

# Pastor Training International

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Teach to Preach

## PTI Prayer & News– January 2007

*'Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.'*  
(Psalm 119:105)

Dear praying friends,

How often we have cause to praise God for the truth of this Scripture in our lives. We praise God that we receive testimonies to this fact from pastors who study the Word with the aid of the books we supply. Just last week, one pastor wrote *"God is revealing more truth through the material you have sent to me. I humbly admit some of the mistakes I have been doing and seeing them as normal, but when I went through the books it was different."*

As we look back over the past year, the Lord enabled us to increase the number of conferences in which we were involved. You will have read some of the letters we have received about the conferences and the books that have been received. We thank God for providing friends who have been prepared to assist with the growing number of letters that we receive from pastors. He also provided for all of our needs for these and every other part of our ministry. For this we give Him our grateful thanks. We praise Him for all who support us with their gifts and especially in their regular prayer times. You may remember that since we started three years ago we have been praying for the Lord to give us a safer way of getting books into Myanmar. We are able to report that the Lord has now answered our prayers and we have at least two routes whereby books safely reach pastors in that needy country.

### This Year

We are seeking with the Lord's help to increase our conference ministry. We also face other needs in other areas of our ministry. We believe that the Lord knows all these needs, and that none of them are beyond His ability to provide all that is necessary for the growth of the work and for the glory of His wonderful name.

### Plans for the 2007 Training Conference Ministry

#### Zimbabwe and Sierra Leone

We have received invitations to visit Zimbabwe from the Rusitu Bible College at Chimanimani, and from the Evangelical Theological College of Zimbabwe in Bulawayo. These are due to take place during the weeks beginning **26<sup>th</sup> March** and **2<sup>nd</sup> April**. At this moment, we do not know who will be leading these. Please pray that the Lord will make clear His will in this matter.

At the same time we should be in Sierra Leone at the invitation of Mike and Vi Webb of UFM International. Alan Levy has agreed to lead these conferences, with help from Christopher Jonah, a Sierra Leonean brother. The conferences will be held in Freetown, the capital, and three at other centres. Two are scheduled to take place before Easter and two afterwards. Alan will have a break of two weeks between these sessions. He may be helping with some teaching at a weekend Bible School in Freetown as well. This is a heavy workload. Please pray for Alan both physically and spiritually in this vital work.

#### Malawi

In **July** we plan to be working in fellowship with our friends from the Zambesi Mission for two more conferences in Malawi. We are not sure who will be leading these, and it may be that our only involvement will be for the supply of books for all who attend.

#### Zambia

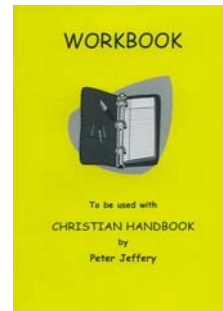
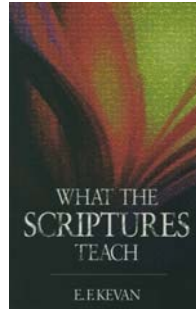
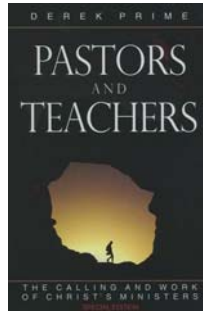
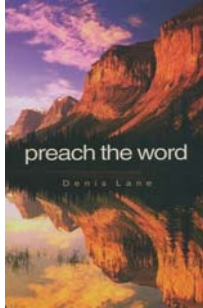
We have also received invitations from our friends in different parts of Zambia and plans are being made to lead 4 conferences in that country in **August** and **September**. One of these will be in the South West where we have not visited before. We will also make our third and final visit to Kasama in the North. We thank our God that Alan Levy, Ian Harrison and Peter Seccombe are all making arrangements to lead these.

#### Ethiopia

**October** will take us into Ethiopia at the invitation of some friends in the Christian Brethren church. One conference will be in Addis Ababa and the second at Ginchi to the west of the capital. This will be conducted for Amharic believers, and we are already looking at books in this language for those who will attend. Please pray that the Lord will provide the men of His choice to lead these conferences.

## Key Books

For the past two years we have been working through large stocks of some of our “basic” books. Already ‘Preach the Word’ by Dennis Lane is almost exhausted. By the end of the year ‘Pastors and Teachers’ by Derek Prime, ‘What the Scriptures Teach’ and the Workbook that accompanies the ‘Christian Handbook’ by Peter Jeffery will be exhausted. We want to continue to make use of these and will seek to have these reprinted for our use. This, together with the increase of the number of conferences we are seeking to conduct, requires us to strengthen our confidence in the Lord to meet our needs. Please join with us to pray that He will prove to be faithful to all His promises.



## Literature in Simple English

David Kingdon, who is a member of our Editorial Board, is presently editing some chapters of J.C. Ryle on regeneration. This is a subject where we find considerable confusion in the minds of some of our friends. David is also planning to work on some material that he has previously used when teaching in the townships of South Africa. Please pray for him as he carries out his task, and that the resulting booklets will be of much value in helping pastors to understand and teach some basic doctrines.

## Distance Mentoring – A Growing Work

Not only does the Lord give us the opportunity to conduct more conferences, but every week brings a number of letters and emails from preachers who request the blessing of receiving books to help them in their ministry. We thank God that Russell Williams and Tony Rees, both from Cardiff, have agreed to help with the mentoring ministry. Please pray for them as they begin this at the end of the month.

Recently a number of friends who are involved in serving the Lord in Africa and Asia have requested books from us. We rejoice at these opportunities for fellowship. We need much wisdom as this work grows, and we look to the Lord for the provision of those who will be able to help us in this way. Presently our books are stored at Milford through the kindness of David Ide. We realise that this is only a temporary measure, and we need much sensitivity to the Lord’s will for a more permanent base from which this aspect of our ministry can be carried out.

## Recent Comments from Letters

Most days we receive letters of appreciation from pastors who share with us how they have been helped by the books. Yesterday brought this comment from one pastor:

*“I work with 26 branches of Baptist churches... and I’m at Bible School where I help train those called by God to be pastors, evangelists and other church leaders, and so I find it difficult without books. The books therefore you have sent to me are like gold and hot cake. I pray that I may have more... I thank you very much for every book you have sent has the message we need for today. I am looking forward to the time when each man, woman, young and old that I train will have their own library to make it easy for them to study lessons and sermons. Books here are very expensive. Almost every village preacher would need a copy of ‘Preach the Word’, the commentary on 2 Corinthians... at least they have a copy of the Bible and nothing else, not even a local hymn book. Most members do not have Bibles in a village church.”*

We trust that the Lord will encourage you as He has us in the growth of the work, and that He will give us all grace to remain faithful in seeking His face for His continued help and blessing upon us all.

Yours in Christ Jesus,

Gordon Oram – PTI Editorial Board