



Newsletter SEPTEMBER 2015

WELCOME to the September edition of PTI newsletter. This time we report on two strategically-important conferences which show the extent of our operations. In June we held our first event at the Balkans Theological Seminary at Nis, southern Serbia and in May we were invited back to Sunyani and Ho in central and south eastern Ghana. We hope you enjoy reading it!

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

Physical and spiritual food aplenty in Nis, southern Serbia



Nis, southern Serbia

In June 2015 PTI held its first conference at the Balkans Theological Seminary in Nis, southern Serbia. The seminary is run by Simo Ralevic, his brother Credo and his nephew Emanuel.

The renovated and extended seminary was established only two years ago, in premises shared with the Baptist Church. Large parts of Nis were destroyed by Nato bombing in 1999, after which the church gave aid to the refugees. The city in gratitude leased the building cheaply to the church but this arrangement is becoming less secure as the Serbian Orthodox Church opposes the Baptists.

David Ide introduced us, and over five days Bruce taught the doctrine of Scripture and Simon covered Philippians. He interspersed teaching on how to prepare sermons on the epistle's main themes with sermons on selected passages to model expository preaching itself. A number of the eleven students spoke English, but the lecturing and discussion all had to be done through interpreters. The small number encouraged personal interaction and they were a mixture of ages, ethnicities, and aspirations, ranging from Roma gypsies

to a Serbian hoping to become a missionary in eastern Russia. They appreciated our teaching and interacted in a lively way during the sessions.

Our hosts were warm-hearted, and would like us to return. We enjoyed exceptional hospitality, with copious quantities of delicious food. There was meat with every meal, and cream with most, so the locally grown salads were needed to prevent "collateral damage"!

The seminary faces a number of challenges as it develops, in areas including the curriculum, accreditation, sourcing of lecturers and lecture materials, and admissions criteria. Its resources are very meagre and low wages means the lure of nearby Germany is strong. Students are encouraged to accept invitations to preach nearby, but often cannot raise the fares to get there.

It was a very great privilege to serve these Serbian men, to sense their warm appreciation and to enjoy their generous hospitality.

by Bruce Jenkins and Simon Percy, PTI Trainers

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 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.



Ghana 2015: Good attendance and signs of transformation

This was PTI's second year in Sunyani and Ho in central and south eastern Ghana. We were encouraged by good attendance, attention and evidence of transformation.

In both places we sought to build on last year's foundations. Daniel highlighted the theme of the glory of preaching by expounding Luke 24:13-35 and Ivan summarised the 'Bible to Sermon' process. Daniel then taught Mark's gospel, which was reinforced by smaller group sermon workshops. Other sessions included discipling leaders in the Ghanaian church context and pastoral theology from 1 Timothy, Mark and Hebrews.

In Sunyani, 60 people registered and an average of 35 attended each session, from a variety of different churches. They included serving pastors and church members involved in Sunday Schools and Youth Work and a good number of last year's attendees returned. Some had travelled for up to six hours to be there. It was especially heartening to hear from men who were now preaching systematically through the Bible and who were clearly seeing the benefits of doing so.

Numbers were larger in Ho, with over 100 registering, both returnees and first timers; the programme was similar to that in Sunyani. Many were keen to ask questions and contribute during feedback sessions. Again it was encouraging to hear they were putting into practice what they had heard last year.



Ghana, rainforest

After the conference we went to Tema and spoke at the Set Time Baptist Church. A heavy rainstorm during the service made things particularly difficult as the building has no walls.

During our visit we were struck by the amount of Christian activity but also saddened by the lack of accurate Bible preaching. It was therefore a real privilege to train these men. Pray that this will bear lasting fruit in their lives and ministries, many of whom struggle with limited resources. And pray for us as we begin to make plans for next year.

■ by Daniel Grimwade and Ivan Watson, PTI Trainers

Prayer points

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

SEPTEMBER 2015

Thank God for:

- The many volunteers who work behind the scenes to make it possible for PTI to provide training to majority world pastors
- The churches and individuals who give generously to enable PTI to do this training
- The churches who are willing to send and support their pastors to do this training
- The opportunities Simon Percy has to speak at churches about the need for this vital training

Please pray for:

- The Ministry Board as they meet on the 9 September 2015; that the Lord would guide them as they consider a number of matters related to the training of pastors in the majority world
- Simon P, Michael T and Matthew G as they prepare to go to Myanmar in October - their first PTI training conferences
- Merv N and Robert O as they prepare for their conferences
- For the PTI supporters day on Saturday 26 September

Proposed conferences for 2015, God willing

October	Kalaymyo and Yangon Myanmar	Simon P. Michael T. and Matthew G.
October	Jaipur and Andaman Islands	Merv N. and Robert O.
November	Dese and Addis Ababa Ethiopia	Ken McIntosh and James Sercombe
November	Mandritsara Madagascar	Ken Brownell
November	Jhansi India	Merv N. and Joseph A.
November	Nepal	Please pray for these
December	Himachel Pradesh India	Merv N. and Kim N.

Date for your diary: 26th September
Supporters/Open day!

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*.



Pastor Training International
1 Towson Field, East Leake, Loughborough, Leicestershire, LE12 6RY UK
e: info@pastor-training.org
www.pastor-training.org

