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**PTI AND MISSION AFRICA HOLD THEIR FIRST-EVER PREACHERS  
CONFERENCE IN FRANCOPHONE AFRICA**

Pastor Training International (PTI) and Mission Africa last month held their first-ever training conference in French-speaking Africa. PTI provides teaching and resources for churches in need, especially in sub-Saharan Africa; Mission Africa is an interdenominational Christian mission working in northern Nigeria, Chad, Burkina Faso and Kenya.

PTI's emphasis is "Teach to Preach". It seeks to improve pastors' preaching and pastoral gifts whilst also underpinning those abilities with a sound theological foundation.

This is achieved in three ways, by *In-country Training* from expatriate and local trainers who deliver bible-based seminars; from *Learning Resources*, carefully chosen sets of books which are given to the pastors to supplement the training; and *Distance Mentoring*, whereby they continue their learning by correspondence and by studying further books.

The conferences took place in Gaoua and were followed by a reconnaissance for next year of Bobo-Dioulasso, in western Burkina Faso, close to the border with Ghana. They were led by David Vaughn, of the Reformed Baptist church of Chalon, France, and Peter MacLure, of Enfield Evangelical Free Church.

The conferences taught nearly 200 delegates the basics of expository preaching, preaching through an entire book of the Bible and perseverance.

David Vaughn commented: “The need for accurate, Bible-based theological teaching is severe in English-speaking Africa; in Francophone nations it is far worse. We are therefore delighted to have this great opportunity to go to Burkina Faso and to give these pastors the training and mentoring that both they and their fast-growing churches desperately require.

Peter MacLure said: “All the attendees were very thankful for this week of training, although by Western standards the facilities were very rudimentary. As there were no forks or spoons almost everyone had to eat with their hands. But broadly it was a huge improvement from the annual denomination meeting, where participants are lodged all over the town and outlying villages, many of them sleeping on the hard floor because there are not enough mattresses in the family homes where they are lodged. Here at least they all had beds”.

Reverend Paul Baillie, Chief Executive of Mission Africa, added: “Mission Africa recognises that it lacks the capacity to deliver the specific theological training currently needed by pastors in Burkina Faso. That is just what PTI can do, however, so we were delighted to support PTI as it delivered this much needed requirement”.

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#### Notes to Editors:

Pastor Training International was founded in 2004. As the name suggests, PTI’s chief focus is on those pastors who are responsible for what may sometimes be large, growing churches but who lack the training, resources and skills to pastor their congregations as effectively as they would like.

So far PTI has worked mostly with pastors in sub-Saharan Africa, but the growth of the ministry means that its activities are now expanding into Eastern Europe, south and south-east Asia, too.

It does not aim to address the needs of those at Theological College or University, but aims specifically to serve and support church leaders who have had, and can expect to have, little or no training at all, at any level.

PTI is an associate ministry of Christian Books Worldwide.

Mission Africa works in northern Nigeria, Chad, Burkina Faso and Kenya. Activities include church planting, evangelism, theological education and medical work.

Mission Africa also helps the marginalised and oppressed, focusing on those suffering from HIV/AIDS, street kids and women who are exploited.





