

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

Newsletter

MAY 2016

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 latest edition of **P** bi-monthly newsletter. The articles focus on the opportunities and challenges of the recent conferences in Uganda, and our vital but often unsung books mentoring ministry. We also welcome back to the fold Director of Ministry Simon Percy, after a short illness, and we wish him well in his recovery.

Uganda



*Two conferences in Uganda*

Alastair Steven and I conducted two conferences in Soroti and Kasese, eastern and western Uganda respectively, in April 2016.

At Soroti we were based at the Church of Uganda Medical Centre, where we were disrupted by the test landing of passenger jets at nearby Soroti Airfield! About 30 participants attended.

The teaching focused on the Old Testament prophets, especially Isaiah and Jonah, which proved to be extremely relevant because a number of local churches are struggling to deal with those claiming to be present day prophets. This emphasis on prophecy attracted the attention of the local media. Local co-ordinator Rev Emmanuel Okwalinga was interviewed by press and broadcast journalists, who reported his clear and direct comments fairly and positively.

All in all this was a very encouraging week with positive and grateful feedback from the participants. They are eager for the next conference in the series, which will probably take place either late October or early November.

The second conference (the sixth and final one here) took place at the Kasese Social Centre. The attendance was disappointing, with an average of 16 delegates at each session. This was caused by a combination of illness, family commitments and another conference held there a week earlier.

The main focus was on Wisdom literature, looking in particular at some Psalms, Job and Proverbs. Although the insights of Job and Ecclesiastes do not fit easily within cultures affected by the prosperity gospel, the material was well-received and proved to be very relevant in light of the various ministry challenges local churches faced.

Finally, Kasese is a difficult area, troubled by tribal and political unrest and the influx of Congolese refugees. Spiritually it is very needy, with false doctrines having a significant impact on local churches. However, it is good that we have been able to hold conferences here.

■ by Gerald Tanner, 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.

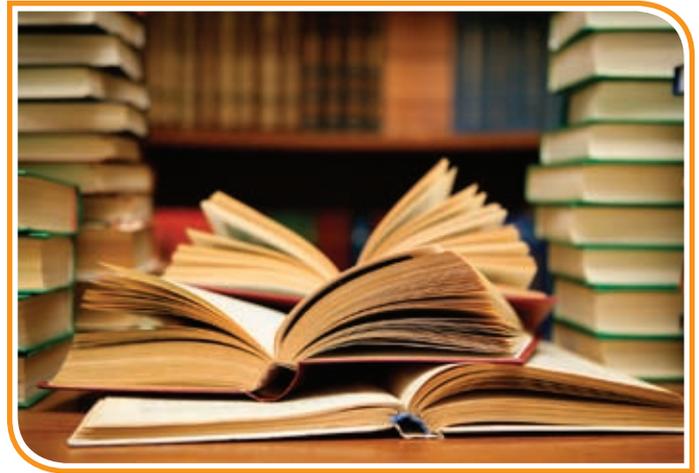


## PTI's Book Mentoring Ministry

"Thanks for such wonderful books. They have been very helpful to me and my congregation" (an elder in Ghana). "The books sent are very useful to me and my ministry and I am teaching from them on Wednesday Bible studies. The members are very much helped by the teaching coming from these books from PTI" (a pastor in Zambia).

Letters like this from English-speaking pastors all over the world have been arriving in the PTI mailbox ever since the Book Mentoring ministry began. It started with personal contacts in several African countries. They told their friends, who also wrote to us. Conferences increased interest, too. Pastors from at least 50 countries have received books from us, and over 4,000 have been on our mailing list at one time or other. Zambia and Nigeria lead the way in terms of numbers.

Our focus has always been on pastors in the more rural areas who had fewer opportunities to attend conferences and study days. PTI provides a simple 'course', consisting of a number of Christian books, accompanied by a workbook. The pastor answers questions, returns the workbook, and then receives another. The books encourage digging deep into the Word of God. This ensures that pastors understand the fundamental Bible doctrines, the importance of preaching, the work of a pastor and have an overview of the whole Bible. Letters back to them overcome any misunderstandings



that have emerged as well as helping deal with any other theological or pastoral issues they might have. Commentaries and some other useful books are also sent and appreciated, as the comments above indicate.

One African pastor who was studying the book on Christian doctrine found it so helpful that he had "gathered a group of 15 pastors together, translated the material into Swahili and was training them". Is there anything else to say other than "Praise the Lord"?!

■ by Alastair Steven, PTI Trainer

## Prayer points

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

MAY 2016

### Thank God for:

- The recent conferences in Uganda and for the two Ugandan nationals who play a key part. Pray that the Lord may raise up many more men like the Emmanuels in other countries
- The encouraging time the new trainer Ian C had in the Far East and for the partnership that has been created between his church and the pastors in Myanmar. Pray that many more such partnerships may be created in the future
- The requests PTI has received to beginning training in several new countries
- PTI's Director of Ministry Simon Percy's recovery following a recent illness and that he might return to his role wisely
- The many people who work behind the scenes at PTI to make this training possible

### Please pray for:

- Merv N and new trainer John W as they prepare to begin training pastors in two locations in Nepal with Samuel R
- The Lord to guide the Ministry Board and the Trustees as they meet and seek to develop and wisely grow the work
- The Lord to raise up new Trainers and the necessary support to enable more pastors to receive this vital training
- Keith Ferdinando as he continues to write and develop the PTI curriculum
- PTI's chairman Jeremy Marshall as he undergoes treatment for cancer, that it might be very successful and enable him to continue to offer his important guidance to this work

## Proposed conferences for 2016, God willing

<b>May 8-12</b>	East Nepal	Merv N and John W
<b>May 15-18</b>	West Nepal	Merv N and John W
<b>June 14-19</b>	Sunyani, Ghana	Daniel Grimwade and Ivan Watson
<b>June 21-24</b>	Ho, Ghana	Daniel Grimwade and Ivan Watson
<b>July 18-22</b>	Mandritsara, Madagascar	Ken Brownell
<b>July 25-28</b>	Arusha, Tanzania	Peter Maclure and Simon Moore
<b>August 1-4</b>	Morogoro, Tanzania	Peter Maclure and Simon Moore

**Save the Date! 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2016**  
**PTI Supporters Event in Wales**

More details to follow!



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