



PTI Prayer & News – March 2007

'Speak the things which are proper for sound doctrine.' (Titus 2:1)

Dear praying friends,

This month sees the beginning of a greatly enlarged number of training conferences for the year. In line with every other aspect of our ministry, we pray that the pastors and preachers attending these will be helped to understand and be given a great burden to preach the healthy, life-giving truths of God's Word.

Sierra Leone

The first group of conferences begins on Monday 19th March at **Freetown**, Sierra Leone. Alan Levy will be leading four conferences at different venues in the country over a six-week period. The following Monday, 26th March, he will be inland at **Makeni** for four days. He will then travel back to Freetown where there may be further teaching opportunities during the week beginning 2nd April.

There will be time for some rest before he travels to **Kenema** to teach from 16-20th April. Alan will then travel an hour's drive from Kenema to **Bo** for the final conference on 23-27th April. There is the possibility that Alan will have other opportunities to preach on some Sundays as well as teaching on two Saturdays at the Grace and Truth Bible Institute. This is a heavy schedule for Alan and those who will be helping him in the country. Please pray for the Lord to give grace and strength to him, and a hunger to learn in the hearts of all who attend.



Zimbabwe

Monday 25th March will see the first of two conferences in Zimbabwe, at the Rusitu Bible College near **Chimanimani** in the eastern part of the country. The following week we plan to be at **Bulawayo** at the Evangelical Theological College of Zimbabwe. Brian Lotter, the pastor from Upper Hale in Farnham, is responsible for leading the conferences. We thank God that Brian's church were so willing to release him at comparatively short notice for this opportunity, as well as his eagerness to accept our invitation.

Victor Nakah and Timothy Myambo, the Principals of the two colleges, will be helping Brian in the teaching. You will be aware from the news bulletins of recent days that there is a degree of unrest in the country. We have had considerable difficulty in maintaining communications with these brothers, making this the

most difficult conference to organise since we have been in operation. Please pray for the Lord's mighty hand to overrule in all things for good in these conferences.

Book Sets for the Conferences

At all these places, we shall follow our normal custom of giving a set of books to all who attend. Much of the teaching will be focused upon the contents of some of these books, showing the pastors how to make good use of them in their study of the Bible and sermon preparation when they are back in their churches.

The book sets for use in Zimbabwe contain most of the titles shown on the right; the sets for Sierra Leone have a smaller selection from this list.

- Preaching Papers – *Grace Baptist Mission*
- Pastors and Teachers – *Derek Prime*
- Preach the Word – *Denis Lane*
- Timothy and Titus – *Douglas Milne*
- Bible Answers – *Derek Prime*
- Let's Study 2 Corinthians – *Derek Prime*
- What the Scriptures Teach – *E.F. Kevan*
- All Things New – *Peter Jeffrey*
- Christian Handbook – *Peter Jeffrey*
- Workbook – *Peter Jeffrey*
- Expository Thoughts on Matthew – *J.C. Ryle*

Distance Mentoring

We regularly report in Prayer News on the expansion of the work. New applications for sharing in our ministry arrive from around the world with great frequency. We are therefore very thankful to the Lord that two more pastors have been able to start helping with the work; Bob Davey from Looe in Cornwall, and Brian Freer from Bury St Edmunds.

Please continue to pray for all who are involved in this letter writing work, and marking of the answers to the questions from 'What the Scriptures Teach'. Some overseas pastors find this study very difficult and we need much wisdom from God to encourage those who struggle in this task. Other pastors who have built a relationship with us over a period of time are now becoming more confident to ask more questions and again much grace from God is needed to answer some of these. Over the past few weeks, we have had many answers from 'What the Scriptures Teach' returned, together with testimonies of help received from studying this and other books.

This comment from a pastor in Zambia is typical of many:

"I am very pleased for the study (What the Scriptures Teach) and it has changed the way I teach and worship specially the lesson of redemption in the Old and New Testament."

Here is part of a letter from a pastor in Botswana who has only had contact with us for a few months:

"Thank you for sending me a number of books... they are helping a lot as they clarify some issues that I did not understand. I am more organized in speech and teaching as I feed them new information that I derive from your books."

A pastor in Zambia who has been receiving books for 2-3 years writes:

"'Holiness' by Ryle is a real gem. I got this book in the pack through brother Levy when he came here and I want to say that I have prepared and preached a sermon from this very book. Most of the pastors who also received the same book are still talking about how good this book is."

Other Matters for Praise and Prayer

- At about 8pm on Monday 19th March, Mervyn Barter, a member of our Editorial Board, went home to heaven after a long illness. Although he was only with us for a short time he will be sadly missed. We thank God for his warm encouragement and willing help in this service for the Lord. He gladly helped us where possible despite being so weak. Please pray for Penelope his wife and the family at this time that they will know the all-sufficient grace of God with them.
- We praise God for answering prayer concerning arrangements for the conferences later in the year. Timothy Alford and Abraham Folayan will share the ministry in Malawi in July. We have settled on Mongu as the venue for the conference in South West Zambia in August. Plans have also been made for Ken McIntosh from Horsley and Gerard Hemmings from Twickenham to lead the ministry in Ethiopia during October. Please pray for these brethren as they prepare to serve the Lord in this way. Please also pray that the Lord would prepare the hearts of the men who will attend, so that they will be able to understand and apply what they hear.
- As with every growing work of God, we have many needs. We are now keen to expand our board of Trustees and the Editorial Board. Please pray that God will lead us to the people of his choice for these positions.
- We also have a need for people who have some time each month to help with the packing and distribution of books. Please pray that the Lord will stir the hearts of some living within easy access of Milford in Surrey, who can help in this strategic ministry.
- At the end of this month we shall be losing the services of Matthew Connolly, who has been of great help in the warehouse and dispatching of many boxes. Please pray that God will be with him as he moves on to the next phase of his life for our Lord Jesus Christ.
- We have had two fairly large collections of books donated to our ministry. From these we have been able to send 30 boxes to pastors and Bible colleges. We thank God for friends who remember needy pastors in this way.
- In recent weeks we have met with another small group who have a similar ministry to us in South East Asia. We are looking at the possibility of combining our ministries and resources. God has given us both a very similar burden for helping pastors and providing them with literature. Please pray that we shall all know clearly the mind of the Lord in coming days.

With thanks for your continuing fellowship in Christ Jesus,

Gordon Oram – PTI Editorial Board