In looking back over the past few months, we see many reasons to thank God for the way He has been pleased to use our ministry. Whilst there is much to give encouragement, we are also very conscious of the battle in which we are involved and also of the need for many to strive with us in prayer in this battle.

August Training Conferences in Zambia

Two more training conferences are due to take place in Zambia later this month, both of which will be conducted by **Peter Seccombe**. The first begins on 20th August (afternoon) in **Ndola**, where Peter will be assisted in the teaching by **Gilbert Mubanga** and **Kabwe Kabwe**. Gilbert has already shown himself to be an able teacher when he shared the ministry with Alan Levy at Ndola in April.



Pastor Gilbert Mubanga

The **Petauke** conference, a week later, will be building upon the conference that was held there last year. Many of the pastors who attended that conference have continued to keep in contact with us and have completed the study course 'What the Scriptures Teach'. We understand that numbers are likely to be larger than we originally anticipated. Here Peter will be assisted in the teaching by **Jan van Straaten**, the Principal of Covenant College, who will give some teaching on witchcraft and associated problems faced by these pastors.

Please pray for Peter and the other speakers during this time. Peter writes:

"I'd value prayer for my own final preparation for the two conferences and for the organisational matters that, it appears, still have to be sorted out in Zambia; for the ability to teach at a suitable level and to establish quickly a good rapport with the pastors who come; and for safety in travel and good health for myself and Margaret."

October Training Conferences in Malawi

In October we shall be working with our friends from the Zambesi Mission and the Evangelical Bible College of Malawi. **Timothy Alford** will be leading two conferences with **Abraham Folayan** from the College. The conferences are due to take place at the College in **Blantyre** 9th-13th October and the following week at a centre further north. Please pray for Timothy and Pansy as they consider the wisdom of Pansy accompanying Timothy – the decision has to be made by the end of August. We praise God that she has been offered insurance cover, and that her recovery from the heart surgery is progressing well.

What Happens After a PTI Conference?

In previous editions of the Prayer News, we have given testimonies concerning the benefits received from attending the conferences. We were most encouraged to receive a letter recently from Lemmy Chilekwa, one of the organisers at Kasama. He writes:

"We want to begin (in fact we've already begun) to organise smaller sessions of 15 to 20 pastors in individual towns, villages and semi-urban areas in our area to teach them what we learn in larger PTI sessions. This is proving very effective. It is an initiative we think can effectively extend PTI's larger vision for rural pastors... I don't know what help you can render to this initiative (an extension of PTI vision) to unreached areas."

Please pray for Lemmy and the others as they extend the ministry among their countrymen. Please also pray that the Lord will give us wisdom to know the best way to encourage them in their zeal to help other pastors. We trust that this wider ministry will develop as a result of other conferences that will take place in the future.

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Beyond Africa

The Lord has given us the opportunity to further expand our ministry beyond Africa, so that we will better reflect the 'international' aspect of our name. As a result of a meeting with Demetrio Cánovas of Editorial Peregrino (the leading Spanish evangelical publisher), we are helping to send Spanish books to pastors in **Cuba**. These will first be sent to believers in the Dominican Republic who will then take the books into Cuba. Please pray for the books to reach these pastors safely and for the Lord to use them effectively in their lives and ministries.

As a result of a contact in **Nepal** that was given to us some months ago, a good number of pastors from that country are making contact with us. Their zeal and hunger for the truth of God is wonderful to see. Some are struggling to work through 'What the Scriptures Teach'. We hope to be able to include some comments from these men in future prayer letters as the contacts deepen.

Other items for Prayer and Praise

- With the steady growth of the work, we are always grateful to the Lord when He supplies us with those who are keen to share in the ministry. We thank God that **Owen Jones**, pastor of Bethel Evangelical Church in Gorseinon, has kindly offered to help with mentoring and the distribution of books. Please pray that his ministry to pastors will prove to be of great help under the good hand of our gracious God.
- We have recently been encouraged to meet with some other like-minded organisations who are burdened for this type of ministry, and we are looking to see how we can work together in the future. We thank the Lord for these contacts and look forward to more discussions with them in the coming weeks. Please pray that mutually beneficial partnerships will develop as a result.
- When we look ahead into 2007, we are seeking the Lord's clear guidance concerning the expansion of our ministry. Please pray that we shall know the Lord's wisdom and leading as we consider invitations to visit Ethiopia, Sierra Leone and Zimbabwe. We receive far more invitations than we can accept and constant wisdom is needed in the response we make to these.

Correspondence – Post & Emails

For your encouragement we include a few brief comments from the many letters we have recently received. Please do not stop praying that the Lord will use the books and conferences in a wonderful way to build up and enrich His church for the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

A pastor from Sesheke in Zambia writes:

"As I am writing this, I am preparing lessons for the church leaders from the following books 'The Church of God' - D Fortner, 'Learning to Lead' - Chua Wee Hian, and 'Leadership for the Whole Church' - Derek Prime. The books are very helpful to me as pastor and to churches in the province who are getting the lessons and preachings from me."

From a pastor among the slums of Nairobi, Kenya:

"The books I am receiving from you are PRECIOUS. Only rich pastors in Nairobi can access them. You cannot imagine the tears of comfort that flow down my cheeks. The church elders are celebrating with me."

And from a pastor in Abiriba, Nigeria:

"Earlier in June I was called to preach and teach at a 7 day seminar... the books helped me pass sleepless nights in preparing messages. I preached and taught with authority and anointing as never before."

All the arrangements we make are subject to the will of our Sovereign God whose unfailing guidance we seek, and subject to His provision for all of our needs for every aspect of this work. We continue to be grateful for your ongoing support in our labours for His glory.

Yours in Christ Jesus,

Gordon Oram – PTI Editorial Board

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