



# Newsletter

March 2015

## Introducing Pastor Training International

**P**TI 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
- Conflict is preventing training

## Northern India and Nepal: Conferences supporting extensive new church planting initiatives



*The PTI conference and its Kathmandu mission field*

### Solan

Kim and I travelled to Solan, near Chandigarh, for our first year seminar on December 26<sup>th</sup>, which was attended by 32 men and many ladies. Recently, vast numbers of new church plants have sprung up around Solan, an old Raj Hill station.

Feedback from the delegates highlighted the central importance of expository preaching from scripture. All said that they had developed a much greater passion for preaching as a result. One pastor said "I wish I had had this teaching earlier in my ministry." Others had never before realised how essential it was to have a good family life that backed up the Gospel.

### Kathmandu

On January 2<sup>nd</sup> we flew over the Himalayas to Kathmandu, the capital of Nepal. Nepal, too, has seen amazing church growth over the last 10 years, mostly from Nepalis converted overseas who return home keen to spread the Gospel. This first year conference was attended by 51 delegates including a Nepali pastor from Doha, Qatar.

One of the pastors brought a seeking friend along and he gave his life to Christ during the conference. (Nepali believers try and bring unbelievers along to as many meetings as they can, as they have such a zeal for evangelism.)

Delegate Pastor Daddhi Ram said "I came here thinking that I was everything, now I realise that I am nothing and that Jesus is everything. It is like a rusty nail has been removed from my heart."

Finally, a Nepali Pastor, who was a Maoist General during the civil war, was since converted and is now a pastor. He has planted more than 250 churches in Nepal, as far as the Tibet border and has now asked PTI to help train his church planters. Please pray for wisdom as we seek the Lord's will as to how best PTI can help them.

■ by Merv, PTI trainer

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](http://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**.



## Teaching the Barefoot Doctors in Thailand, January 2015

I spent a week teaching the Bible to 20 Burmese 'Barefoot Doctors' as they returned to Chiangmai, Thailand, as part of their annual ten week training programme in evangelism and medicine, part of a three year course. These second year students are already hard at work in Burma where many are pastors, evangelists and missionaries.

The Barefoot Doctors originally arose out of the Rural Reconstruction Movement in China in the 1950s, and was taken up in Burma by Daniel and Beverley Kalnin when they founded Frontier Labourers for Christ (FLC) in 1979. These unusual medical missionaries are fully trained and operate in mainly rural areas, often with ethnic minority groups where there is minimal medical knowledge or care. So far the programme in Burma has trained and equipped 131 medics, two thirds of whom are still bringing medical care of all descriptions - and the gospel - to people across the country.

The medical training consists of pre- and post-natal care; treating wounds; basic hygiene; diagnosing common diseases such as dysentery, malaria and tuberculosis; and administering medication safely. It also includes basic dentistry.

I taught 10 sessions on 'The Whole Armour of God (Ephesians 6:10-20), aiming to equip the students for their lives and ministries in the knowledge that they are fighting a spiritual war in many areas of their lives. Some Barefoot Doctors have



*Bible ministry supporting this lifeline medical work*

already experienced this first hand, as they encounter animism and spiritism, for example.

PTI has supported FLC through Ken Brownell and Simon Percy and, God willing, we hope to develop this ministry in future. Our work with the Barefoot Doctors is excellent an example of how PTI can serve the ministries of other Christian organisations by providing the Bible teaching component they so often need.

■ by Jim Winter, PTI Trainer

## Prayer points

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

MARCH 2015

### Thank God for:

- How well the third year of training went in Mandalay and for the small number of pastors who have decided to preach in an expository manner
- The five young pastors at that conference who have been doing the PTI mentoring scheme
- How helpful the Pray Prepare Preach (PPP) series of simple commentaries are proving to be
- How well the first conference in Arusha went and the appreciation the Maasai pastors have expressed for the training. Many have had little education beyond Primary level

### Please pray for:

- The second conference in Tanzania being held in Morogoro. Peter Maclure reports that a number of the men had travel a considerable distance to be there
- Mike Taylor as he arranges for more of the PPP books to be translated and printed in to different languages ready for conferences in 2016
- The PTI Trustees as they meet and consider a number of matters this month
- Simon Percy as he preaches and shares about the work at a number of churches this month

## Proposed conferences for 2015, God willing

**April**  
**May**  
**May**  
**May**  
**June**

Darjeeling and Namchi, India  
Nepal  
Ghana  
Uganda  
Serbia

Merv M and John O  
Merv  
Ivan Watson and Daniel Grimwade  
Gerrald Tanner  
Bruce Jenkins and Simon Percy



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