



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

Newsletter

JANUARY 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 January edition of **P** newsletter. The safety of our trainers is always a risk for PTI. Parts of famine-hit Ethiopia are dangerous so we are very thankful to God that Ken and James experienced no problems as they taught over 100 delegates in October. Myanmar presents different challenges, but again we are so grateful to the Lord that Michael and Maciek are now starting to see a culture of Biblical teaching emerging in the church in that nation.

**Myanmar, 12-26 October 2016**



The first conference took place in the capital, Yangon, with 60 men present. Particularly encouraging was the group of younger men who had attended over the last eight years of conferences. One man, who has planted a church, said the teaching last year has kept him working through the passages we studied.

The second was held at Kalaymyo, in the far west of Myanmar. The region has known the gospel since the 1800's and would call itself 'Christian'. But although the city is full of churches, it resembles the early 1900's in the UK, when faith was more a tradition than a true expression.

40 or so men attended and the conference began by looking at 'God's Big Picture', an overview perspective that was new for many. It continued with Philippians and how to teach the epistles. They are passionate to serve Christ, but have little experience of expository preaching, sermons being based more on the pastor's own understanding than on what the Bible actually teaches. This is due to their lack of clear models and tools for understanding the text.

We then studied the Role of the Pastor, emphasising the importance of his life, concluding with workshops on studying Philippians.

We then moved on to Mandalay, where about 10,000 of its 1m population claim to be Christian. About 5,000 (mainly Buddhist) people attended a recent Billy Graham Crusade. 76 pastors attended and we began by looking at Deuteronomy and an Old Testament overview. We were encouraged that so many said how helpful previous PTI conferences have been to their ministries, especially the emphasis on expository preaching, and also by their attentive and interactive participation.

Two responses struck us. Firstly how PTI's conferences have, over the years, opened pastors' eyes to see the value of expository preaching and to equip them to understand the passages for themselves. Secondly, how churches now work together regularly to expound passages better. So a culture of Biblical teaching is emerging!

■ by Michael T and Maciek S, 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](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.



## Teaching to Preach in a famine-hit nation – Ethiopia, 13-28 October



This was PTI's tenth visit to Ethiopia and two conferences were held. One was in the capital, Addis Ababa, the other was at Jimma, a city of 200,000 people 360 km south west of Addis. The current unrest within Ethiopia, with roads blocked and vehicles and buildings torched, put the trip in doubt at one point. So we flew rather than drove between the two locations and, thankfully, we did not experience any trouble – or the famine which is currently affecting 8-10 million people elsewhere in the country.

54 students from fifteen different evangelical denominations attended the Jimma conference, which was held at a local evangelical church. We used the new PTI syllabus for the first time here and it was well received by the students.

In Addis Ababa we were able to put on an extra Day Conference for about fifty local pastors, evangelists and youth workers. On Sunday we preached at two churches to the south of Addis, before the second conference began on Monday.

The 50 students who came were particularly sharp in their thinking. As at Jimma, they were given three books – a simple, two volume commentary on John's Gospel and a book on Servant Leadership.

God answered many prayers for a safe trip and we both experienced the help and liberty of the Holy Spirit as we spoke. The average student seemed younger this year (I don't think it was just us getting older!) and there is still great opportunity in this land for the gospel.

Please pray about the current unrest, which results from the two biggest tribes in Ethiopia believing that they are not fairly represented within government. Pray too that the situation does not worsen so the country divides into factions and that peace would return instead. Thank God also for the continuing growth of the Church and for the ongoing work of the pastors who attended the conferences.

■ by Ken McIntosh and James Sercombe, PTI trainers

### Prayer points

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

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#### Thank God for:

- The 27 conferences that took place during 2016
- The 6 new trainers who were involved with PTI last year
- The 4 additional conferences that took place, 2 in Myanmar, 1 in India and 1 in Nepal
- The 1 new country Gambia
- The 100's of pastors who are on the mentoring scheme
- The hard work the many volunteers and workers have done to enable this growth to take place

#### Please pray for:

- The 32 conferences that are planned for this new year that each will be able to go ahead as planned
- The 7 new trainers who will begin doing training next year and for the Lord to raise up a further trainer
- The 2 new countries PTI hopes to begin training within during 2017
- The Lord to provide for PTI's needs in the light of a falling pound and an increasing number of conferences
- For Mervyn N as he prepares to conduct conferences in February with a new trainer Steve D
- For Gerald Tanner as he plans conferences in Uganda with a new trainer

### Proposed conferences for 2017, God willing

February

February

March 9-12

March 14-17

March 20-23

Mumbai, India

Mirzapur, India

Bombo, Uganda

Arua, Uganda

Soroti, Uganda

Mervyn N and Steve D

Mervyn N and Steve D

Gerald Tanner and Simeon Woodcraft

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