



Newsletter

JULY 2017

PTI strengthens the church in many of the poorest places in the world, by teaching pastors to expound the Bible more effectively. Our fundamental purpose is therefore to *Teach to Preach*.

**WELCOME** to the July edition of the **P** newsletter. Zambia and Nepal are two countries thousands of miles apart, with very different geographies and climates. But what their churches have in common is a great hunger for being taught the Gospel accurately. Please pray for them.

- Existing countries
- Potential new countries
- Conflict is preventing training

**Nepal, May-June 2017**



**Dharan**

Although John W was ill at the end, the first week at Dharan went very well. 134 men and women attended, about 70 returning after last year. They were warm, attentive and very eager to learn. The feedback was most encouraging. One translator had never heard such balanced and moving teaching. And a pastor, who runs a discipleship course, said the teaching is just what the Nepali church needed and was a great answer to prayer. It is hard to put into words the privilege of sharing God's word with such a hungry and appreciative people.

**Pokhara**

The church in this beautiful and mountainous country is regarded as the second fastest growing in the world. They are hungry for God's Word and are genuinely excited to hear more about Christ.

We had 141 pastors, evangelists and elders from all over western Nepal. Most attended last year and returned expecting for God to work. We had many encouraging comments about the teaching. Many of the pastors are working in the villages,

are "tentmaking" as farmers and said how grateful they are to PTI. Many had never encountered systematic expository teaching and were excited at the prospect of learning and teaching the Bible in this way. We pray for much fruit in their lives and in their Word ministries.

**Surkhet**

We had 71 men and sisters from all over the country, some having a 36 hour journey on very bad roads. Most are in rural ministries and very much appreciated the ministry. We got hugs from several of the ladies, which is a sign of the Gospel breaking down huge cultural barriers, for normally women only touch their husbands. They told us "the teaching is so heart-warming and such good food for our souls." Many of the men told us about the suffering and persecution they often experience.

Thanks to host Pastor Samuel and Ebenezer Bible College for providing excellent translations of commentaries on Ephesians, Philippians and Deuteronomy. They were joyously received.

■ by Merv N, 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)  follow us on Facebook

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.



## Zambia – April-May 2017

### Nakonde

Paul Gamston, Jonny Dowds and I held the first conference in a remote church building but the pastors still made it! Everything had to be translated into Bemba (the main local language) but the bonus was our amazing team of translators, who put their heart and soul into the teaching in their use of voice, face and body.

Up to 70 pastors, evangelists and deaconesses attended, the vast majority being there all the time and thus qualifying for a certificate. Early scepticism about what year 1 of the new PTI syllabus seemed to offer was soon dispelled as they appreciated what they were learning in the 'Bible Overview' and 'What is a Christian' teaching. Many were challenged by the 'Reading the Bible' sessions, when they realised they had not really understood what the biblical author intended. There was also much fun and laughter alongside serious study!

### Mpika

This conference took place in a boys' boarding school, with about 80 involved, although attendance was more sporadic here. One highlight was an excellent morning devotion from a pastor well able to handle a passage and set it into the biblical framework we had been teaching. Another was the joyful, enthusiastic singing, particularly at the start of sessions.

The teaching followed closely that at Nakonde. At the end of both we asked 'What have the pastors really learned?' After discussing a passage in Genesis, one translator admitted he



had preached on it in his church a few weeks earlier – and now realised he had missed the main point. He would return and apologise! We pray that for many others the penny may have similarly dropped, and that they'll 'do their best .... to be workmen who do not need to be ashamed' (2 Timothy 2.15).

### The Future

The pastors look forward to Part 2 next year. Training is needed in much of rural Zambia, and we will explore with our hosts whether further conferences may be feasible.

■ by Alastair Steven, PTI Trainer

## Prayer points

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

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### Thank God for:

- The excellent trainers' day held in May and the opportunity it provided for feedback on the new curriculum and to share good practice
- The excellent training that has recently been done in Nepal where the church is currently growing at an amazing rate. Praise God for how beneficial these pastors found the training and for the good proportion who returned having attended the first conferences last year
- For the excellent opportunity PTI and CBW have in hosting a stand at the Evangelical Ministry Assembly in June

### Please pray for:

- Peter Maclure and Simon Moore as they complete the first round of training in Tanzania. Pray that the Lord might guide us to new locations and to suitable hosts for next year
- Simon P and Gareth J as they prepare to train in the Caribbean. Pray that they may get their visas soon
- The Trustees and the Ministry Board as they meet, that the Lord might give them wisdom as they consider the rate at which PTI should grow
- The Lord to provide the additional support needed to enable this growth in training to continue

## Proposed conferences for 2017, God willing

June 26-29

Morogoro, Tanzania

Peter Maclure, Simon Moore

July 3-6

Arusha, Tanzania

Peter Maclure, Simon Moore

September

Caribbean

Simon P, Gareth J

September

Caribbean

Simon P, Gareth J

October

Ethiopia, Addis

Ken MacIntosh, James Sercombe

October

Ethiopia, Jima

Ken MacIntosh, James Sercombe

October

Myanmar, Kalaymyo

Maciek Stolarski, Andre Beck

October

Myanmar, Mandalay

Maciek Stolarski, Andre Beck

October

Myanmar, Yangon

Maciek Stolarski, Andre Beck



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