



Newsletter

SEPTEMBER 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 September edition of **P** newsletter. Nothing very new this time. Just solid teaching, in places we already know well, of how to preach the Bible as faithfully as possible. And as those pastors learn how to handle God’s word more accurately, we know that – in God’s grace – His kingdom will be built up and a great harvest awaits. Thank you so much for partnering with us in this vital work.

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

Ho and Sunyani, Ghana, June 2016



Ho is the regional capital of the Volta Region of Ghana. It is a large township with at least 50,000 people, with literally hundreds of churches, mostly charismatic. Conference numbers were smaller than in previous years, but this gave us more time to interact with delegates.

Ivan gave three expositions on Exodus, then we split into workshops to show how to prepare sermons on the burning bush, the Passover and the 10th Commandment. It was great to see them thinking about the text so carefully.

Numbers rose each day, as word spread that the programme was running and that books would be given away at the end! By Friday about 50 were present.

Numbers also started small at the Sunyani conference, but they quickly rose to around 40. Many had come back from previous years and they listened and engaged enthusiastically – it was the best of the three years conferences we have had there. The smaller sessions worked well and smaller numbers allowed

greater interaction – especially as some teaching took place outside, under a tree. We now feel we are qualified as “proper African missionaries” – with the pictures to prove it!

We really enjoyed teaching God’s word to those eager to learn. The pastoral stream was based on 1 Corinthians, which led to fascinating discussions about food sacrificed to idols and marriage and singleness. It was wonderful to see God’s Word having an immediate impact on people’s lives, setting them free and equipping them to help others.

The church situation in Ghana is very different from ours, for around 70% of the population go to church regularly. But many church members may not be truly converted. This has led to a strong emphasis on ensuring their lives show the fruit of the gospel, but this may inadvertently lead to preaching that is heavy on exhortation and weak on grace. We tried to make clear that preaching needs always to be both expositional - and Christ-centred.

■ by Daniel Grimwade & Ivan Watson, 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.



Mandritsara, Madagsacar, July 2016

Josan and Lampango are friends and subsistence farmers. They regularly walk several hours to meet each other half way in order to encourage one another in gospel ministry. Jason is also profoundly impaired in his hearing. They are just two of the 32 men I had the privilege of teaching in Mandritsara in July. Twice a year, when they can get away from their farms, they meet in Mandritsara. For six years they have been doing a comprehensive theological and ministry course. The course leader is Mat Linley, a UK missionary with AIM, who is also team leader of the expatriate staff at the Good News Hospital. Established 25 years ago, this is a remarkable work that has had a great impact on the both region's health and in knowledge of the gospel. The small Baptist church has since then grown from 15 people to over 500 - and 80 churches have been planted.

I spent the week training the pastors of some of those churches how to preach from Deuteronomy, which proved very exciting. It was not my original plan but, for various reasons, we had to switch at the last moment. The men were very engaged and many of the passages we covered have been very pastorally relevant. As well as developing expository skills we also discussed a wide range of relevant local issues. These included



tithing, the occult, taboos, grace and legalism, leadership, church discipline, the prosperity gospel and much more.

Please pray for these men as they continue their ministries and put into practice what they learned. It has been exciting to see how they have grown in their ability to preach the word faithfully. Pray too for the continuing work of the hospital, which is facing some big personnel changes this year. Thankfully there are a good number of expatriate medical people due to work there for various periods, with some longer term staff set to arrive in the near future.

■ by Ken Brownell, PTI Trainer

Prayer points

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

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Thank God for:

- The training Ken Brownell was able to do in Madagascar, and for how well this training was received by the pastors
- The second year of training that has taken place in Tanzania. Pray that the pastors may be putting what they have learnt into practice
- The opportunities Simon Percy had to speak about the work of PTI during the month of July

Please pray for:

- The Trustees and Ministry Board as they meet to pray and discuss PTI's priorities for the next few years. Pray that the Lord will clearly guide and for Peter Milsom as he leads
- The two supporters' days taking place this month, that they will be well attended and others may learn about the work of PTI
- The Lord to raise up new churches who will send their pastors for this vital training
- For Michael T and Maciek S as they prepare for three conferences in Myanmar
- The chairman of PTI, Jeremy Marshall, to recover and gain strength following treatment for cancer

Proposed conferences for 2016, God willing

October 17-21	Jima, Ethiopia	Ken McIntosh and James Sercombe
October 24-28	Addis Ababa, Ethiopia	Ken McIntosh and James Sercombe
October 12-14	Yangon, Myanmar	Michael T and Maciek S
October 17-21	Kalymyo, Myanmar	Michael T and Maciek S
October 24-26	Mandalay, Myanmar	Michael T and Maciek S
November 21-25	Andaman Islands, India	Mervyn N and Rob O
November 28- December 2	Jaipur, India	Mervyn N and Rob O

PTI Supporters Events 2016

3rd September - Union College, Bridgend

24th September - Pantiles Baptist Tunbridge Wells

Please see the website for programme each day



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