



## PTI Prayer & News – January 2009

*'The Lord is good: his steadfast love endures for ever.'*  
(Psalm 100:5)

Dear praying friends,

At the start of 2009 we can bear testimony to the glorious truth from this Psalm, which shines out on many pages of the Scriptures. God has shown us his goodness on many occasions through the last year.

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### REPORTS FROM ETHIOPIA

Since our last Prayer News the conferences in Ethiopia have taken place. **Ken McIntosh**, who shared the teaching with **David Sercombe**, writes about their time in Addis Ababa:

*"We had 55 keen students registered at the beginning although numbers crept up during the week. Again it was a privilege to teach these believers. They were sharp, keen and biblically quite knowledgeable. We were treated extremely well. We all knew what was expected from last year and, although the week was fairly intensive, David and I felt things went very well. In fact, because we had prepared lecture notes which had been translated and bound in advance, we felt the teaching went even better than last year."*

And of the Ginchi conference Ken writes:

*"This venue was the same as last year and so were most of the brothers – 106 men. These men spoke less English than those in Addis, but if anything, their keenness was greater. Some had walked for five hours before they could catch a bus to the conference. Being with these men was a humbling experience. Again the programme went well. At the end the brothers were given three books in the Amharic script – two books on John's gospel by Warren Wiersbe and one on servant leadership by Gottfried Osei Mensah."*



Pastors following the teaching in Addis Ababa



Receiving a set of Amharic books in Ginchi

## THANKSGIVING FOR ENCOURAGEMENTS IN 2008

Please join us in thanking our God for progress in many aspects of the work during 2008:

- **Supporters** – The Lord has given us a faithful group of prayer supporters, without whom this work would not be able to go forward.
- **Mentoring** – Over 800 pastors and preachers are in contact with us through our mentoring ministry. This is about the same number as we had in 2007.
- **New contacts** – We were encouraged by over 40 new contacts in the last month. Every 5 weeks we send around 150 packets of books to some of these pastors.
- **Conferences** – While we did not hold as many conferences in 2008 as in previous years, we were able to break new ground with visits to Myanmar and Ukraine.
- **Attendance** – In all about 800 men attended the conferences and most were given some books to help their preaching ministry.
- **Study aids** – We distributed hundreds of magazines, Bible study notes and second hand books in the early months of 2008, all of which had been donated to us.
- **Finances** – As some will remember, our finances have been very stretched on occasions, but the Lord has wonderfully provided for our every need during the year and nothing has been left undone.
- **Promoting the work** – We have been able to have stands at ministers' conferences and some other occasions, and the number of churches inviting us to speak about our ministry is slowly increasing.

Truly God has been amazingly good to us, and we give thanks to the Lord for the privilege of being able to do all this. Please pray that the Biblical truths that these pastors are learning will be received into their hearts and have an impact on the whole of their ministry. Pray that their congregations would be fed and become rooted and grounded in all the rich fullness of the Gospel.

## 2009 CONFERENCE PLANS

In 2009 we plan to hold more conferences and to move into some new countries.

### Myanmar and Cambodia, January-February 2009

Our pastor training conferences for 2009 begin at the end of January when **Ken Brownell** and **Simon Robinson** visit Myanmar and Cambodia. Their schedule is as follows:

- 29<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> Jan Teaching at church leaders' conference at the YMCA in Yangon.
- 1<sup>st</sup> Feb Preaching in churches in Yangon.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> Feb Teaching churches in the Delta region (most affected by the Cyclone).
- 5<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> Feb Fly to Mandalay. Speak at Bible teaching seminars for church leaders.
- 8<sup>th</sup> Feb Preach in churches in Mandalay.
- 9<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> Feb Fly to Phnom Penn (Cambodia). Teaching in Cambodia.

Simon has written a little about Cambodia and those to whom they are to minister.

*"After the convulsions Cambodia has faced at the hand of Pol Pot and the Khmer Rouge the country has entered into a peaceful and stable existence and is completely open for Christian workers. In 1990 the church was given government permission to function openly, at that time there were not many evangelical churches in Cambodia. Today there are over two thousand, with a total membership of around 200,000.*

*"We will be staying with Samuel and Ruth Elliot, some friends who run an organization called 'Daughters' which rescues young girls who have been caught up in the sex trade and people trafficking. This will involve us spending time encouraging the staff team and helping them to develop links with churches in the UK. Samuel and Ruth will also involve us in working with a Khmer church and mission work in the slum areas of the city. We will also be teaching leaders and speaking at an evangelistic meeting in a thriving church plant which is led by a young Pastor by the name of Sophea Sem."*

Please pray for Ken and Simon in their travelling and teaching, as well as for all the pastors who sit under their ministry. Pray that Christ will be uplifted and the pastors helped with their preaching and teaching ministry.

## **Sierra Leone, March 2009**

In March we hope to make our third visit to Sierra Leone. **Alan Levy** is planning to teach at the four centres that he has visited during the last two years. We will be sending the books for these conferences early in January. Please pray for their safe arrival – last year the boxes were opened and some of the contents stolen.

Alan plans to go through Romans and to give teaching upon the person and work of the Holy Spirit. Please pray for Alan as he prepares for these important times. Pray also for the pastors who sit under his ministry, for some of these subjects are likely to be very new for them. Pray that the Lord will help them to regulate their beliefs and practices by his Word. We hope to write more about this visit in a newsletter in early March.

## **Looking further ahead into 2009**

During the rest of the year, we would like to conduct the following conferences.

- **Ghana (April)** – Conferences at two centres at the invitation of MacDouglas Ampadu.
- **Ukraine (June)** – Plans are being made for our second visit.
- **Malawi (July)** – Two conferences are being planned in fellowship with the Zambezi Mission and the Evangelical Fellowship of Malawi.
- **Zambia (August)** – We hope to make a third visit to Mongu, a second visit to Chipata and Mansa, and a first visit to Solwezi.
- **Ethiopia (October)** – Our third visit to the friends in Addis Ababa and Ginchi.
- **India (October)** – At the invitation of Jyoti Chakravarty we hope to hold conferences at Kolkata, and another northern centre accessible for pastors from Bhutan and Nepal.

These plans are all subject to the sovereign will of our God, and his provision for all the needs in connection with them. Please pray that the Lord will give us great wisdom in discerning his will in these matters.

## **PARTNERSHIPS IN THE GOSPEL**

We continue to give thanks to God for his goodness in encouraging many **publishers** to make materials available to us at such cheap prices. Without their help and support in this way, our ministry would be severely curtailed. This is further evidence that the Lord is good.

Towards the end of 2008 we met with Steven Frakes from **Chapel Library**, based at Pensacola in Florida. These good friends have a literature ministry which reaches many countries of the world. (See [www.mountzion.org](http://www.mountzion.org) for more details.) They wish to share in our ministry by providing literature at our conferences for those who attend as well as giving us other pieces to include in our mentoring ministry. We are hoping that some of their booklets by J.C. Ryle can be translated into Amharic in time for distribution at the conferences in Ethiopia this year. We see this new partnership as another token of the Lord's goodness to us. Please pray that the Lord will develop this relationship for the benefit of his Church.

## **LITERATURE MINISTRY UPDATE**

**Christian Books Worldwide**, our sister organization, hope to finally complete their charity registration in January. Once this is done we will share more about their ministry. Please pray that the Lord will enable this work to proceed with his mighty hand of blessing upon it.

Towards the end of 2008 we sent out some pallets with the **French books** that we purchased; three to **Burkina Faso** and **Mali**, plus another to **Rwanda**. In addition to these a number of boxes were posted to individuals working in Francophone Africa, while other friends bought a number for their own ministries. The need for healthy literature is even greater in these lands than in the English speaking areas of the continent. Most of these pastors have nothing like this and these will be a real treasure to them. Do pray for the safe arrival of these books and for the Lord to make them of great usefulness in the lives and ministries of the pastors who receive them.

We have received a number of **second hand books** in the past and we have been grateful for these gifts. Some are books which we would love to use more widely, but are not available to us from other sources. With the increasing restrictions on finances, we have reluctantly decided that we can only accept gifts like this if the donors are also able to provide the transport costs for them to reach Africa or Asia.

Please pray concerning the urgent need we have for **help in our mentoring ministry**. As the work grows with more enquiries and people to meet, there is increasing pressure upon those who are involved in this aspect of the work. The difficulties have become more acute over the last three months as some of our volunteers have suffered health problems. Pray that the Lord, in his all-wise providence, will lead us into contact with friends who will be able to help in the mentoring ministry and other administrative tasks.

## **PASTORS' LETTERS AND COMMENTS**

For your further encouragement and prayers, we include a selection of comments from letters that have reached us in the last few weeks.

*"I have gone in various institutes and Bible Schools, but I have not researched my Bible compared to the way I read it in trying to answer the questions from What the Scriptures Teach. I really had to leave my home for 4 hours into the bush for reading and it brought a lot of suspicion from my wife thinking that I was running mad because it was strange seeing how committed I was to the assignment." - Zambia*

*"The book 'Pastors and Teachers' has brought home to me the missing dimension of humility, consecration and sincere service to God. To me personally, I felt as if the book was purposely authored for me. It is still organising me to bring out the real nature of God in me and his plan for my ministry... I'm not recovered yet from how much it touches my spirit. Over the years I have been found it difficult to digest the contents of any book, being afraid of teaching that is out of context with the Bible... I am reading Pastors and Teachers the second time round." - Nigeria*

*"Towards the re-run election of 27 June campaign, I was reached by 4 strange people armed at midnight. These people accused me of receiving books from you saying some books were of political data. They said Britain is our enemy. They took all my books saying they were going through them. They went house by house to our church members collecting books and told them not to go to church. I was taken for two weeks to an unknown place for interrogation. On 23 June I went to collect the parcel you sent, but after collecting, I was approached by the same men who advised me not to open the parcel and they took all and put into their car and went. They promised to bring back all they took, but since then nothing. By now the situation is normal so I beg you to send me some books. May you have love on me." - Zimbabwe*

(This pastor has had very little education and no Bible School training. He is probably the poorest man with whom we have contact in Zimbabwe. He does have a desperate desire to serve the Lord and to have all the help we can give him.)

*"God put this on my heart after along time research on many of our pastors in the district who became spiritual leaders after the great revival that came to our nation in early 1980s that left many churches planted. During that time we had a high demand for church leaders, many became church leaders without any training in bible school who never experienced any biblical training. And because many here in third world countries who would like to go in bible school because of their low income. We have many pastors in many centers who need training. I beg you brothers to at least let your training for senior pastors basic training reach here our District." - Uganda*

*"Many thanks for the book 'The Old Testament Explained and Applied'. I didn't know anything about the OT and I never preach even quoting from the Old Testament. But now I have confidence to quote and preach in Old Testament." - Tanzania*

*"I have been easily preparing sermons for the congregation by using the books you are sending me. I can preach throughout the year without repeating sermons. I have learned and benefited much through this literature not only in my sermons but also in my Bible Studies." - Malawi*