



## PTI Prayer & News – March 2009

*'All the nations you have made shall come and worship before you O Lord and shall glorify your name.'* (Ps. 86:9)

Dear praying friends,

Although it is only two months since we last shared news of the Lord's work in our ministry, a number of things have happened that cause us to be amazed at the his great graciousness to us.

### MYANMAR AND CAMBODIA

**Ken Brownell** and **Simon Robinson** have recently returned from two weeks of teaching in Myanmar and Cambodia. Ken indicated that the Yangon conferences were the best he had conducted in the 14 years that he has been visiting Myanmar. There are some very helpful and godly local organisers for these 3-day conferences. We would like to see them develop into a full 5 day conference as in other countries. Do pray that the men in Yangon and Mandalay will develop a vision for longer conferences. In Mandalay the conference turned out to be for one day only with only a few turning up for the second day. Ken encourages us to persevere here because there is nowhere else in the country that we are able to go to reach the Bamar pastors. Pray for the opening up of this strategic centre for our ministry. One of the problems of the country can be seen from the fact that there are about 80 Bible colleges in Yangon but the great majority want to be exclusive, having their own empire. We face the added difficulty of getting books into this area; we did not send any this year.

The brief time in Cambodia was not an easy time and Ken and Simon felt that they were stretched too much. The friends there are keen to keep things happening; please pray that we would wisely plan any future developments.

#### In this issue:

- Myanmar and Cambodia report
- Conferences in Sierra Leone
- Conference planning for 2009
- Literature ministry news
- Pastors' letters and comments
- Financial summary for 2008

#### Sierra Leone itinerary:

- Bo, 2nd-6th March
- Kenema, 9th-13th March
- Makeni, 16th-20th March
- Freetown, 23rd-26th March



### SIERRA LEONE

As we write, these conferences are under way and the news so far is good. **Alan Levy** reports that there were about 60 at the conference in Bo. The teaching covered areas which had previously proved contentious (and still are), but he found everyone to be gracious and keen to listen. He was thrilled that there was "such a warm spirit" and every delegate had been very grateful and positive about the value of the conferences for the past two years.

Please give thanks to the Lord:

- For the good start made in Bo.
- That all the books have arrived safely this year with none of the boxes opened, unlike last year.

Please pray:

- That the teaching would be well received and applied as the men return to their churches.
- For the practicalities, such as safety, travel, and health, and smooth running of the conferences. In these respects, Sierra Leone is probably the most difficult country in which we minister.

## CONFERENCE MINISTRY COMING UP IN 2009

### Ghana, April 2009

In April, **Timothy Alford** and **Steven Curry** (pastor of Bethany Baptist Church, Bangor, NI) hope to visit Ghana. This is PTI's first time in the country and it will be Steven's first time with us. We are working closely with **MacDouglas Ampadu** (pastor of the Set Time Baptist Church in Teshie near Accra), who is organising the conferences with assistance from some other Ghanaians. MacDouglas writes:

*"Trusting the Lord to use these conferences to bless the men and use them mightily to win Ghana for the Lord. Praise God for the people whom He brought my way as I went round looking for centres. Also for those who have already expressed desire to participate in the conferences. Pray for health, journey mercies for Rev. Timothy and his assistant; wisdom in organization; protection; for participants to be edified and well-equipped for ministry; the grace of God to abound before, during and after the conferences; and for all those involved in this programme."*



**Pastor MacDouglas Ampadu with his family**

#### Ghana itinerary:

- Nkoranza, 13th-17th April
- Mampong-Akwapim, 20th-24th April



The first conference is scheduled from 13th-17th April in the Brong Ahafo Region of the country, and will be held in Nkoranza using church halls there. The second will be from 20th-24th April in the Eastern Region at Mampong-Akwapim, using the facilities of the Presbyterian Senior High School.

As usual with PTI conferences, gifts of books will be presented to those who attend them. The books are carefully selected for their suitability to the needs of African pastors and other church workers, and for their adherence to PTI doctrinal standards. In addition to the books already in use by PTI, we are now able to include publications from the Chapel Library, Pensacola, USA. A further enrichment comes through the vision and kindness of the widow of James Montgomery-Boice, who has donated some of her husband's excellent commentaries for use in Ghana.

Timothy and Steven leave Heathrow for Accra on 10th April, returning 24th April. The programme of ministry and travel will be quite demanding. Please pray that Timothy, Steven and MacDouglas will be helped and protected by the Lord throughout this time, and pray also for their families at home. Most importantly, please pray that the men who attend will be built up in their faith and equipped to preach the Word and serve their churches with renewed faithfulness and zeal.

### Ukraine, May/June 2009

**Gareth Jones** will again be leading this conference and building upon the time spent there last year. Gareth has shared with us his joy in seeing the pastors change their attitude towards preaching. During the years of communist control there was little time for preparation for preaching. Only now are churches beginning to experience systematic preaching, and pastors are finding the benefit of the discipline of preparing their sermons. Pray that the conference will encourage this even more.

### Malawi, July 2009

God willing, we hope that **Timothy Alford** will visit Malawi in July. He will again share the teaching with **Abraham Folayan** from the Evangelical Bible College of Malawi. One conference will be in Blantyre and another in the northern part of the country.

### **Zambia, August 2009**

In August **Alan Levy** will be at Mongu for the third year and at Mansa for the second time, while **Peter Seccombe** will again be in Chipata and then for the first time in Solwezi. Both Alan and Peter will be sharing the teaching with pastors from Zambia.

### **Ethiopia, October 2009**

October will see **Ken McIntosh** and **David Sercombe** in Ethiopia for the third year. Please pray with us that we would know the Lord's will for our future ministry here.

### **India, November 2009**

In November we plan to visit India for the first time. In a very wonderful way the Lord has provided two leaders for us, **Mervyn Neal** from Barry and **Rob Owens** from Gorseinon. The conferences are planned for Siliguri in the North of India so that delegates from North Bengal, Nepal, Bhutan and Bihar are able to attend. In the south, the conference is to be at Bangalore enabling pastors from Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Pondicherry to attend. There is a meeting planned for early May to make these arrangements more definite.

### **Looking ahead into 2010**

In April 2010 we would like to go again to **Zimbabwe**. We hope to make arrangements for this in the coming days. Please pray that we will know the Lord's help then, and as we go forward. There are a number of difficulties to overcome, but our God is able.

## **LITERATURE MINISTRY**

- Please continue to pray for the safe delivery of the books, and for the arrival in time of the pallets of books that are in transit for the conferences. Those for Malawi and Ghana have left already and by the time you read this we hope that those for Zambia will be ready for dispatch. Pray that the Lord will use these books to write his truth upon the hearts of the pastors and preachers who attend the conferences and hear many of these truths taught.
- **Warehousing** has been a matter mentioned in the past. The directors have decided that we ought to relocate in the next few months. Please pray that the Lord would guide us to some suitable storage in close reach for the friends who help with the packing. This is one of our more urgent needs, but we take confidence in the Lord to provide for this because we have had so much encouragement in the past two months.

There is much to praise God for in this newsletter, but also much to show how dependent upon him. In a recent meeting we noticed the phrases 'God alone' and 'he only' in Psalm 62. We are conscious that without him this work will not be effective. We rely upon *him alone* as we move forward, seeking to help the progress of the Gospel in our needy world.

### **Christian Books Worldwide**

The good news here is that they have now been granted charitable status. Work is progressing with the translation and publication of books. Sukesh Pabari and his team are making great headway; *Sin is Serious* has been published in **Swahili** and should soon be distributed. The translation of Ryle's *Regeneration* is complete and his *Expository Thoughts on Mark* is nearing completion. Pray for the impact of these books in Swahili-speaking East Africa. *The Christian Handbook* is nearing completion into **Urdu** in Pakistan, and the same book is almost complete into **Punjabi** for India. We are hoping to have the church history section of this book slightly altered, with some material about the history of the church in Asia added. Pray for those who are involved in the writing of this. *Ultimate Questions* in Punjabi should be printed and ready for use in a few months. Pray for this book to have an impact here as well as in India. *Preaching Pure and Simple* by Stuart Olyott is nearly completed.

Christian Books Worldwide has small and encouraging beginnings. The need for healthy literature in other languages is enormous. Please pray that the Lord will use this ministry for his glory in a rich way.

## Fellowship with other ministries

Our friends at Chapel Library in the USA have generously supplied their books for the conferences and to the mentoring ministry. They will also provide a copy of the *Free Grace Broadcaster* every three months to go to each pastor who receives a pack of books.

Desiring God Ministries have kindly let us have some copies of John Piper's latest book *Finally Alive*, which deals with the new birth. It will be a good addition to the book sets at the conferences where this truth is taught, as there is often much difficulty over the subject. Please pray that this book will help pastors clearly understand and then preach this truth.

## PASTORS' LETTERS AND COMMENTS

*"We are now serving in the eastern part of Petauke where I have 6 churches and 4 preaching points. Please do not stop praying for me and my family and churches because the work is too big. In this area I have about 2580 members who need Bibles and spiritual books or readers' training books. I want to train readers in every church... The books you sent are very useful I have been using the book 'Foundations of the Christian Faith' since 28 February last year to teach Sunday School, Men's Fellowship, Women's Fellowship, and Bible School. This book is very useful and good to me and all my people and also the English is easy. It is a teacher on its own."* - South East Zambia

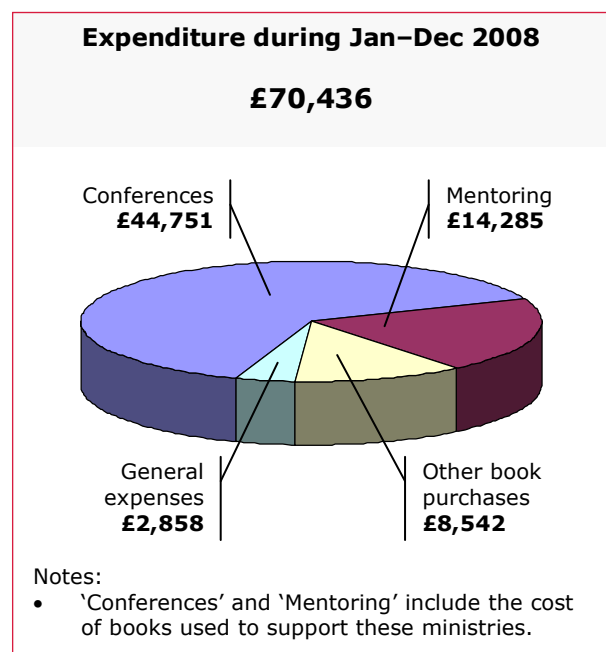
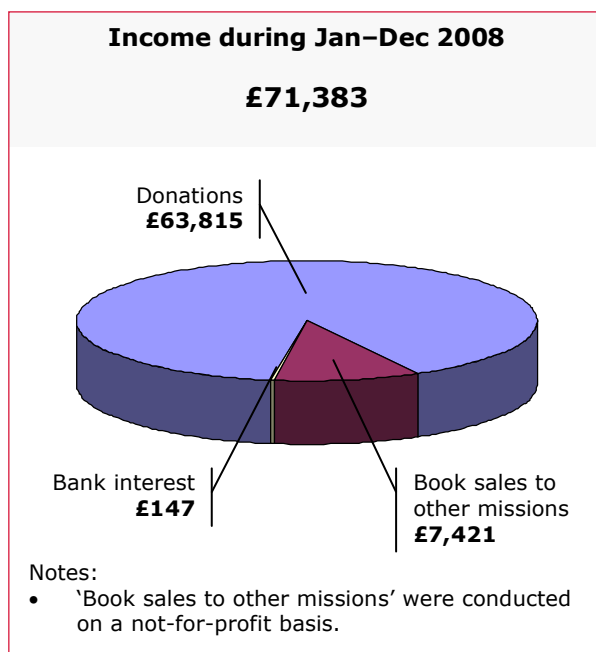
*"The book 'What the Scriptures Teach' is a superb collection of teachings of the Scriptures. I am sure I will keep it for a VERY LONG TIME... My work takes me to the villages where I cannot take any books with me because I will not be able to read them. I only read when I return and until I go back to the villages."* - Sierra Leone

*"These days I am finding it difficult as we go for evangelism work without some Bibles. The place where I am a preacher is very fertile for evangelism work. We had planted 4 churches this year alone (2008) and people there had no Bibles."* - Zimbabwe

*"We are training ministers to work with us, but my poor academic background makes the task irksome. Thus I will not hesitate taking advantage of every opportunity to update my knowledge. I always want to avoid the dangers of doctrinal error so as not to lead people astray. I need your prayers much and will use every material sent to us."* - Nigeria

## FINANCIAL SUMMARY FOR 2008

Please give thanks to God for providing sufficient financial support during the last year. The following unaudited summary sets out the income and expenditure during 2008. Please contact us if you would like any further details.



With greetings in Christ,  
Gordon Oram – PTI Editorial Board