



Newsletter

May 2014

Introducing Pastor Training International

PTI seeks to strengthen the Christian church in the poorest regions of the world. We do this by teaching pastors to expound the Bible more effectively, since this is the key to discipling members of growing churches.

PTI's fundamental purpose is therefore to 'Teach to Preach' the more than 2m pastors who are not yet adequately trained in how to teach the Bible faithfully and competently.

● Existing countries
● Potential new countries

Looking ahead to the next 10 years (God willing!)



*"The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."
Matthew 9:37-38 NIV*

This year marks the 10th anniversary of PTI and we are in the first place grateful. Grateful both to all our supporters but most of all to God for all he has done. He has a plan for the next 10 years and our task is to understand what it is and do our best to implement it. We in PTI feel strongly that our mission is to help disadvantaged pastors in poorer countries become better pastors. This means understand our brothers' needs and seeking, as best we can, to serve them. They must tell us what they want, they have little or nothing, we have (comparatively) resources in abundance.

The most obvious way to do this is to hold more conferences in more countries. We run a standard three year programme, which will remain, but in other cases, as in Madagascar, we assist by providing a component of an in-country training course. Had we more money and more helpers we could do many more conferences in many more locations. We could also provide more good books and could mentor many more pastors.

PTI will continue to go to places less reached by others, such as Langham. What do I see changing? More co-operation with other like-minded evangelical organizations training pastors. There are more and more brothers and sisters engaged in the Lord's work here, we need to complement each other. Then much more use of technology. E books could revolutionize training, both in terms of efficiency and in countries which are closed to formal training. While in the poorer African countries this has not been possible the pace of change in those countries is enormous. Finally, we wish to find more local evangelical leaders to whom we can, over time, hand over the work, freeing us for other areas which need more "pioneer" activity.

Please pray for us that we may remember the words of the Lord "unto those whom much is given much shall be required" and "Feed my sheep" or in our case feed the under shepherds of the Great Shepherd.

For more information about us, our vision under God, and our plans to considerably expand the current work, please visit our website www.pastor-training.org

If you would like to give to support us, either through prayer, financial giving or volunteering your time, please contact **Simon Percy** on **0208 504 0709**.



Hunger for God's Word – Already Planning for 2015!

Following the conferences in Yangon and Mandalay last year, we held a second event this year in Mandalay and our first-ever one in Myitkyina (Kachin State). We also held a half-day of teaching in Hmawbi, north of Yangon.

In Mandalay, Paul taught "From Bible to Sermon" and Philippians. Simon gave the Bible Overview, and explained the role and work of PTI to 55 enthusiastic participants. We asked them to indicate if they had previously been Buddhists, and were amazed to see around half of the hands go up.

At Myitkyina 70 people attended, many were women. Even reformed Burmese pastors told us that this is normal in Myanmar. Most are gospel workers in some capacity, and it helps for them to understand how to handle the Bible better.

It was a most encouraging conference, with a real hunger for God's word very evident throughout. Paul taught sessions on "From Bible to Sermon" and gave an overview of Mark's gospel. Simon again did sessions on the Bible Overview. Delegates were very keen on having a second conference next year, to focus on preaching through Philippians, and they think we can confidently expect 150 people then. We did experience some difficulty in getting the free conference books from Mandalay to Myitkyina, although they did arrive on our last day. Since every participant had been registered,



Pastors in Mandalay working on a passage from Philippians

we were assured that each would receive their books. Aungling once again did a superb job translating for us.

Back in Yangon, Paul and Simon gave a half-day teaching session at Hmawbi. There, Pastor Aye Min asked us to consider adding a conference - or at least a day conference - into the 2015 programme, as he thinks it is an excellent way to encourage expository preaching.

So the time in Myanmar in February 2014 was a great encouragement for us and, we trust, for the church there.

Prayer points

Everything by prayer... with thanksgiving (Philippians 4:6)

May 2014

Thank God for:

- That Peter Milson and Daryl Jones who have joined the Ministry Board
- For the conferences in Zambia with Bruce Jenkins and Pauls Whiteley and in India with Merv
- For the many volunteers who work very hard and in different ways behind the scenes enabling PTI to train pastors in the majority world
- For the many new requests PTI has received to provide training in different locations in Myanmar(Burma)
- For the opportunities Simon has recently had to speak and share about the work of PTI and CBW

Please pray for:

- Ivan Watson and Daniel Grimwade as they prepare for the conferences in Ghana
- That peace and security would return to the countries of South Sudan and Ukraine and that the training of pastors would be able to happen in each of these places
- The Ministry Board as it seeks to develop and refine the work of PTI and responds to requests from other parts of the world
- The Lord to raise up additional people with the right skills and character to enable the work of PTI to grow and assist many more of the pastors who are in urgent need of this vital training

Proposed Conferences for 2014, God willing

June 29-July 12
July 21-August 8
October 8-25
November

Ho and Sunyani, Ghana
Mandritsara, Madagascar
Dese and Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
Jaipur and Jhansi, India

Ivan Watson & Daniel Grimwade
Ken Brownell
Ken Macintosh and James Sercombe
Merv and Robert



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