

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 – December 2007

'God is not unjust to forget your work and labour of love which you have shown toward His name, in that you have ministered to the saints, and do minister.' (Hebrews 6:10)

Dear praying friends,

Ethiopia Conferences, October 2007

God has graciously answered our prayers for the two conferences at Addis Ababa and Ginchi – our first visit to Ethiopia. Many of the 170 pastors who attended have spoken with great appreciation of the blessing from God to them at a personal level as well as upon their ministries. One pastor said, *"The lessons about salvation and holiness were very useful to me"*. The opening up of the Scriptures for them brought a greater understanding of its riches, and many are sure that the days spent together will have an impact on their churches.



Some of the pastors in Ginchi listen intently to the teaching

On his return, David Sercombe wrote:

"We felt the teaching went well, the trainees were very attentive, took notes, and checked every Bible reference. There were one or two areas of misunderstanding, the same areas in both places. It seemed difficult for them to follow the 'Non-causal use of Faith in salvation/justification'. The concept of Regeneration preceding Faith also seemed new to them."

Ken McIntosh's full report and a selection of photographs are on our website www.pastor-training.org.

- Please give thanks:
 - For the willing and efficient help from Mulugeta Ashagre before and during the conference time. The administration and logistics for the conferences went very smoothly,
 - For the warm fellowship that has developed between us all, and the invitation to return again next year.
- Please also pray:
 - That the Lord will use the truths that were taught, and the books that were distributed, to strengthen these pastors and their churches,
 - For wisdom in planning follow-up work in Ethiopia in the coming years.

The Lord's goodness in 2007

Looking back over this past year, we are amazed at the wonderful way in which the Lord has provided for us. He has enabled the work to expand significantly, and has proved that He is faithful to all his promises.

- We have been able to increase the number of conferences from 6 last year to 14 this year, with entry into three new countries – Ethiopia, Sierra Leone and Zimbabwe.
- Over 1,100 men attended these conferences, and approximately 10,000 books were given to them.
- Almost 800 men have contacted us in connection with our mentoring ministry which has resulted in the distribution of a further 3,000 books.
- Besides all this we have been given hundreds of second hand books, magazines, Bibles and cassettes of sermons and teaching to distribute.
- In recent months we have been even more encouraged by two substantial gifts of new books by the authors.
- There have been brothers who have willingly joined the mentoring team to give of their time to help in writing to pastors overseas.
- With the development of our ministry in such a way, we are grateful that Bill Bridgens has accepted an invitation to be responsible for all the handling and dispatch of the books.
- God has graciously provided the necessary finances for all that we have sought to do.
- On an almost daily basis we receive letters and e-mails which testify to blessing received from God through different aspects of our ministry.
- At the request of friends in Malawi, we have been able to encourage the translation of the book 'All Things New' into the Chichewa language. It has now been published in Spain by friends at Editorial Peregrino. While PTI does not intend to be directly involved with translation projects, we hope to be able to give support as the opportunity arises.

We share all this with you to enable you to rejoice with us at the way in which God has so wonderfully answered all our prayers for this work. The Scriptures often talk of the rich and lavish ways in which God gives His gifts to His people. We have learned more of the reality of this glorious truth.

Further comments about the conferences

Kabwe Kabwe from Ndola, who helped with the teaching and organisation in Zambia, recently wrote:

"I was just chatting with one pastor who attended the meeting from some charismatic church – he was confessing that the sermon preparation seminars and group discussion and the systematic exposition of Philippians were a great eye opener and he has changed his teaching and preaching ministry. Thanks again for your love and trust in this ministry."

A pastor who attended the Kasama conference wrote some while afterwards:

"The aim of writing this letter is to report on the Kasama Conference which took place in August. I had an opportunity to attend this event and I thank God because I left praising God Almighty for the experiences and teachings which were so educative and uplifting... really I discovered that most of the time I was involved in discussing on social issues which I realised I was not called to do but to preach Christ and him crucified. I was really touched on this matter and enlightened. I repented because I felt that this was one of my weaknesses. I developed this habit after going through psycho-social counselling training. Furthermore on questions, I liked the manner which the speakers handled questions. I am sure you will agree with me that in multitude of people opinions differ, some asked questions others irrelevant questions, but even though our speakers expressed maturity, patience and answered all the questions nicely in a spirit of meekness."



Concerning the books, a pastor from Ghana wrote:

"God bless you for the books you have sent me, I am still going through them and one of these books has helped me a lot – that is the book 'Mysterious Ways' – the life of Joseph. I have learned that God has a good plan and purpose for everybody when we wait on him. I also learned that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, Rom 8:28. I use this to encourage others, my friends and my church members. Thank you for this wonderful book."

A pastor from Zimbabwe commented:

"Thank you for the books. You are an answer to my prayer. May the Lord bless all the PTI team. As for the books, they are easy to read and understand. They are filling gaps. I had a lot of unanswered questions but some have now been answered through the literature you have been sending me. 'The Church of God' has been a dream come true."

And in a similar manner, a pastor from Botswana writes:

"Thank you for the books. These books have empowered me with the knowledge of God and they are easy to follow and use. They are transforming my life dramatically. The Bible has become alive and it is easy for me to share the Word of God with confidence... the congregation I fellowship with have benefited a lot."

The great responsibility of writing to pastors is reflected in a letter received just this week from Zimbabwe:

"I have received the cassettes which have caused our library to be so fruitful. Our debating is going great as we meet with different church members reading the books you are sending and discuss about writings in them. According to our strong tradition we understand not very much, that is why we ask such silly questions. People are pushing me to ask such because I read to them every reply of yours so much that they much understand from your writings because they know you are not of our tradition."

Please pray that many other pastors and their congregations will be helped and built up in a similar way.

Other matters for prayer

By the time you receive this letter well over 2,500 books will be on their way to Zimbabwe and the townships of South Africa, to be distributed in connection with seven conferences organised by Erroll Hulse. Please pray for their safe arrival and that God will use them mightily.

As we look to the future, there are a number of matters for prayer. Whenever the Lord prospers a ministry, this growth and development brings other difficulties to be faced and met. We are in need of those who are able to help in the **mentoring ministry** as this has outgrown the abilities and time of those involved with it. There will probably be occasions when extra help for **book packing** will be needed; please pray with us that the Lord will provide wisdom and guidance in dealing with these needs.

The stocks of some of the books that are a key foundation for our ministry have now been used up. Pray that the Lord will enable us and the publishers to get these back in print before the end of next March. Our ministry with new applicants for our books will be greatly hindered if 'What the Scriptures Teach' is not available. Pray for this matter, and for wisdom to know which offers of books to take up as a number are put before us.

Our most urgent prayer need: We have been very grateful for the generosity of David Ide in allowing us to use some of the large sheds in his grounds for the storage of our books. With the growth of the work and the need to store more books, we have outgrown these facilities. This has always been regarded as a temporary measure. Please pray with us that the Lord will lead us to the right place where we can continue the packing and dispatch side of our ministry.

Conferences for 2008

At the time of putting this prayer news together, Brian Lotter is in **Zimbabwe** in discussion with friends about the conferences for the coming year. We would like to go back to Mongu in **Zambia** and are looking at the possibility of three other Zambian centres for next year. In the Lord's all-wise providence we are not able to go into Malawi, and this is giving us the opportunity to explore the possibility of visiting **Ghana**. Later in the year, as you have read, we would like to visit **Ethiopia** again. Please pray that we would know the Lord's clear leading and guidance in these matters.

Planning is well underway for a return visit to the four centres in **Sierra Leone** next February. Please pray for Alan Levy, who has accepted the invitation to return there, as he prepares in the coming weeks. We hope to get the books for these conferences posted off within a few days. A new country for us will be **Ukraine**, where plans are being made for Gareth Jones to visit in May. We would also like to visit **Myanmar** (Burma) in February or March, but with the recent unrest in the country Ken Brownell needs to be assured of the situation before such a visit can be undertaken. Please pray that the Lord would give us much wisdom and clear guidance.

We look forward to proving again that our God is sufficient for all our needs as we seek to help pastors and preachers to uplift His glorious and wonderful name.