

# Pastor Training International

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Teach to Preach

## PTI Prayer & News – November 2006

*'You also helping together in prayer for us.'* (2 Corinthians 1:11)

Dear praying friends,

God has been wonderfully good to us in recent weeks. Our needs have been met through his kindness to us. Many of your prayers have been answered for the conferences and for the use of books in pastors' lives. We were also pleased to meet those who visited our stall at the Aberystwyth Conference in August.

### Feedback from the Pastor Training Conferences in Zambia

The training conferences at **Ndola** and **Petauke** during late August were times of great blessing. One pastor wrote on his evaluation sheet *"I was almost quitting the work, but this has encouraged me."* Another pastor also testified to being in a backslidden condition, but was much helped by the conference. The hunger for more and the desire for books to help them in their ministry were mentioned again and again. These two points were more evident than from any other previous conference feedback forms.



The book presentation at Petauke

Peter Seccombe, who led these conferences, wrote: *"Margaret and I both felt it a great privilege to be involved in this ministry and were very impressed and encouraged by many of the men we met... It strikes me that Zambia is a strategic country for the Gospel and is at a fairly critical point in its spiritual history... great openness to the Gospel, very many professing believers, large numbers of false teachers, and an increasingly aggressive Muslim presence."*

Please pray for our **Editorial Board** in the coming days as we discuss and seek to implement some of the suggestions made by those who attended. We are also seeking to work out a better strategy for conferences at one centre before we move on to a different area. The needs are enormous. We want to teach preachers the basic principles of sermon

preparation, essential doctrines, and give an overview of the Bible as well as an example of Bible exposition as a book is opened up for them. Our aim is to give books that will deal with the truths taught at each conference. In these relatively early days of our ministry, we believe these are important foundations to put in place.

### ... And from Malawi

We thank the Lord that Timothy Alford has again been able to minister, in partnership with Zambesi Mission in Malawi, at two pastor training conferences in **Chilema** and **Nkhata Bay**. He writes:

*"Abraham Folayan again shared the teaching sessions with me. He took as his theme, 'Reaching the Roots', and courageously insisted that cultural beliefs and practices must be controlled by the demands of Scripture. The follow-through of this teaching will fundamentally affect church members who remain in bondage to spiritism in one form or another, and to degrading immoral practices accepted as normal in the community."*

*"The Lord enabled me to present overviews of the Pastoral Epistles, and studies in the life of David; backsliding, betrayed, battling, and broken. It wasn't hard for the men to identify with this outstanding leader and the challenges he faced. Other studies in repentance, faith, justification and sanctification brought to light quite a bit of confusion over these fundamental truths. Our prayer is that the gifts of books made to each attendee will assist them in gaining maximum benefit from the time spent together."*

Full reports and pictures from these conferences are available on our website: [www.pastor-training.org](http://www.pastor-training.org)

### Conference Plans for 2007

In 2007 we would like to lead training conferences in **Ethiopia**, **Sierra Leone**, and **Zimbabwe** as well as in **Zambia**. In Zambia we plan to visit Kasama for the third in a series of three conferences, and we are exploring the possibility of visiting the South West of the country. In addition, we hope to continue working with our friends at Zambesi Mission and the Evangelical Bible College of **Malawi**.

The first of these conferences is scheduled for April time in both Zimbabwe and also in Sierra Leone. In Zimbabwe we have been invited by the Evangelical Theological College of Zimbabwe at Bulawayo, and

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the Rusitu Bible College in the East. In Sierra Leone we go at the invitation of Mike and Vi Webb who are serving with UFM. These conferences will be based in Freetown before moving to other centres inland. Please pray for those who will teach, the preachers who will attend and the plans made for their smooth running. These plans continue to be subject to the all wise leading and provision of the Lord.

### **Book Publishing**

Earlier in the year, we were given a large gift specifically for the translation of books into other languages. We are thankful to the Lord for this opportunity to further spread healthy literature in parts of the world where such books are very scarce. We can report the following progress:

#### German

*'How Can a God of Love Send People to hell?'* by John Benton

*'Has Science Got Rid of God?'* by John Blanchard

We can thankfully report that both books have been translated and are about to be edited over the next few weeks. We intend for them to be published no later than December.

#### Polish

Friends in Poland write that the following books are in progress:

*'New Christians Start Here'* by Peter Jeffrey - currently being translated.

*'Has Science Got Rid of God?'* by John Blanchard - currently being translated.

*'Which Way to God'* by Peter Jeffrey - has been translated and is being checked.

*'A Carillion of Bells'* by Mrs Susannah Spurgeon - waiting for translation.

#### Spanish

Demetrio Cánovas writes from Spain about the printing and distribution of the following books:

*'The Promise'* by Alec Taylor - 5,100 copies printed; 307 sold in Spain and 200 in the US.

*'Evolution: Fact or Fiction?'* by John Blanchard - 4,900 copies printed; 710 sold in Spain and 500 in the US.

*'Looking for the Answer'* by John Benton - 200 copies printed; 119 sold in Spain.

*'All of Grace'* by C.H. Spurgeon - 2,400 copies printed; 105 sold in Spain and 1,044 in the US.

The tracts *'Christmas Peace'* and *'The Last Enemy'* are in the process of being printed at the moment (50,000 copies of each).

*'Which Way to God?'* by Peter Jeffrey has been typeset and is now awaiting layout and printing by Evangelical Press.

#### Other Languages

Several other books are also being translated into Russian for distribution in Ukraine, and *'All Things New'* is being translated into Chichewa, the national language of Malawi.

### **Distance Mentoring Ministry**

A vital part of PTI's ministry is the distance mentoring work. All the pastors who have attended a conference are offered the opportunity to write to us for ongoing one-on-one help with pastoral and biblical questions, and to receive further books as required. Many other pastors from around the world also contact us directly to seek this assistance.

*'What the Scriptures Teach'* is the book that we send first to all new applicants - we have sent a lot of these out in recent weeks. The following quotes are from men who have returned their answers to *'What the Scriptures Teach'*. One day recently we received 5 sets of answers all of which were extremely well done.

*"What the Scriptures Teach is very useful to me in teaching in the Bible College as a text book. It is useful for church too... Christian Behaviour chapter 8 is my guide line in my church ministry... I used chapter six for new comers to the church. It talks about Salvation. From my side it is a very useful book."* – Jit Ghale, Nepal

*"Thank you for the questions you sent me. They have helped me in knowing a lot of Scriptures. For example there have been some questions where I had to read from chapters until I could see the answer. By doing so, it has helped me to learn a lot of Scripture."* – Peter Makondo, Zambia

*"What the Scriptures Teach was very helpful to me for the understand about the God sin, The Lord Jesus Christ The atonement, Salvation, The Holy Spirit Christian Behaviour. These topics are most important for the general Christian Life. So these are very helpful for me and ministries and I am praying for the training my co-worker, and I am training them through this booklet."*

– Pastor Robbin K Vaidhya, Nepal

*"I have read the book, worked on the questions... I really found the exercise very helpful both for my personal devotion and ministry growth."* – Ignatius Kakunta, Zambia

Please do not stop praying for the safe arrival of boxes of books in Myanmar. We understand that the situation for believers is getting increasingly difficult.