



PTI Prayer & News – October 2008

*'Let such as love your salvation say continually,
"The Lord be magnified"' (Psalm 40:16)*

Dear praying friends,

These words from the psalmist's pen express the overall aim of PTI's ministry. We are able to magnify his name with our praise in this letter for a number of good answers to prayer.

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ZAMBIA – FOUR CONFERENCES DURING AUGUST



A group of the pastors in Chipata study together during an afternoon session

During August we conducted four conferences in Zambia. Alan Levy and Ken Brownell began in **Mongu**, and we praise God for answering prayer for this conference. Last year Alan and Ian Harrison came home discouraged by some of the behaviour they had witnessed at the end of the conference. This year, Alan expounded 1 Thessalonians and addressed these matters in the first session. All the sessions went well, with the biblical teaching being well received. Alan writes:

"Before we presented the books and certificates, we were asked to give one of the men an opportunity to speak. Daniel, one of the older men, spoke most movingly, going down on both knees to apologise for last year. Speaking on behalf of the whole group he asked if I would forgive them and ask Ian to do so also. He said that I had not berated them but had led them Biblically and lovingly dealt with them from 1 Thessalonians and they could do nothing else but say how sorry they were, would I forgive them? What else could I do? I was close to tears as I said that of course I would wholeheartedly and completely forgive them and thanked them for their apology. Daniel went on to give thanks for this year's conference."

From Mongu, Alan and Ken moved up to the North West to **Mansa**. This was our first visit to this area and, as at Mongu, there were 70 men who attended. They listened avidly to the truths taught, and the answers from the work and study in small groups indicated that the main points had been grasped. Looking at the evaluation sheets which the men completed, it is clear that they were greatly helped by the time together. We read of them finding that some of their problems were dealt with in the sessions. Even more indicated that they have a better understanding of what is required in sermon preparation and had a deeper desire to open the Scriptures more fully.

At the end of his report Alan writes:

"Reviewing this trip, again I have to give thanks to God for his undertaking in so many things, travelling mercies, health and safety, overcoming difficulties, especially in Mongu, that Ken and I got on well together, for the good listening the men gave us. I believe that these two conferences were among the best that I have been privileged to take part in."

Overlapping with the Mansa conference there was another in **Chipata** which was conducted by Peter Seccombe with help from two brothers in Zambia, Kabwe Kabwe and Gilbert Mubanga. Peter expounded 1 Thessalonians, while Kabwe and Gilbert dealt with 'mentoring for ministry' and 'mentoring for personal living'. While these overlapped to some extent with what Peter said from Thessalonians, the evaluation forms have indicated that the men found these sessions helpful. The same conference pattern was followed at **Luanshya** in the Copperbelt during the next week. 74 men attended here, similar to the number in Chipata. Due to the death of Zambian President Mwanawasa during the conference, it was cut short by a day so that the men could participate in the day of national mourning. This meant that a few of the sessions were lost.

At all of the conferences, as is the PTI custom, a pack of books was given to each pastor who attended. A number of these underline and expand truths that were taught. Please pray that the Lord will use these to build up these brothers in their understanding and teaching of the truth of God.

We have received a great deal of willing help from Phil Bailey who is based at Covenant College in Petauke. He willingly made a great effort to see that all the book packs were collected safely from the post office, and was very helpful in the generous use of his pickup truck to help towards the smooth running of the conferences. We thank God for this as well as for his hand upon all four of these sessions.

ETHIOPIA – OCTOBER

This month we are due to be in Ethiopia for conferences in **Addis Ababa** (6th-11th Oct) where 60 men are expected to attend, and in **Ginchi** (12th-17th Oct) where we expect a further 120 brothers. Please pray:

- for **Ken McIntosh** and **David Sercombe** as they teach
- for safety in travelling for both UK trainers and Ethiopian brothers
- for good health and strength during the trip
- for God's presence in each conference
- for wisdom and discernment to answer the variety of questions during and after each lecture
- that the books will arrive safely and on time
- that the books and the lecture notes (which have been translated into Amharic) will be a great blessing and help to the brothers.



These conferences take place with our hearts full of gratitude to the Lord for providing the necessary finances at the last minute so that they could go ahead. Please join with us in thanksgiving to our faithful God.

CHRISTIAN BOOKS WORLDWIDE

We hope that our sister organisation, Christian Books Worldwide, will be registered as a charity within the next few weeks. While PTI and CBW have distinctive areas of service for the Lord, we pray that we shall be able to compliment each other effectively. CBW will focus upon literature translation, such as the recently published translation of 'All Things New' into *Chichewa* (right), while PTI will concentrate upon teaching the truths of God contained in these books. In the future we hope to use CBW's translated books in some of our conferences. We share together the same editorial committee, which helps to keep our work united.



Mkristu ndi mwana wa Mulungu

Tisanapulumsidwe Mulungu samakha
Chipulumutso chimatanthauza kulandi
Mulungu monga ana ake (Aroma 8

"Kulandira mwana ndi njira yochoka m'
ja la Mulungu mwini. Apatu ndi pachima
ta kuzimvetsa kwambiri poganizira za ku
kondi cha Mulungu. Ndi Mzimu Woyera

FUTURE CONFERENCES – 2009

We look forward to 2009 when, if the Lord enables us, we would like to expand our work considerably. We have begun to lay plans for further visits to **Myanmar** and **Sierra Leone** early in the year. A little later we plan to go back to **Ukraine** and to visit **Ghana** for the first time. We also have an invitation to **Kenya** for the springtime to visit one of the largest slums in Nairobi. Moving to July/August we have invitations to go back to **Malawi** and **Zambia** again, although we are not sure of the exact timing of Zambia. Later in the autumn we would like to go back to **Ethiopia** as well as accepting an invitation to **India**. In addition to all of this, friends in **Zimbabwe** are very keen that we should visit that needy country again. These are only a few of the invitations that we regularly receive and would like to accept. We look to the Lord to make his way clear in all these matters as well as for him to provide all we need to carry out his will. Please pray much for wisdom and discernment in these important matters.

OTHER ITEMS FOR PRAYER AND THANKSGIVING

Another matter for thankfulness is that at least two of five packets for Myanmar have arrived safely. This is an answer to prayer because we have lost a number of packets to this country. Please continue to pray for the safe arrival of all the packs and boxes which we send out each month. While we do not mention this in every letter, this is a constant need.

We acknowledge, with much gratefulness to the Lord, that the **mentoring ministry** is growing in a noticeable way. We have more and more requests to share in our ministry, and we try to be positive in our response whenever we can. This does mean that we are now receiving many more completed answer sheets to the questions at the back of 'What the Scriptures Teach', which in turn leads to more mentoring needs. While the Lord has given us some friends who help with this, we need more who could join this growing part of our ministry. It would also be helpful to have another person who could help with processing all the new applicants. Packing books into padded envelopes is another area where we need more help. The Lord's blessing and growth is good, but it produces other needs. Please pray that he would provide for us in these areas.

PASTORS' LETTERS AND COMMENTS

We add some comments and reactions from pastors to the books. We are sure that these will encourage and stir you to continue praying that the Lord will bless and enrich them through the books they receive.

"I am so grateful for the books I received. I must say that I am now equipped with the right tools. After reading the book 'Preach the Word' and another one entitled 'Pastors and Teachers', my perspective has changed. To be honest with you, I am not the same person. I have learned the nature of expository preaching and the secret behind reading and studying. I must admit that we do lack some materials to improve our preaching, but now at least I do have some guidance." Kabwe, Zambia

"Thank you for the wonderful books sent to me. The books have been and will be useful to me and the church where I minister. 'The Bible Book by Book' has given me more insights on the books of the Bible, especially on Haggai which we are studying in the church I am pastoring. The other thing I have learned is that OT believers looked forward in faith to what Christ would do, while we look backward in faith to what he has done. The commentary on Ephesians has strengthened the mutual love of my wife and I for each other... Since I started receiving books from PTI, they always come at the time when I need the material most. My desire to preach and teach grows even more whenever I receive and read books from your ministry." Mongu, Zambia

"We will not fail to confess that the book (What the Scriptures Teach) was a wonderful recipe for our spiritual growth and we also know it will be a blessing to the people of St John's Church... I humbly beg you to send me some of your materials – healthy spiritual books and other materials which will help me in the ministry... I also beg for your prayers on my family since in our country Bible School is for the rich ones." Umuahia, Nigeria

"Just also want to tell you that I personally enjoyed the study (What the Scriptures Teach). It took me round the whole Bible and made me search round it. I really gained a lot." Jos, Nigeria

"I am thankful because since I began studying with you my ministry has so much been improved. My messages are a great blessing to people because I preach with so much confidence, assurance and knowledge. My eyes of understanding are widely opened in interpreting and applying Scripture. Several people come and study the books in my study room I have opened. When I began studying with you I did not know that you go with me all this far and deep into God's Word... I am proud of your training. I am so fortunate. Others pay millions but to me it is free. May this grace which has fallen on me reach many others." Mzuzu, Malawi

Finally, here is a long quote from a pastor near Ndola in Zambia. This gives a good picture of the situation in many developing countries where the Lord is at work and which we seek by his grace to help these needy brothers.

"When I was talking to some pastors about the importance of studying and reading most of them were looking from the angle of contradiction but upon some of them receiving the book written by Stuart Olyott (Preaching Pure and Simple) they could not believe it. I have been encouraging mainly pastors not very much to be influenced by money and other factors affecting life, but to commit and devote most of their time and energy to reading and studying as a noble call to ministry. I know to a lot of ministers this is not any easy task because there other things involved, school fees for school-going children, support of family members, and mostly those who are not given any thing by the church and most of them happen to be founders of churches and just serving because they are founder members this is quite hard. And yes I know we need money for us to do God's work but this should not be our interest in serving Him, as the bible says, Seek First the Kingdom of God and everything shall be added unto you, should be our factor of calling.

This time around we have a weekly prayer meeting where we share the understandings and the teachings of the bible to have the first hand understanding of the bible the programme which I think God has called me into and I would continue to support this same programme even extending it to people in the rural areas of Zambia where preaching needs to be salted. These are places where there may be some pastors who are the only people with knowledge of the bible and the rest of the church members will be just following what the pastor will be saying regardless of what he preaches. The members cannot have the ability to look in the bible and see what is written. These pastors need a lot of support from us who happen to be seasoned.

You know Brother Gordon, I have been in places were the word has been highly abused due to lack of knowledge. Now we have been trying to see how we can harmonize on the number of issues pertaining Christian doctrine and the importance of upholding the word in and out of season as Paul mentioned to Timothy. We are looking for partners, Brother Gordon, who can come in and support these pastors with tools in ministry. What the devil has done is to bring poverty among many church members so that they may be subjected to any doctrine that may come there way and what will make them stand on the money power. Where they are given they will follow regardless of what is coming out of that.

But among them we have the remnant, which the Lord said they have never kneed down before idols. You may not believe when you see the passion on these ministers whenever they are serving with just the desire and not for monetary gain. You cry with them, and you rejoice with them. Some of them cannot even afford to send their children to school but that does not stop them from serving the Lord and serving faithfully. Praise God!"

Please pray on. With greetings in Christ,
Gordon Oram – PTI Editorial Board