



## PTI Prayer & News – June/July 2009

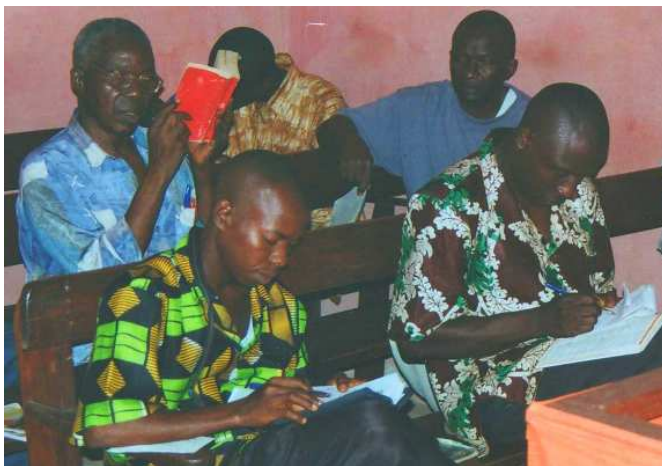
*'Declare his glory among the nations, his marvellous works among all the peoples! For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised.'* (1 Chr. 16:24-5)

Dear praying friends,

Thank you for your prayers during recent months, especially for the conference ministry during this period. We have seen the Lord's gracious hand of help and blessing upon these times.

### SIERRA LEONE

Alan Levy led four pastors' conferences in Sierra Leone during March. Many pastors there are in great need and there is much ignorance about the contents of the Bible. For example, many did not realise that the final chapters of Romans had so much to say about church life, and many were very unclear about the Scriptural teaching on the gifts and fruit of the



A study session in Sierra Leone, March 2009

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Spirit. Some men expressed appreciation of the help gained from the books given to them last year. The conference in Bo warmly received Alan and the truths he taught. Elsewhere, some came along to disagree but God graciously silenced those who sought to oppose the truth. The Holy Spirit spoke through the Word and caused a number to consider their position. A number of pastors have written asking for more books and a few have displayed a great desire to know and understand more of the Scriptures.

Below are extracts from two of the letters which Alan brought back from Bo:

*"I'm very much grateful to God almighty for your life and PTI. The three conferences held in Bo have been of tremendous help to me in doing ministry. I extend my sincere thanks to you for sending me the pack of books. They have helped me greatly. I am currently using 'Christian Foundations' as Sunday School material. Prior to the arrival of this book, there were lapses and vague understanding of the Word of God. This book has helped clarify and grow in the knowledge and understanding of God."*

*"I write to express my heartfelt appreciation for your commitment to improving the quality and standard of pastoral ministry in Africa. The conference in Bo was, and will continue, to be rewarding indeed. Thanks to Alan, a Holy Spirit inspired teacher and powerful emissary of yours for a job well done. The books given out to us are enticing to make one like me into a book worm. Kindly oblige us for the benefit of our congregation any other works of these authors with Bible based reading materials and commentaries."*

- Please pray that all who attended might grow to love the Word of God. Several confessed that they do not read the Word for themselves, or even always for sermons.
- Pray that they would examine their beliefs and practices in the light of the Word. Some admitted or accepted that most of the tongues, miracles and healings were just an act.
- Pray that those who began to think seriously on these matters be given courage to continue, although it may bring opposition from their fellow ministers and churches.

## GHANA

We praise God for this first trip to Ghana during April. Timothy Alford and Steve Curry were well received and were both enriched by their time teaching. Timothy mentioned three things that had impressed him about this visit: the attention given to the teaching of the Scriptures; the fervency of the praise of the pastors; and the intensity of their praying.

MacDouglas Ampadu, who did much of the local organising, reports on the conferences:

**Nkoranza:** We thank God for those who stood with us in prayer for this first conference. A seed had been sown, and we trust the Lord that He will continue to water it for His glory. What a blessing this conference has been!! We intend to have a follow-up program to sustain the interest shown and also to monitor their growth in the grace of God and ministry. One testimony from a participant will suffice. He said, "Before this training came on, I was a strict separatist, but I thank the Lord, I now know that those of other denominations are my brothers and sisters in the Lord, and can share fellowship with them especially, those who share similar convictions with me. I believe that this knowledge is going to make me a better Christian and Minister for the Lord."

**Mampong-Akwapim:** The participants at this conference were more educated than those at the Northern Sector and this added some liveliness to the discussions. What touched my heart most was the presence of a disabled Pentecostal Pastor, who took part in all the activities. One main doctrinal problem with this group had to do with Eternal Security of the believer. This Both Rev. Steve and Rev. Timothy dealt with in their presentations apart from the workshop where it was also discussed. What great singing we enjoyed as the hall was filled with Pastors from different denominations. We really thank God for the coming of PTI in Ghana for it has given people the opportunity to learn the Word of God in a better way than they were before. Here also, our guests were at home with the people, eating with them and enjoying Christian fellowship. One man said, "I did not agree with those who teach about the preservation of the Christian and sometimes I labelled them as heretics, but thank God for the studies on the Eternal Security of the believer. I now know that I was rather in error!" Thank God for such a testimony!



- Please give thanks that the conferences were useful and encouraging to the pastors.
- Pray that these men will be enabled to pass on truths that they have received.
- Pray that they will give increasing attention to thorough sermon preparation.
- Pray that the Lord will use the literature. We gave out over 70 book packs to the participants - far more than in Sierra Leone where the pastors do not read so much.
- Pray for the Lord's guidance and help for MacDouglas and other brothers as they seek to follow up and consolidate much of the teaching given.

In both Ghana and Sierra Leone our teachers drove long distances on roads that are below the standards of English roads. We are thankful to the Lord for his protecting hand upon them during these times of travel.

## UKRAINE

Gareth Jones led our second pastors' conference in Chudniv during May. He reports:

Twenty five men met together for two and a half days. The pastors had requested that we consider a subject that would support them in their day-to-day responsibility of leading the Churches. We therefore considered several of the Bible's pictures of the local Church. From this we discussed the importance of many subjects, including:

- Pastoral care for believers.
- The importance of God's word and meeting together for prayer.
- Encouraging each member of our Churches to serve as they can.
- Unity amongst believers within a fellowship.
- Pastoral care and mutual accountability for pastors.

New for this year's conference were opportunities for the pastors to work through some questions together and also to spend time praying for each other's churches. The key text for the conference was 1 Peter 5:1-4; the district pastor, Pastor Peter (who helps us organise the conferences) arranged for this text to be printed in a special way so that the pastors can pin it above their desks to help them remember their responsibilities.

At the end of our time together we were able to give to each of the pastors a set of five books (printed in Russian) and this gift was a great blessing for each one of them. We are grateful to our partners at Christian Books Worldwide for making this possible.

Please pray for these pastors and their churches. Life is not easy for them, especially in the villages where they not only care for their churches and families, but also work hard to grow the vegetables and fruit they will need over another year. Yet these dear men and their families always speak about the blessings they constantly receive from the Lord, and the goodness He shows to them.

## FORTHCOMING CONFERENCES

### Malawi, June-July 2009

The conferences here will take place in a few weeks, led by **Timothy Alford** and **Abraham Folayan**.

The first conference will be at the Evangelical Bible College of Malawi (EBCOM) in Blantyre from 29th June to 3rd July, and the second at Nkhotakota from 6th to 10th July. The core teaching at both conferences will come from the first epistle to Timothy. Other subjects relevant to current needs in the Malawian church scene will be covered by teaching given by Abraham.

Similar conferences have been held in Malawi during the past five years. This time we hope that more church elders will come with their pastors, as many of them appear so influential at the local church level.

Please pray for Abraham and the others involved in the final stages of conference planning. In particular, please remember Vincent (our partner from EAM) who has faced huge problems as a result of a car accident. His wife suffered permanent injury, and his sister and another relative lost their lives. This is a reminder to pray for the safety of Timothy and all the others travelling for the conferences.

### Malawi itinerary:

- Blantyre, 29th June-3rd July
- Nkhotakota, 6th-10th July



We will give more detailed prayer information in future prayer letters about the conferences due to take place in **Zambia**, **Ethiopia** and **India** during August, October and November.

## LITERATURE MINISTRY

- **Warehousing:** We have been greatly helped by David Ide who has let us use some of his property to store our stock of books. David now has his house on the market which necessitates our move. We have looked at a few properties that might be suitable for our purposes, but as yet no decision has been taken. Please pray for great wisdom from the Lord and his clear guidance in this important matter.
- **Christian Books Worldwide:** In recent weeks Jim Gough was called home to glory. Jim was a great help in setting up CBW and acquiring its charitable status, and we thank God for all the help and encouragement he gave in the early months of this ministry. We assure Eileen and her family of our deepest sympathy and prayer at this time. We look to our gracious and all wise God to lead us to a brother with similar gifts and burdens for the printed page to join with this work. The work is proceeding; Ryle's *Regeneration* should be published and we hope to have copies by the time you read this prayer letter. Please pray that the Lord will use these books to bring his truth more clearly into the hearts and lives of all who read them.

## PASTORS' LETTERS AND COMMENTS

We begin with a comment from Malawi:

*"Our Bible study group is growing tremendously since I began using this literature. Very soon we are going to divide into two groups. Many are getting saved and we used to meet once per week, but we shall soon make it two. I am pleased to inform you that the church is growing due to similar meetings."*

And from a pastor in Nigeria:

*"'What the Scriptures Teach' has been a wonderful recipe in our Bible Study Classes on Fridays. The church members can now boldly stand and defend their faith in Christ, hence this book is now used to prepare our post-baptismal candidates who are waiting for the right hand of fellowship and confirmation services... 'Pastors and Teachers' has enabled my wife and I to see the need to strike a right balance on the church intending to be office orientated instead of gift orientated... And sound advice about avoiding shipwreck in the ministry... The book has actually touched our life and characters, changed our mindset on our goals and priorities. It has also changed my prayer and personal devotional and study life. My preparation and preaching has started coming with a new mindset as well because of the numerous benefits of this book, I have decided to hold a leadership retreat where all Sunday School Teachers, group leaders, and leaders of our small Bible Study groups and lay preachers will take a comprehensive look at this wonderful spiritual recipe."*

A pastor who attended the conference last year in Luanshya (Zambia) wrote:

*"Thank you for the books we received at the conference in Luanshya in August 2006. We enjoyed the profound inerrancy teachings and our ministries shall never be the same again... I have now completed studying and reading the books... I teach at our local Bible School and I have no library or material to use and set a standard. I do not want to teach heresy. I am very excited and blessed to have in the package of books 'Pastors and Teachers' which will enable me to teach accurately next semester... The books received have added value to my teaching ministry and the students shall benefit greatly."*

And finally, an encouraging email from Malawi:

*"I felt it would be nice to greet you today and just to say thank you for your words of encouragement. Greet the team and colleagues at PTI AND ASSURE THEM THAT WE HAVE DEDICATED TWO HOURS OF PRAYERS FOR PTI EVERY THURSDAY EVENING. Kindly give us some prayer items so that we can join you because as for now we are praying for sponsors, donors and staff but we believe there are some issues that need prayer, let us know!"*

We are grateful to the Lord for all your support and fellowship in prayer for this work. We go forward trusting in our gracious sovereign God to use us for his glory.

With our warmest greetings,

*Gordon Oram and all the PTI team*