



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 - happy New Year in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

As we look ahead to an exciting 2018, we can also thank God for the blessings of being able to conduct conferences in two entirely new locations in 2017. The November edition featured our first trip to the Caribbean; this time we focus on our first-ever conference in a country in South Asia, where Christianity faces much opposition and persecution. Please pray for the churches and Christians in both places.

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

Myanmar, October/November 2017



André and Maciek conducted three conferences in Myanmar, in Kalaymyo, Mandalay and Yangon. This was André's first trip with PTI. For Kalaymyo and Yangon this was their third year, whilst for Mandalay it was their fourth.

The arrangements all worked well. Kalaymyo is rural and isolated, 45 minutes by plane from Mandalay or 12 hours by road. Mandalay and Yangon (formerly Rangoon) are both bustling cities with over 1m people. Yangon has many churches, many tied to the 135 language groups in the country. Despite greater political freedom recently the recent expulsion of the Muslim Rohingya people has impacted on local Christians. Laws passed against them also apply to Christians but not to Buddhists and churches are vulnerable.

In Yangon and Kalaymyo we taught an overview of Mark's Gospel and how to take the text to a sermon. In Yangon they responded well whilst at Kalaymyo it was harder to get group work going and some of the older men were not really engaging. Here the teaching had to be done at a slow pace. We also provided sessions on the doctrine of salvation

with material in the local language in order to strengthen their basic biblical understanding. In both of these locations the Bible Overview very helpfully reminded these pastors that the Bible is one book and helped to show how the Bible ties together.

120 attended the Mandalay conference and they responded very well. The teaching included a Bible Overview and a study of the book of Amos as an example of how to preach from the prophets. Those attending appreciated the conferences but the bigger question is whether it fulfilled all PTI's objectives. At this stage the answer is that we do not know the impact this is having on their regular preaching. Pray that these pastors may keep putting what they have learnt into practice.

At each of the conferences a bookstall offered much sound, biblical literature in Burmese and many bought books. We trust that having purchased these books for themselves they will make very good use of them.

by André and Maciek, 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.



South Asia - LEM Preaching Workshop 30 October to 3 November 2017

Local Christian ministry LEM has a vision - to equip pastors and church leaders to preach the Word of God across south Asia by promoting expository Bible teaching. For the last five years founder and Chairman Waseem has been seeking to train some of the many local Church leaders who have not received any formal theological training to do this. Two years in the making, Keith and Tim held a five day Pastors' Preaching Workshop in October/November 2017. Twenty eight pastors and six women workers attended the workshop and all were very blessed by the amazing teaching and the Christian fellowship.

The LEM team handled all the arrangements, which included electricity, notes/stationery and catering. Waseem led the daily worship and morning devotion, where participants were encouraged to commit the day in learning, so they could expand their knowledge and put it to the service of their lives and churches. We always had to bear in mind that many pastors had had no formal theological teaching since they began their ministries, in some cases many years ago.

Every day the Bible Overview session was taken by Tim and interpreted by Pastor P. Tim expounded much Biblical knowledge and spiritual insight through the creation story



and the prophets. Everything was practical and done by God's wisdom. All the participants took an active part, both in group discussions and by asking questions. Keith led the Bible Interpretation sessions, which were translated by Waseem. Everybody learnt how to prepare a sermon, including introduction, context, content, historical setting/culture of the passage and the flow of the text. There was much to learn and meditate about even after the conference had ended. We hope and pray that what the delegates learned through PTI's teaching and ongoing support will enable them to read the Scriptures more effectively, which will in turn make them better preachers.

■ by Keith and Tim, PTI Trainers

Prayer points

JANUARY 2018

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

Thank God for:

- All the Lord enabled PTI to do last year. For the new locations of Asia and the Caribbean, and the new trainers and their churches who became involved with the work
- Bringing Jeremy and Portia through their cancers and Simon through his knee operation, we are grateful for how the Lord has granted recovery and strength to them
- How well the training Asia and Myanmar went. For the benefit the Bible Overviews are to these pastors in helping them to see how the Bible is one story
- Those individuals who have responded to the appeal for additional funds

Please pray for:

- Simon Percy as he does training in Thailand and meets with people in Singapore who do similar work
- Pray for Dave Barr as he joins Simon at the Barefoot Doctor programme and Johnny Maclean as he takes part with the Karen pastors
- Peter Maclure and Ian Flanders as they begin a new round of training in French speaking Burkina Faso
- For Steve and Merv as they prepare to do further training in Mumbai and Mizapur
- For Simeon Woodcraft, Gerald Tanner and the two Emanuel's as they prepare for the training in Uganda
- The men who are prayerfully considering becoming trustees that the Lord would clearly guide them
- The Lord to provide PTI with the additional money it needs to allow the work to grow

Proposed conferences for 2018, God willing

January 15-19

Burkina Faso, Gaoua

Peter Maclure, Ian Flanders

January 15-19

Thailand, Chiang Mai

Simon Percy, David Barr

January 22-26

Thailand, Teemulee

Simon Percy, Johnny McClean

February 12-15

India, Mumbai

Merv N, Steve D

February 19-22

India, Mirzapur

Merv N, Steve D

March 1-4

Uganda, Bombo

Gerald Tanner, Emmanuel Magambo

March 5-9

Uganda, Moroto

Simeon Woodcraft, Emmanuel Okwanlinga

March 6-9

Uganda, Migadde

Gerald Tanner, Emmanuel Magambo

March 12-16

Uganda, Mbarara

Gerald Tanner, Emmanuel Magambo

March 12-16

Uganda, Iganga

Simeon Woodcraft, Emmanuel Okwanlinga



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